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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

February 10, 2026; 5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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. LESHHER: It is 5 o'clock. So I will</p> <p>4 call us to order. And if you all will please</p> <p>5 rise. Turn it over to Ms. Haythe for a prayer</p> <p>6 and we'll follow that with the Pledge of</p> <p>7 Allegiance.</p> <p>8 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>9 MR. LESHHER: Good evening, all.</p> <p>10 Council, we have an agenda in front of us.</p> <p>11 Are there any additions or corrections to the</p> <p>12 agenda?</p> <p>13 MR. STEPP: Mr. Vice President, if I could</p> <p>14 make one minor request to tonight's agenda.</p> <p>15 Could I basically submit a request or actually</p> <p>16 submit a motion to swap items number five and</p> <p>17 six, please. So put six in five and five in</p> <p>18 six.</p> <p>19 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHHER: We have a motion and second</p> <p>21 for a change in the agenda. All in favor.</p>	<p>1 February 10th are in front of us. Are there</p> <p>2 any questions on the disbursements?</p> <p>3 MR. STEPP: No changes on the</p> <p>4 disbursements.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHHER: Hearing none, the chair moves</p> <p>6 that the disbursements be approved by unanimous</p> <p>7 consent.</p> <p>8 And we will, then -- I think we're getting</p> <p>9 somebody in here. Turn to what had been item</p> <p>10 six, which is the presentation of the Annual</p> <p>11 Report for Talbot County from our</p> <p>12 communications manager, Sarah Kilmon. And I</p> <p>13 will call her forward.</p> <p>14 I understand that this is a special day.</p> <p>15 MR. STEPP: Switching the agenda.</p> <p>16 MR. LESHHER: Would you like to share with</p> <p>17 the public why this is such a special day?</p> <p>18 MS. KILMON: Yes. It may or may not be my</p> <p>19 30th birthday.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHHER: Happy Birthday.</p> <p>21 MR. STEPP: There is one condition,</p>
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<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>2 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>3 MR. LESHHER: I'm sorry. Do you want to</p> <p>4 call the roll for that.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>8 MR. STEPP: 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. LESHHER: All right. Next we have</p> <p>14 minutes from the January 27, 2026, meeting.</p> <p>15 Are there any additions or corrections to the</p> <p>16 minutes?</p> <p>17 MS. HAYTHE: No.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHHER: Hearing none, the chair moves</p> <p>19 that the minutes be approved by unanimous</p> <p>20 consent.</p> <p>21 The disbursements of February 3rd and</p>	<p>1 though, if I could add that condition. Is that</p> <p>2 you get on out of here after you're done your</p> <p>3 presentation, get on to enjoying your evening.</p> <p>4 MS. KILMON: Well, I appreciate that for</p> <p>5 sure.</p> <p>6 So for the record, my name is Sarah</p> <p>7 Kilmon, and I'm the communications</p> <p>8 coordinator/public information officer for</p> <p>9 Talbot County.</p> <p>10 And provided to the Council is our first</p> <p>11 of my knowledge Annual Report for the County</p> <p>12 Council. We are very excited to be launching</p> <p>13 this initiative.</p> <p>14 It is a document designed for the public</p> <p>15 to understand all the things that the county</p> <p>16 has done over the last year, which is a lot.</p> <p>17 So it's really hard to kind of condense all</p> <p>18 that into one document, but we attempted.</p> <p>19 And I did want to provide some updates,</p> <p>20 some brief updates tonight. This is kind of, I</p> <p>21 call this the Annual Report at a glance. So</p>

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<p>1 this is a slide show for you.</p> <p>2 But the report itself is available to the</p> <p>3 public. I have some copies here. There's</p> <p>4 copies at the library, at the Easton Library,</p> <p>5 that you're welcome to flip through, as well as</p> <p>6 you can find it on our website at</p> <p>7 talbotcountymd.gov.</p> <p>8 So we focused around the theme of</p> <p>9 progress, partnerships, and purpose, which is</p> <p>10 some of our -- we have our pillars and we have</p> <p>11 our three Ps. And so that's part of where we</p> <p>12 started.</p> <p>13 And then we went into our community</p> <p>14 pillars, which these have been long-standing</p> <p>15 community pillars. I believe they were kind of</p> <p>16 around COVID when they first started getting</p> <p>17 used, if not before. But we brought them back</p> <p>18 for this year to frame this piece of this</p> <p>19 Annual Report.</p> <p>20 So the five pillars are education and</p> <p>21 recreation; public safety, health, and welfare;</p>	<p>1 getting used basically every day for</p> <p>2 pickleball, basketball, summer camp, and all of</p> <p>3 the above. And that also allowed us to make</p> <p>4 the ice rink year-round, which is a great</p> <p>5 asset.</p> <p>6 We also, of course, support our senior</p> <p>7 centers. This picture is actually a little bit</p> <p>8 old. This is when we did the T Mobile invested</p> <p>9 with the county in a new computer lab upgrade</p> <p>10 in 2023.</p> <p>11 But one of the things that we did this</p> <p>12 year, I just didn't have a picture for it, was</p> <p>13 we took over the electric bills for the senior</p> <p>14 center. So it helps kind of free up some of</p> <p>15 their funding for other projects.</p> <p>16 And finally, Hog Neck Golf Course, which</p> <p>17 this year is coming into its 50th year,</p> <p>18 received some funding. And we are excited to</p> <p>19 see where that project continues this year.</p> <p>20 Next pillar, we have the public safety,</p> <p>21 health, and welfare. And obviously, this talks</p>
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<p>1 infrastructure; environmental stewardship; and</p> <p>2 economic stability.</p> <p>3 For education and recreation, we focused</p> <p>4 on the idea that education is a lifelong</p> <p>5 pursuit. So it's not just about the education</p> <p>6 that we receive in the classroom, but also</p> <p>7 ongoing education. And our partnerships and</p> <p>8 investments support that as well.</p> <p>9 Two of the big initiatives that we had</p> <p>10 this year, we supported Chapel District school</p> <p>11 renovation project. And you can see the</p> <p>12 groundbreaking photo at the top. And on the</p> <p>13 right, you'll see the St. Michaels Library</p> <p>14 renovation and expansion, which is very close</p> <p>15 to being done. And we are excited to have</p> <p>16 supported that project as well.</p> <p>17 In terms of other projects and</p> <p>18 partnerships, we have Parks & Recreations.</p> <p>19 While the gym opened in 2024, it has really</p> <p>20 kicked off for a year-long worth of programs in</p> <p>21 2025. And we're very excited to see that</p>	<p>1 about our 911 responses, our EMS public health</p> <p>2 services, and all that includes.</p> <p>3 I did include some of the numbers that the</p> <p>4 department provided me in terms of how many</p> <p>5 calls they received this year. Fire and rescue</p> <p>6 response, which, of course, ours is entirely</p> <p>7 volunteer led, how many medical consults, and</p> <p>8 the average response time. The average</p> <p>9 response time is seven minutes and 49 seconds.</p> <p>10 And their goal is to keep it within eight</p> <p>11 minutes across the county, which will lead into</p> <p>12 one of the investments that we have been</p> <p>13 working on.</p> <p>14 On the left there you'll see the north EMS</p> <p>15 station. This picture is from the ribbon</p> <p>16 cutting. It's back in September.</p> <p>17 And one of the initiatives that we talked</p> <p>18 about is the goal to keep our response rate</p> <p>19 under eight minutes. And by doing this and</p> <p>20 creating this facility here in the north EMS,</p> <p>21 the north section of the county, we're going to</p>

