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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

February 24, 2026; 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 started. And I apologize being just a</p> <p>5 little bit late. Diane says get to work. So I</p> <p>6 will.</p> <p>7 So let's go ahead and stand. Let's do the</p> <p>8 prayer and then the Pledge of Allegiance of the</p> <p>9 Flag.</p> <p>10 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's go ahead and</p> <p>12 start off tonight. The agenda is before the</p> <p>13 Council. Is there any deletions or corrections</p> <p>14 to the agenda?</p> <p>15 MR. STEPP: Mr. President, if I may, I</p> <p>16 have two that I'd like to amend today.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure.</p> <p>18 MR. STEPP: First one, if I could, remove,</p> <p>19 put in a request to remove item number seven</p> <p>20 from the agenda.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p>	<p>1 Bill 791. Motion is on the table.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Do I have a second?</p> <p>3 MS. HAYTHE: Are we doing them...</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: We're doing them together.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHER: Do you want to do them</p> <p>6 separately?</p> <p>7 MS. MIELKE: Yes.</p> <p>8 MR. LESHER: All right.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We'll do them</p> <p>10 separately.</p> <p>11 MR. STEPP: So the motion on the table,</p> <p>12 then, is just to remove item number seven from</p> <p>13 tonight's agenda.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I have a motion.</p> <p>15 MR. STEPP: That's a motion.</p> <p>16 MS. HAYTHE: Second.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Motion and second.</p> <p>18 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p>
Page 3	Page 5
<p>1 MR. STEPP: We need to do a second one as</p> <p>2 well or just we need to vote on that one first?</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Council, it's up to you.</p> <p>4 Do you want to do both at one time?</p> <p>5 MR. LESHER: Why don't you just do both?</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds good.</p> <p>7 And which is the next one?</p> <p>8 MR. STEPP: And the second one is under</p> <p>9 county manager report. I have a request to add</p> <p>10 an emergency agenda item for a letter to go to</p> <p>11 our State Legislature in opposition of Senate</p> <p>12 Bill 791.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>14 MR. STEPP: So I'll start off with a</p> <p>15 motion for both of those items.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>17 MS. MIELKE: Excuse me, could you repeat</p> <p>18 that?</p> <p>19 MR. STEPP: I'll start off with a motion</p> <p>20 to remove number seven from the agenda and then</p> <p>21 to add the emergency letter opposing Senate</p>	<p>1 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>3 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>5 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>7 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's go for the</p> <p>9 next one, the add on.</p> <p>10 MR. STEPP: Do I need to repeat that one?</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, please.</p> <p>12 MR. STEPP: So I'm making a motion that</p> <p>13 under county manager report, that we add an</p> <p>14 agenda item for an emergency letter to go to</p> <p>15 the Maryland State Legislature in opposition of</p> <p>16 Senate Bill 791.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is there a second?</p> <p>18 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and second.</p> <p>20 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p>

Page 6	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>3 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>7 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>9 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We're set on that.</p> <p>11 Next on the agenda is the minutes. We've</p> <p>12 had time to take a look at the minutes. Is</p> <p>13 there any additions, deletions, or corrections</p> <p>14 to the minutes, Council? All good? Okay.</p> <p>15 Hearing none, the chair moves that the minutes</p> <p>16 be accepted as unanimous consent.</p> <p>17 Disbursement of February 17th and the 24th</p> <p>18 of February. Is there any additions,</p> <p>19 deletions, or corrections to that?</p> <p>20 MS. MIELKE: No.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Hearing none, the</p>	Page 8	<p>1 that serves as a guideline for a review of the</p> <p>2 ACFR. It can be quite a bit of information to</p> <p>3 consume. So I wanted to point out the</p> <p>4 