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1 hope that we're going to be able to like keep
 2 those goals.
 3 The other thing that we have been working
 4 on is the CAD system upgrade. If you have not
 5 been to Marys Court, there is a lot of new
 6 computers and it is crazy amount of wires all
 7 over the place. But the goal here is to create
 8 a state-of-the-art system that will support our
 9 911 dispatch. And we're very excited to see
 10 that coming along nicely.
 11 And finally, the Public Safety Complex.
 12 This is an older picture before the parking lot
 13 was done. Now they're using it quite nicely
 14 even with all the snow. But they have also
 15 added a wing to the building where the
 16 sallyport is. And the sallyport will allow
 17 trucks to come in and out of the building
 18 safely. But also, on the second floor, it
 19 provides additional overnight resident bunk
 20 space for those on dispatch calls.
 21 We have some other partnership and

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1 projects in that area. The Talbot County
 2 Health Department moved into their new space in
 3 2024. So they've had over a year to get
 4 acquainted to that space. And as a result,
 5 they have been launching new programs to
 6 support our community better. And you'll see
 7 that coming as the Health Department brings
 8 their initiatives this year.
 9 We also launched mobile integrated health.
 10 They received a proclamation in October 2025,
 11 but the program has been a major success for
 12 the community. And just for those who don't
 13 know, the mobile integrative health allows
 14 individuals to receive care in their homes, as
 15 opposed to having to go to the hospital.
 16 And finally, community readiness. Madison
 17 Loker, who is one of our emergency management
 18 coordinators, absolutely hates this picture and
 19 I use it all the time. This is her
 20 demonstrating to a after-school class how to
 21 stop a bleed. And she does this year-round

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1 with lots of community (indiscernible). She
 2 also runs the CERT program.
 3 And I like to call this out because I
 4 really think DES has made a strong effort in
 5 getting more engaged with the community in
 6 terms of community readiness and how are we
 7 prepared, how are we Talbot ready?
 8 Next pillar, we have infrastructure.
 9 There's so much to cover in infrastructure, but
 10 I'll just point to the right side here. This
 11 is the type of request that we receive from the
 12 public on a daily basis.
 13 So in addition to our major projects we're
 14 investing a lot of money, our team is also
 15 constantly working on things around the
 16 community, things like snow issues, drainage,
 17 potholes, signs, trees, debris, so much more.
 18 So I always like to call that out.
 19 Two major projects in infrastructure that
 20 are, well, both are basically completed. Well,
 21 one is definitely completed. The Goldsborough

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1 Neck and Airport Road improvement project.
 2 This picture is wild to me. This is under
 3 Goldsborough Neck Road. It's a culvert. And I
 4 just think the amount of work that it went to
 5 put this whole project together, and we saw it
 6 with the road closure, but it is impressive.
 7 And it was a big collaborative project. So I
 8 always love seeing that.
 9 And the bottom left is on Airport Road.
 10 And you can see there they actually expanded
 11 the width of the road to allow for better
 12 safety on that road.
 13 On the right side, you'll see the
 14 countywide broadband expansion. And this is an
 15 example of optic cable that was installed. But
 16 that project is now fully funded. And while
 17 it's not entirely constructed, we are getting
 18 close and we're excited to have that.
 19 I also, of course, have to call out the
 20 Comprehensive Plan. We started that project
 21 last year. And Planning & Zoning has been

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1 leading that effort. And I just think it's
 2 important to recognize that they have put a lot
 3 of work into making sure that the community is
 4 aware that this is happening and that the
 5 community knows how to engage with that
 6 process.
 7 With that, in 2025, we launched Engage
 8 Talbot, which is an online platform that allows
 9 people to talk about programs and projects in
 10 our community that might be affecting them.
 11 Right now active, we have the
 12 Comprehensive Plan as well as the parks plan or
 13 the really long name is the -- and I'm not even
 14 going to try to say it.
 15 MR. STEPP: LPPR.
 16 MS. KILMON: L -- say it again.
 17 MR. STEPP: LPPR.
 18 MS. KILMON: LPPR, but I call it the parks
 19 plan. If you are interested in taking that
 20 survey, it is online on this website,
 21 engage.talbotcountymd.gov. And our goal is to

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1 continue to allow the public to engage in this
 2 way.
 3 We have environmental stewardship. I
 4 wanted to call out in some of our resolutions
 5 where we are connecting residents to our sewer
 6 system, this is -- kind of gives you an example
 7 of where we are right now in this process.
 8 We've had 610 dwellings approved for
 9 connection. We invested around \$10 million to
 10 those phases of sewer improvements and
 11 upgrades. And it's a little cut off, but it's
 12 18.8 miles of sewer line have been installed in
 13 the county.
 14 Finally, we have economic stability. Here
 15 are some key projects for economic stability.
 16 And I will say that is the biggest section in
 17 the report. So if you read through it, you'll
 18 find a lot more on economic stability. But
 19 here are some things to call out.
 20 Our Economic Development and Tourism
 21 recently completed their roadmap to the future

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1 strategic report.
 2 We are working to build the midshore's
 3 health care hub, which is the new regional
 4 hospital located out by the Community Center.
 5 That is a group wide, countywide, statewide,
 6 federal level project. And we're working very
 7 hard to make that project a reality.
 8 And also, we'd like to call out the Easton
 9 Airport, who is a regional economic engine.
 10 And they are currently working on their runway
 11 expansion project.
 12 I like to always call this out, especially
 13 as we're coming into budget season. The county
 14 has a large fiduciary responsibility. And here
 15 is a list of all the things that we have to
 16 fund as we go into the budget season. And some
 17 of these things are not necessarily a county
 18 department, but they are a service that we
 19 provide to the community through our non-profit
 20 partners and our government partners.
 21 So when we start to come into budget

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1 season, I'd ask the public to take a look at
 2 this list and see if there's anything that you
 3 are interested in learning more about through
 4 the budget process.
 5 This is an example of the budget timeline.
 6 This is from last year. So the dates aren't
 7 accurate. But we are starting to head into
 8 budget season. So I think it's a good time to
 9 have this Annual Report because it gives you an
 10 idea of the investments that we made last year
 11 and how they might affect this year.
 12 There's more information about the last
 13 budget in the Annual Report. So if you're
 14 interested in checking that out, you can do so.
 15 Another example of how we're using funds
 16 appropriately, the county-administrated
 17 programming. We did a lot of work to pull
 18 these numbers together. So I recommend you
 19 take a look. But basically this is an idea of
 20 not just do we contribute money via our tax
 21 dollars, but we also are supporting programs

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1 through grant funding. And our team works very
 2 hard to make sure that we're securing grants
 3 for the community and working with these grant
 4 programs.
 5 And finally, I would just absolutely love
 6 to call out our many wonderful employees. We
 7 have a total of 459 employees across 16
 8 departments plus a couple of offices. And we
 9 truly get the work done by the employees that
 10 we have. They make this job rather enjoyable,
 11 especially for me. But also, they are the ones
 12 putting in the work every day.
 13 So there's -- in the Annual Report, you
 14 can take a look at all these photos. These are
 15 all things that happened this year.
 16 I, of course, like to call out that we had
 17 our first volleyball team.
 18 But if you are also interested in the
 19 bottom, that's bottom center is when we, our
 20 team helped build the new snack shack without
 21 having to go out of the county.

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1 And our top center is Darren and George,
 2 who are the ones that keep all of our
 3 facilities clear of snow every single year when
 4 we have these big snowstorms. So just a couple
 5 to call out.
 6 So as we look ahead, I came up with a
 7 catch phrase Building a Stronger Talbot
 8 Together. And I encourage us all to look
 9 forward to this year with great enthusiasm.
 10 And if you're interested in looking at the
 11 things that we have planned or ideas that are
 12 coming to the forefront in 2026, there's a page
 13 in the Annual Report about that.
 14 And then you'll get, of course, more as we
 15 go into budget season.
 16 I think that's it for me, guys.
 17 MR. LESHAR: Thank you, Ms. Kilmon.
 18 And clearly, there is, there was --
 19 clearly we saw the county accomplish so much in
 20 2025. But the magic that you've added here is
 21 to get the word out, to proclaim that message

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1 about all that has been happening in the
 2 county. And thank you for presenting it so
 3 beautifully in such a digestible form.
 4 I know that Councilman Mielke and I will
 5 be offering a course to the Chesapeake Forum
 6 next week. And I know what is going to be our
 7 principal handout for this. It is going to be
 8 a great tool for helping people to understand
 9 simply what the county is doing and how we are
 10 moving this place forward.
 11 So thank you for that.
 12 Are there questions or comments for
 13 Ms. Kilmon?
 14 MR. STEPP: I'll just start it off with
 15 great job, wonderful report. A lot of work
 16 went into it clearly. And it's nice we have
 17 this for everyone to do at their leisure.
 18 MS. MIELKE: I just realized that Pete and
 19 I don't have to do our little lecture. All we
 20 have to do is show this.
 21 MS. KILMON: Yeah. Just give you the

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1 slides. You'll be ready to go.
 2 MS. MIELKE: But we will, we will. More
 3 to it.
 4 But it's great, just great.
 5 MS. HAYTHE: Sarah, you know, I just want
 6 to say I think it's been four years. Has it
 7 been four years since you --
 8 MS. KILMON: Not quite. But almost.
 9 MS. HAYTHE: So shortly after this Council
 10 came together and was elected, you know, one of
 11 the first orders of business was to create the
 12 position that you hold.
 13 And I must say that by creating that
 14 position, you know, it brings us to something
 15 like this, the Annual Report, which I feel is
 16 extremely important to the public to see not
 17 only what this Council does but also what the
 18 departments do and how important the
 19 departments are to Talbot County.
 20 So I just want to say thank you so much.
 21 I'm so glad that you were hired three-plus

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1 years ago, and job well done.
 2 Certainly is beyond the expectations that
 3 I ever envisioned. And so glad to have been a
 4 part of bringing you on and so glad to this
 5 Council for agreeing to create this position.
 6 So job well done. Happy 30th Birthday.
 7 Now go out and party a little bit.
 8 MR. STEPP: Go celebrate.
 9 MR. LESHER: Ms. Kilmon, you said this
 10 already, but just for the public. This is
 11 available on the county's website and the
 12 Public Library.
 13 MS. KILMON: Yes. So you can find the
 14 report in its full, it's
 15 talbotcountymd.gov/2025report, as well as there
 16 are printed copies at the Easton branch of the
 17 library.
 18 MR. LESHER: Thank you very much, and
 19 Happy Birthday.
 20 MS. KILMON: Thanks.
 21 MR. LESHER: We move on. We have a

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1 proclamation for the American Heart
 2 Association. I will ask Madam Secretary to
 3 read the proclamation into the record.
 4 SECRETARY: American Heart Month, February
 5 2026.
 6 Whereas, heart disease, which includes
 7 heart attack, stroke, and other cardiovascular
 8 diseases, is the leading cause of death of an
 9 estimated 695,000 Americans each year,
 10 affecting both men and women of all economic
 11 and ethnic backgrounds.
 12 And whereas, although genetic factors play
 13 a role in many instances of cardiovascular
 14 disease, one of the nation's most costly and
 15 widespread health problems, it is also one of
 16 the most preventable diseases, when each
 17 individual takes responsibility for his or her
 18 own health and the health of our children by
 19 exercising regularly, maintaining a healthy
 20 weight, eating balanced and nutritious meals,
 21 avoiding use of tobacco, using alcohol in

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1 moderation, and working with a health care
 2 provider to prevent or treat conditions which
 3 can lead to heart disease.
 4 And whereas, a lethal complication that
 5 can develop while having a heart attack is
 6 sudden cardiac arrest, which is a leading cause
 7 of death, claiming nearly 356,000 lives each
 8 year. During a sudden cardiac arrest, heart
 9 function ceases, abruptly and without warning.
 10 When this occurs, the heart is no longer able
 11 to pump blood to the rest of the body. And in
 12 some 90 percent of victims, death occurs.
 13 And whereas, once a cardiac arrest occurs,
 14 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, CPR, and
 15 defibrillation are required within the first
 16 several minutes to restore electrical activity
 17 to the heart and to revive the heart's pumping
 18 function. And availability of automated
 19 external defibrillators, AEDs, is critical for
 20 rapid response to cardiac arrest.
 21 And whereas, the Talbot County Department

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1 of Emergency Services, in partnership with the
 2 Talbot County Paramedic Foundation, the Talbot
 3 County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association,
 4 the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical
 5 Services, and the University of Maryland Shore
 6 Regional Health, coordinates a comprehensive
 7 countywide approach to addressing cardiac care
 8 through public education and state-of-the-art
 9 lifesaving services.
 10 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of
 11 Talbot County, do hereby proclaim February 2026
 12 as American Heart Month in Talbot County and
 13 urge all citizens to support the American Heart
 14 Association's initiatives toward healthier
 15 lifestyles and increased physical activity and
 16 to receive lifesaving CPR training as an
 17 investment in our community and its residents,
 18 to help eradicate the risk of this deadly
 19 disease, both for today and for the future.
 20 Given under our hands in the great seal of
 21 Talbot County this 10th day of February in the

Page 26	<p>1 year of our Lord, 2026.</p> <p>2 MR. LESHHER: Thank you.</p> <p>3 Is there a motion to approve the</p> <p>4 proclamation as presented?</p> <p>5 MS. MIELKE: So moved.</p> <p>6 MS. HAYTHE: Second.</p> <p>7 MR. STEPP: And a second.</p> <p>8 MR. LESHHER: Madam Secretary, will you</p> <p>9 call the roll, please.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>13 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>15 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>17 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHHER: And we have one of our</p> <p>19 officers from Department of Emergency Services.</p> <p>20 Welcome.</p> <p>21 CHIEF KINTOP: Thank you, thank you.</p>	Page 28	<p>1 named with the public access AED program.</p> <p>2 Our AEDs are the automated external</p> <p>3 defibrillators that we have in a lot of the</p> <p>4 businesses. Now we've put them in the parks</p> <p>5 and the trails. They're temperature monitored.</p> <p>6 We know when they're opening. And we have</p> <p>7 approximately 300 of them out in Talbot County.</p> <p>8 Talbot County is definitely a model for that,</p> <p>9 and I have other jurisdictions asking about us</p> <p>10 every day.</p> <p>11 We have 26 of the outdoor heat and cold</p> <p>12 temperature controlled ones and more coming.</p> <p>13 We're constantly working on where we can put</p> <p>14 more public access defibrillators.</p> <p>15 We practice public outreach. We do CPR</p> <p>16 classes all the time. We, in 2025, we had 542</p> <p>17 CPR certifications issued. We trained people,</p> <p>18 not only our staff, but instructors that are</p> <p>19 affiliated with us, our law enforcement</p> <p>20 partners, the Talbot County Health Department,</p> <p>21 the county Public School system nurses,</p>
Page 27	<p>1 Ms. Kilmon gave me a great segue talking about</p> <p>2 all the partnerships that we have.</p> <p>3 For the record, I'm Chief Kintop. I'm</p> <p>4 with the Department of Emergency Services. I'm</p> <p>5 EMS division chief.</p> <p>6 One of the big things that we talk about</p> <p>7 in the proclamation and that Sarah was talking</p> <p>8 about earlier was our partnerships. And our</p> <p>9 partnerships are what make this so important.</p> <p>10 We are very thankful to the Council for</p> <p>11 supporting American Heart Month and the</p> <p>12 Department of Emergency Services and all the</p> <p>13 partnerships that dwell within that.</p> <p>14 So Department of Emergency Services, we</p> <p>15 practice preparedness, we practice public</p> <p>16 outreach, and we also practice now prevention</p> <p>17 because of our new mobile integrated health</p> <p>18 program.</p> <p>19 So we practice preparedness by partnering</p> <p>20 along with Talbot Paramedic Foundation, the</p> <p>21 hospital, all of the other entities that you</p>	Page 29	<p>1 Chesapeake College. And we have eight new CPR</p> <p>2 instructors this year.</p> <p>3 We also want to save the date for our</p> <p>4 annual CPR marathon. That is going to happen</p> <p>5 March 20, 2026. We are moving the venue to the</p> <p>6 Health Department as they're going to partner</p> <p>7 with us and help instruct. This program</p> <p>8 teaches hands-only CPR, but it still saves a</p> <p>9 life. We just don't issue certifications.</p> <p>10 And lastly, we practice prevention. In</p> <p>11 partnership with the Health Department, in our</p> <p>12 mobile integrated health program, we now</p> <p>13 provide preventative care related to heart</p> <p>14 disease, focusing on chronic disease</p> <p>15 management, education, medication conciliation</p> <p>16 so people know what kind of medicines they're</p> <p>17 taking. Sometimes they're overprescribed when</p> <p>18 they have different doctors. We connect their</p> <p>19 patients with community resources to support</p> <p>20 the healthy lifestyle choices that were</p> <p>21 explained in the proclamation.</p>

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<p>1 So I want to thank you, again, for</p> <p>2 acknowledging American Heart Month and</p> <p>3 supporting DES while we partner with all these</p> <p>4 other agencies.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHER: Thank you.</p> <p>6 Council, any questions or comments for</p> <p>7 Officer Kintop?</p> <p>8 MS. HAYTHE: I just want to say it's</p> <p>9 really a blessing to be able to sponsor</p> <p>10 American Heart Month.</p> <p>11 Two years ago, I was told that I was at</p> <p>12 risk because of my lipoprotein(a) and had no</p> <p>13 idea all my life why my cholesterol was so</p> <p>14 high. Kind of was a little stubborn in taking</p> <p>15 a statin, didn't want to take any type of</p> <p>16 medication but realized that I had to because I</p> <p>17 was at a higher risk for potential heart</p> <p>18 disease.</p> <p>19 And so it's so important for us to really</p> <p>20 showcase this every month. Well, this month,</p> <p>21 but also every month really try to educate</p>	<p>1 Like I said, I know you're up here</p> <p>2 accepting this on behalf of a lot of folks.</p> <p>3 And a lot of work goes into this and just</p> <p>4 into the education and all the work you guys do</p> <p>5 day in and day out, 24/7/365.</p> <p>6 So as Keasha mentioned, too, it's a</p> <p>7 pleasure to do this year in, year out. Just</p> <p>8 thanks for continuing to ask us to do it and</p> <p>9 continuing just doing the work that y'all do</p> <p>10 and all of our partners that are just a part of</p> <p>11 this. So thank you.</p> <p>12 CHIEF KINTOP: Thank you.</p> <p>13 MR. LESHER: And I'll add my thanks.</p> <p>14 I am just one of the many citizens of</p> <p>15 Talbot County whom you have trained in</p> <p>16 hands-only CPR, not once, but repeatedly</p> <p>17 because with any training along these lines,</p> <p>18 you need to stay fresh. And your team is out</p> <p>19 there doing exactly that and, therefore,</p> <p>20 keeping us all, keeping us all in a safer</p> <p>21 environment, empowering us.</p>
Page 31	Page 33
<p>1 people the importance of seeing their doctor,</p> <p>2 having regular blood work, and things of that</p> <p>3 nature because sometimes you just don't know</p> <p>4 until you have an episode, a stroke, or a heart</p> <p>5 attack.</p> <p>6 So thankfully that did not happen. I now</p> <p>7 have a cardiologist, and I'm taking my meds,</p> <p>8 stubbornly still a little bit, but I'm taking</p> <p>9 them.</p> <p>10 So thank you for all that you do to</p> <p>11 educate Talbot County.</p> <p>12 CHIEF KINTOP: Thank you.</p> <p>13 MR. LESHER: Anyone else?</p> <p>14 MS. MIELKE: We are blessed in Talbot</p> <p>15 County to have you and all the support for</p> <p>16 keeping Talbot County healthy. And we're just</p> <p>17 grateful for all you do and proud of you, too.</p> <p>18 Thank you.</p> <p>19 CHIEF KINTOP: Thank you.</p> <p>20 MR. STEPP: I'll keep the echo going,</p> <p>21 Tina. So job well done.</p>	<p>1 Thank you for all you do.</p> <p>2 CHIEF KINTOP: Thank you.</p> <p>3 MR. STEPP: Ready? Come on up.</p> <p>4 MS. MORRIS: You go first.</p> <p>5 SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you.</p> <p>6 MS. MORRIS: Great. Thank you.</p> <p>7 CHIEF KINTOP: Thank you.</p> <p>8 MR. STEPP: Good seeing you.</p> <p>9 CHIEF KINTOP: Thank you.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHER: Next up we have some</p> <p>11 legislation to introduce. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>12 would you please read the title of the</p> <p>13 legislation into the record.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: A bill to amend Chapter 190,</p> <p>15 zoning, subdivision, and land development, of</p> <p>16 the Talbot County Code for the purposes of</p> <p>17 providing that cannabis growing and the</p> <p>18 processing of cannabis grown on site shall be</p> <p>19 permitted by special exception in the</p> <p>20 agricultural conservation, countryside</p> <p>21 preservation, and western rural conservation</p>

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<p>1 zoning districts, providing that the processing 2 of cannabis grown off site shall be permitted 3 by special exception in the village mixed, 4 general commercial, and limited industrial 5 zoning districts, and providing that cannabis 6 dispensaries shall be permitted by special 7 exception in the limited commercial, general 8 commercial, and limited industrial zoning 9 districts, each subject to certain conditions 10 and defining terms associated therewith. 11 MR. LESHER: Thank you. By a show of 12 hands, who on the Council wishes to introduce 13 this legislation? So introduced by Stepp, 14 Leshner, Mielke, and Haythe. Thank you very 15 much. 16 Madam Secretary, would you please -- 17 clearly, Mr. Callahan, I didn't announce this 18 earlier. He had to be away tonight. We wish 19 him well, but did he absent himself just so he 20 didn't have to have his name on this 21 legislation?</p>	<p>1 please call the roll. 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 3 MR. LESHER: Aye. 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 5 MR. STEPP: Aye. 6 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 7 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 8 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 9 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 10 MS. MORRIS: Great. Next I'll call Emily 11 Gilmer up, who is our director of Parks & 12 Recreation, for a few items. 13 The first is a request from Parks & 14 Recreation to award Bid 26-01, Sinclair Avenue 15 waterfront park stone revetment repair in 16 Tilghman Island. 17 The county opened up this bid. We 18 received two bids, and we're recommending the 19 award go to Sweitzer Marine in the amount of 20 \$42,300. 21 There are sufficient funds in the budget</p>
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<p>1 Would you please announce the bill number, 2 public hearing date, and location. 3 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill 4 Number 1624, and the public hearing will be 5 held on Tuesday, March 10th, at 5:30 p.m. 6 MR. LESHER: Thank you very much. 7 We are all the way down to the county 8 manager's report. And with Mr. Stamp in 9 absentia, also enjoying a well deserved break, 10 we have Ms. Morris. 11 MS. MORRIS: Thank you. The first item of 12 business tonight is a board and committee 13 appointment. I'm requesting the appointment of 14 Lee Newcomb to the Senior Citizens Task Force 15 to represent of the Department of Social 16 Services adult services program. 17 MR. LESHER: Is there a motion for the 18 appointment? 19 MS. MIELKE: So moved. 20 MS. HAYTHE: Second. 21 MR. LESHER: Madam Secretary, would you</p>	<p>1 for this project. 2 Ms. Gilmer is here to answer any other 3 questions you may have. 4 MR. LESHER: Any questions for Ms. Gilmer? 5 MS. HAYTHE: No questions. I make a 6 motion to approve the request. 7 MS. MIELKE: Second. 8 MR. LESHER: Madam Secretary, would you 9 please call the roll. 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 11 MR. LESHER: Aye. 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 13 MR. STEPP: Aye. 14 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 15 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 16 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 17 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 18 MR. LESHER: Thank you very much. 19 MS. MORRIS: Great. The next is to 20 request Council approval for the extension of 21 the contract with Pierson's Comfort Group for</p>

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<p>1 Bid Number 23-03, portable sanitary chemical 2 toilet service in Talbot County. 3 We are requesting to renew that contract 4 with Pierson's Comfort Group for the 2026 5 season in a sum not to exceed \$46,147. 6 There are sufficient funds in the budget. 7 We've been pleased with their service. 8 MR. LESHHER: If there are no questions, 9 I'll need a motion for approval. 10 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve Bid 23-03. 11 MS. MIELKE: Second. 12 MR. LESHHER: Madam Secretary, would you 13 call the roll. 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher. 15 MR. LESHHER: Aye. 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 17 MR. STEPP: Aye. 18 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 19 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 20 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 21 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p>	<p>1 And for the record, I'm Emily Gilmer, 2 Department of Parks & Recreation director. 3 Sorry. 4 MR. LESHHER: Thank you. You say that that 5 pool is over 20 years old now? 6 MS. GILMER: Yes. It was built in 2000 -- 7 I think it was 2007, 2008. I can doublecheck 8 on that. But yeah. 9 MR. LESHHER: So approaching that. 10 MS. MIELKE: Doesn't seem that long. 11 MR. LESHHER: Exposed to the elements, 12 these things do need some periodic help. 13 So any questions on this project for 14 Ms. Gilmer? 15 MR. STEPP: None here. I'll make a motion 16 we move forward. 17 MS. HAYTHE: Second. 18 MR. LESHHER: We have a motion and second. 19 Madam Secretary, would you please call the 20 roll. 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.</p>
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<p>1 MR. LESHHER: Thank you. 2 MS. MORRIS: Next is a request for the 3 replacement of coping and tile at the Bay 4 Hundred community pool in St. Michael's. 5 Emily, I got to give you a little 6 something to say here. 7 We're requesting Council consideration to 8 award that contract to Aqua Pools in the 9 \$70,602. 10 If you could maybe talk a little bit about 11 that project. 12 MS. GILMER: So that contract actually is 13 going to go to Coastline Pool Services. 14 MS. MORRIS: Okay. 15 MS. GILMER: They are our contract 16 management company for the pools. 17 And so this is the coping and tiling, and 18 it's falling apart at the Bay Hundred pool, the 19 tiles are falling off. They have patched it 20 several times, and it's just due time for it to 21 be replaced for the 20-year infrastructure.</p>	<p>1 MR. LESHHER: Aye. 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 3 MR. STEPP: Aye. 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 5 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 6 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 7 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 8 MS. MORRIS: Great. And the last request 9 from Parks & Recreation is regarding the 10 replacement of the playground at the Home Run 11 Baker Park in Trappe. 12 We are requesting Council approval to 13 procure and install the replacement playground 14 at the park due to its age. The total cost for 15 the project is approximately \$280,000. 16 This is partially funded through Program 17 Open Space at 90 percent. We are requesting 18 Council approval for the use of contingency 19 funds in the amount of \$28,000 in order to lock 20 in 2025 pricing. 21 Martha Sparks, your finance director, has</p>

Page 42	<p>1 confirmed that there are funds available.</p> <p>2 Emily, is there anything you'd like to add</p> <p>3 about that project?</p> <p>4 MS. GILMER: Yes. So the main reason</p> <p>5 we're requesting contingency funds is so that</p> <p>6 we can lock in the 2025 pricing, as Ms. Morris</p> <p>7 said. And that way, we can get more in the</p> <p>8 playground for our money.</p> <p>9 So we're really hoping to be able to lock</p> <p>10 that in. It's a really nice playground. I'm</p> <p>11 really excited about it.</p> <p>12 MR. LESHHER: And when can our citizens,</p> <p>13 assuming that we approve this tonight, when can</p> <p>14 our citizens expect to see these improvements?</p> <p>15 MS. GILMER: Yes. So we are hoping for a</p> <p>16 completed install before summer of 2026.</p> <p>17 So, again, this would be 90 percent</p> <p>18 covered with Program Open Space and ten percent</p> <p>19 local funds as a match. But we're hoping to</p> <p>20 get it installed this spring. That way it will</p> <p>21 be ready to go for summer.</p>	Page 44	<p>1 engineer, here with us this evening. All of</p> <p>2 the requests pertain to the culvert replacement</p> <p>3 on Chapel Road. And we'll just go down line</p> <p>4 item by line item.</p> <p>5 The first is a request to award a change</p> <p>6 order to David A. Bramble for the mapping,</p> <p>7 evaluation, and rehab of the culverts in the</p> <p>8 amount of \$298,240.</p> <p>9 There are sufficient funds in the capital</p> <p>10 improvement project for this work.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHHER: Would you like to give a</p> <p>12 little background on this project?</p> <p>13 MR. ELLIOT: Yup. Josh Elliot, Public</p> <p>14 Works, assistant county engineer.</p> <p>15 So background on this project. Back in --</p> <p>16 before September, sometime after summer,</p> <p>17 though, Brian Moore brought to our attention</p> <p>18 that the culvert heads were kind of falling off</p> <p>19 the ends of the pipes on Chapel Road.</p> <p>20 This causes sediment to displace. You</p> <p>21 start getting potholes in the road. So this</p>
Page 43	<p>1 MR. LESHHER: Terrific.</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve the</p> <p>3 request.</p> <p>4 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHHER: We have a motion and second.</p> <p>6 Madam Secretary, would you please call the</p> <p>7 roll.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.</p> <p>9 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>11 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>13 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>15 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>16 MS. GILMER: Thank you so much.</p> <p>17 MS. MORRIS: Thank you.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHHER: Okay.</p> <p>19 MS. MORRIS: Next we have several requests</p> <p>20 from the Department of Public Works. And we</p> <p>21 have Josh Elliot, the assistant county</p>	Page 45	<p>1 project came about as an emergency replacement</p> <p>2 to that culvert.</p> <p>3 We created the project. The base project</p> <p>4 was 1.3 or 4 million dollars.</p> <p>5 And then when we entered into the</p> <p>6 engineering and construction contracts, we</p> <p>7 didn't have final design worked out. We needed</p> <p>8 to do subsurface exploration for the pilings</p> <p>9 the culvert will sit on. And that's what this</p> <p>10 change order is for.</p> <p>11 We got the subsurface explorations back.</p> <p>12 We have a final design, and we need 92 pilings</p> <p>13 40 feet long.</p> <p>14 MR. LESHHER: This, as I understand it,</p> <p>15 this is a bottomless culvert. In other words,</p> <p>16 sort of an arch shaped. And if you just set it</p> <p>17 in there, it needs a foundation. And that's</p> <p>18 what this is for?</p> <p>19 MR. ELLIOT: Yes, yes.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHHER: So the change order is</p> <p>21 specifically for these piling foundations?</p>

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<p>1 MR. ELLIOT: Specifically for the pilings. 2 And I'm sorry. It also includes riprap in 3 the channel for scour protection. At the time 4 of initial contract, we weren't sure we were 5 going to need scour protection or not, but 6 we're erring on the side of caution that we are 7 going to need it. And that's what the class 8 three riprap is for \$48,000. 9 MR. LESHER: And I have the privilege of 10 being present for the Public Works Advisory 11 Board. 12 But for the benefit of the rest of the 13 Council and the public, this is an expanded 14 capacity for this redesigned culvert? 15 MR. ELLIOT: Yes. So the actual flow 16 capacity is similar. 17 When you're doing a culvert replacement, 18 you can't go increase the capacity or decrease 19 the capacity much because you're going to cause 20 downstream or upstream effects depending on 21 what you do. And the Department of</p>	<p>1 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 2 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 3 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 4 MS. MORRIS: Great. The next part of the 5 request is for the approval for two 6 construction easements. The first being 7 between John Higgins and Susan Higgins at 9541 8 Chapel Road in the amount of \$3,600. 9 MR. LESHER: We're purchasing an easement 10 for the expanded footprint of the culvert? 11 MS. MORRIS: Yes. This is the permanent 12 easement. 13 The next easement is a temporary easement 14 that I'll talk about. 15 MR. LESHER: Okay. Any questions on the 16 easement? 17 MS. MIELKE: No. 18 MR. STEPP: Got to have it. 19 Make a motion we approve. 20 MS. HAYTHE: Second. 21 MR. LESHER: Madam Secretary, would you</p>
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<p>1 Environment, it's a big no-no for them to cause 2 any new effects. 3 So when you do a replacement, you really 4 want to shoot for what you have. If you don't 5 and you want to increase or decrease, then you 6 get into some pretty big costly hydraulic 7 studies. 8 MR. LESHER: Okay. Any other questions 9 for Mr. Elliot? 10 MR. STEPP: No questions here. 11 I'll make a motion we approve as 12 presented. 13 MS. HAYTHE: Second. 14 MR. LESHER: We have a motion and second. 15 Madam Secretary, would you please call the 16 roll. 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 18 MR. LESHER: Aye. 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 20 MR. STEPP: Aye. 21 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p>	<p>1 please call the roll. 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 3 MR. LESHER: Aye. 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 5 MR. STEPP: Aye. 6 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 7 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 8 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 9 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 10 MS. MORRIS: The second easement is, 11 again, a temporary construction easement 12 between the Hutchinson Archer family located at 13 9678 Klondike Road in Easton in the amount of 14 \$1,000. 15 MR. LESHER: Okay. Any questions on the 16 temporary easement? 17 MS. HAYTHE: No. 18 MR. LESHER: Hearing none, are we ready 19 for a motion? 20 MS. MIELKE: So moved. 21 MR. STEPP: And a second.</p>

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<p>1 MR. LESHER: Madam Secretary, would you 2 please call the roll. 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher. 4 MR. LESHER: Aye. 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 6 MR. STEPP: Aye. 7 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 8 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 9 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 10 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 11 MS. MORRIS: And the next is to request 12 Council approval to utilize budgeted project 13 contingency funds in the capital project in the 14 amount of \$170,000 for mapping and evaluation. 15 Can you explain that a little further, 16 please? 17 MR. ELLIOT: That is to cover any small 18 unforeseen additions that might come up. 19 MR. LESHER: On a project of this scale? 20 MR. ELLIOT: On a project of this scale, 21 yeah.</p>	<p>1 Road. 2 MR. LESHER: And now we're about to learn 3 why it's needed to be done quickly. 4 MR. ELLIOT: Yes. 5 MR. STEPP: And the best part is the last 6 one. Hopefully we recapture some funds. 7 MS. MORRIS: The next request is to close 8 Chapel Road at Wootenau. 9 MR. ELLIOT: I would say Wootenau. 10 MS. MORRIS: Okay. 11 MR. ELLIOT: And when you look back, it's 12 either Wootenau or Wootenau. And I couldn't 13 tell you. 14 MS. MORRIS: Okay. But we're going to 15 list that and have a nice diagram in the public 16 notice that we publish about the closure, which 17 will be between March 27th through August 11th. 18 MR. LESHER: And would you like to 19 describe for the public listening where this 20 road closure will take place? 21 MR. ELLIOT: Yeah. So it's between</p>
Page 51	Page 53
<p>1 MR. STEPP: We've seen it in previous 2 projects where it is there. I mean we know 3 it's probably going to hit. 4 So I'll make a motion we approve. 5 MS. HAYTHE: Second. 6 MR. LESHER: Madam Secretary, would you 7 call the roll. 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher. 9 MR. LESHER: Aye. 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 11 MR. STEPP: Aye. 12 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 13 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 14 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 15 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 16 MR. LESHER: By asking that upfront, 17 you're giving yourself flexibility and no 18 construction delays down the road I take it? 19 MR. ELLIOT: Yes, yeah. Because we do 20 want to get this closed, open, done and open as 21 quick as possible. A lot of people use Chapel</p>	<p>1 Klondike Road and Black Dog Alley. 2 The official detour will be between Gannon 3 Road onto Matthewstown Road and then back onto 4 Black Dog Alley. But you'll also be able to 5 take Klondike Road to Cordova Road back to 6 Black Dog Alley. 7 MR. STEPP: So the last time I checked, 8 we're not going to be able to do the work 9 without closing the road. So I guess we got 10 to. 11 MR. ELLIOT: No. And if we did, it would 12 take even longer. 13 MR. STEPP: So I'll make a motion we move 14 to close the road for the time periods 15 mentioned. 16 MS. MIELKE: Second. 17 MR. LESHER: Madam Secretary, would you 18 please call the roll. 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher. 20 MR. LESHER: Aye. 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p>


Page 54	<p>1 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>3 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>5 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: Thank you.</p> <p>7 MS. MORRIS: And then lastly, we are</p> <p>8 requesting Council approval to apply for State</p> <p>9 aid funding to help with the cost of this</p> <p>10 project in the sum of \$1 million.</p> <p>11 MR. STEPP: That's an easy motion for me.</p> <p>12 I don't know about you all.</p> <p>13 MS. MIELKE: It's an easy second.</p> <p>14 MR. STEPP: Here you go. Go get it for</p> <p>15 us.</p> <p>16 MR. LESHER: We have a motion and second</p> <p>17 to apply for the State aid funding. Madam</p> <p>18 Secretary, would you please call the roll.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p>	Page 56	<p>1 Monday, February 16th, for President's Day.</p> <p>2 MR. LESHER: Thank you, Ms. Morris.</p> <p>3 Any questions for Ms. Morris before we</p> <p>4 close out county manager's report?</p> <p>5 MS. HAYTHE: No.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: Hearing none, thank you.</p> <p>7 And we can move onto public comment. Is</p> <p>8 there anybody here for public comment? Please.</p> <p>9 I will ask you to come forward to state</p> <p>10 your name and address and to limit your</p> <p>11 comments if you possibly can to three minutes.</p> <p>12 MR. RIGGIN: Fully understand and will</p> <p>13 comply.</p> <p>14 Again, Phil Riggan, 29736 Sullivan Drive</p> <p>15 in Easton is my address. Just a couple of</p> <p>16 quick remarks.</p> <p>17 Yesterday, I had the opportunity to review</p> <p>18 the Annual Report. And I want to congratulate</p> <p>19 whoever was involved in putting it together and</p> <p>20 organizing it because I think it's extremely</p> <p>21 well presented and it's easy to follow through.</p>
Page 55	<p>1 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>3 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>5 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>6 MS. MORRIS: Terrific.</p> <p>7 Thank you, Josh. Is there anything else</p> <p>8 you want to add about the project?</p> <p>9 MR. ELLIOT: Nothing major.</p> <p>10 The schedule as of now is to go to</p> <p>11 August 11th.</p> <p>12 You know, contractors are always telling</p> <p>13 you that hey, we're giving you our best</p> <p>14 estimate.</p> <p>15 Bramble thinks they have fluff built into</p> <p>16 that and can do better, but we will see.</p> <p>17 MR. LESHER: Thank you very much.</p> <p>18 MR. ELLIOT: Yup.</p> <p>19 MS. MORRIS: Terrific. And then just the</p> <p>20 last item this evening, Council, is just to</p> <p>21 announce that county offices will be closed on</p>	Page 57	<p>1 It's not, you know, one of these things where</p> <p>2 your lose yourself and wander around for a</p> <p>3 while.</p> <p>4 So if that's all Sarah's office, then she</p> <p>5 deserves a lot of congratulations, and she has</p> <p>6 mine.</p> <p>7 Regarding that report, the -- I haven't</p> <p>8 mentioned this in previous meetings that I can</p> <p>9 recall. But I am extremely pleased with what I</p> <p>10 see as an improved proactive communication</p> <p>11 between the county and the citizenry or the</p> <p>12 residents of the county on a more organized</p> <p>13 basis. Engage Talbot, as an example, and just</p> <p>14 things that are easily available if somebody</p> <p>15 just simply contacts the web page and can move</p> <p>16 on from there.</p> <p>17 And having put myself on the list of</p> <p>18 several things over the last several months,</p> <p>19 I'm regularly getting things that I truly</p> <p>20 appreciate getting because it helps me, helps</p> <p>21 me keep aware of what's happening.</p>

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<p>1 In the report, I just was interested, and</p> <p>2 I don't really have a question, I was just</p> <p>3 interested by the percentage of full-time</p> <p>4 employees of the county and that's compared to</p> <p>5 the percentage of part-time employees of the</p> <p>6 county. Don't have a question. Just was kind</p> <p>7 of interested by that, in that.</p> <p>8 Anyhow, I appreciate what all of that</p> <p>9 means in terms of engagement with the</p> <p>10 community, and I only expect it to continue and</p> <p>11 look forward to that. Thank you.</p> <p>12 MR. LESHER: Thank you, Mr. Rigglin.</p> <p>13 Anyone else here for public comment</p> <p>14 tonight?</p> <p>15 We have our health officer, tonight.</p> <p>16 DR. FAHMI: Thank you.</p> <p>17 MR. LESHER: You know we can put you at</p> <p>18 the top of the agenda if you ever wish.</p> <p>19 DR. FAHMI: Say again.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHER: We can give you your own</p> <p>21 special spot at the top of the agenda.</p>	<p>1 United States. I'm guessing, even though I</p> <p>2 don't have the data yet, but I'm guessing these</p> <p>3 are people who were not vaccinated as kids,</p> <p>4 which is part of our school system</p> <p>5 vaccinations.</p> <p>6 The older we get the mumps, the more the</p> <p>7 complications, whether from (indiscernible),</p> <p>8 which is inflammation around the brain, which</p> <p>9 can lead to other complications after that, or</p> <p>10 deafness or issues with the ovaries and the</p> <p>11 genitalia of the male.</p> <p>12 For kids, it's usually not as bad. But</p> <p>13 the older we are, the more we succumb to its</p> <p>14 side effects.</p> <p>15 It is usually transmitted by productive,</p> <p>16 production of the respiratory system.</p> <p>17 So I wanted -- this is in Baltimore. I</p> <p>18 wanted the county to know. I will publish</p> <p>19 something through our social media, how to</p> <p>20 protect ourselves and what our providers can do</p> <p>21 to check for that.</p>
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<p>1 DR. FAHMI: That's humbling. Thank you,</p> <p>2 sir. That's very kind of you.</p> <p>3 My name is Fahmi. I am the health officer</p> <p>4 for Talbot County.</p> <p>5 This about infectious disease. We have</p> <p>6 one case of possible whooping cough in Talbot</p> <p>7 County. It's a grown up, whooping cough. It</p> <p>8 is contained. We have done the tracing. We</p> <p>9 don't have any worry.</p> <p>10 I'm saying possibly because the test was</p> <p>11 positive, but there's something called false</p> <p>12 positive. But that patient has been under</p> <p>13 treatment. So I'm not scared about that.</p> <p>14 We did the tracing, and it did not sound</p> <p>15 to be much exposure.</p> <p>16 The other thing is that today I got an</p> <p>17 email that there was about 14 cases of mumps in</p> <p>18 Baltimore. I do not know the specifics of it.</p> <p>19 Mumps, the older the patient, the person</p> <p>20 who gets mumps, the more the complications.</p> <p>21 Usually, we should not have it in the</p>	<p>1 MR. LESHER: Thank you very much for</p> <p>2 alerting us to this.</p> <p>3 DR. FAHMI: Appreciate it. Thank you.</p> <p>4 MR. STEPP: Thank you.</p> <p>5 DR. FAHMI: Any questions for me?</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: Any questions for Dr. Fahmi?</p> <p>7 DR. FAHMI: Thank you for your support.</p> <p>8 MR. LESHER: Thank you very much.</p> <p>9 MS. HAYTHE: I have one, Dr. Fahmi.</p> <p>10 DR. FAHMI: Yes, ma'am. Please.</p> <p>11 MS. HAYTHE: No cases or outbreak of</p> <p>12 measles or anything like that in Talbot County?</p> <p>13 DR. FAHMI: No, ma'am. Not to my</p> <p>14 knowledge, ma'am, no.</p> <p>15 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. Great. Thank you.</p> <p>16 DR. FAHMI: Thank you, ma'am. Thank you</p> <p>17 for the opportunity.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHER: Thank you, again, Dr. Fahmi.</p> <p>19 Any other public comment tonight?</p> <p>20 Seeing none, we can move on to our final</p> <p>21 agenda item, which is Council comments.</p>

Page 62	<p>1 Anybody care to go first?</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: I'll go first.</p> <p>3 I just want remind everyone that this</p> <p>4 month is Black History Month. And in that</p> <p>5 spirit, I have a quote from Dr. Martin Luther</p> <p>6 King, Jr. that says we must accept finite</p> <p>7 disappointment but never lose infinite hope.</p> <p>8 And I'll end with that.</p> <p>9 MS. MIELKE: Very nice.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHER: Good words to end on.</p> <p>11 MS. MIELKE: Last night, I attended the</p> <p>12 Talbot Agriculture and Education Center annual</p> <p>13 dinner. And it was such a treat. The center</p> <p>14 has been around for 60 years. And it has</p> <p>15 strengthened the rural county that we are.</p> <p>16 It provides safe, convenient, and</p> <p>17 economical gathering place for citizens of all</p> <p>18 ages and backgrounds to showcase and learn from</p> <p>19 our agricultural heritage.</p> <p>20 It was so rewarding to see so many young</p> <p>21 people there that are involved in 4H. And it</p>	Page 64	<p>1 snow and ice melting. So very appreciative for</p> <p>2 Him for that.</p> <p>3 So I'll leave it at that.</p> <p>4 MR. LESHER: Thank you, Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>5 Last night I attend District 37 night in</p> <p>6 Annapolis hosted by our Delegates Hutchinson,</p> <p>7 Adams, and Senator Mautz, and Delegate Sheree</p> <p>8 Sample-Hughes from District 37A.</p> <p>9 Among those present was the county's</p> <p>10 lobbyist, Mike Morgan, with whom we are meeting</p> <p>11 every Thursday night.</p> <p>12 MS. HAYTHE: Mason.</p> <p>13 MR. STEPP: Mason.</p> <p>14 MR. LESHER: Mason. Mike Mason, every</p> <p>15 Thursday night and discussing raising bills in</p> <p>16 Annapolis that might impact county government</p> <p>17 or county interests, county economic interests,</p> <p>18 county other interests. He's keeping us on top</p> <p>19 of those things.</p> <p>20 And as with, as with all of our public</p> <p>21 meetings, the public is certainly entitled to</p>
Page 63	<p>1 was good to see that we have a continuing</p> <p>2 future that agriculture plays a role in our</p> <p>3 community because we're so known for that.</p> <p>4 So I would ask people to keep them in mind</p> <p>5 when activities come up. For instance, the</p> <p>6 Talbot County Fair.</p> <p>7 Also, their center is available for</p> <p>8 renting. So if you want to have a wedding, a</p> <p>9 class reunion, or any type of activity, I think</p> <p>10 that they could appreciate the support that</p> <p>11 they get from the community.</p> <p>12 They've done some renovations. They get</p> <p>13 by with very good contributions from the Lions</p> <p>14 Club. So we need to support them, too, as a</p> <p>15 community. So I hope y'all keep track of them.</p> <p>16 Thank you.</p> <p>17 MR. LESHER: Thank you.</p> <p>18 Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>19 MR. STEPP: I'd just like to thank the</p> <p>20 good Lord for giving us some warm weather.</p> <p>21 It's been very nice to actually see some of the</p>	Page 65	<p>1 listen to those. Those meetings are all done</p> <p>2 remotely.</p> <p>3 With that, the County Council's next</p> <p>4 meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24th,</p> <p>5 beginning at 5 o'clock p.m. The Council will</p> <p>6 be convening in open session at 2:30 p.m. with</p> <p>7 a work session with Economic Development and</p> <p>8 Tourism on the draft strategic plan and then</p> <p>9 adjourning into closed session, as listed on</p> <p>10 the statement for closing that meeting.</p> <p>11 On Thursday, February 12th, and Thursday,</p> <p>12 February 19th, the County Council will be</p> <p>13 holding meetings at 4:30 via Zoom with</p> <p>14 Provident Strategies for a briefing on the</p> <p>15 Maryland General Assembly. The meetings are</p> <p>16 open to the public.</p> <p>17 On Monday, February 23rd, the County</p> <p>18 Council will be meeting with the Board of</p> <p>19 Education at 5:30 p.m. at the Talbot County</p> <p>20 Education Center located at 12 Magnolia Street</p> <p>21 in Easton. That meeting is open to the public.</p>

1 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn
2 this meeting and reconvene as noted?
3 MS. HAYTHE: So moved.
4 MR. STEPP: Second.
5 MR. LESHER: Madam Secretary, would you
6 pleases call the roll.
7 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
8 MR. LESHER: Aye.
9 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
10 MR. STEPP: Aye.
11 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
12 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
13 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
14 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
15 MR. LESHER: Thank you, all. Good night.
16 (Meeting concluded at: 5:55 p.m.)
17
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19
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21

1 STATE OF MARYLAND
2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and
3 for the State of Maryland, County of Talbot, do
4 hereby certify that the within named, Talbot County
5 Council Audio, personally appeared before me at the
6 time and place herein set according to law, was
7 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
22 interested in the outcome of this action.
23 AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 12th
24 day of February, 2026, in Talbot County, MD.



Diane Houlihan
Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2029

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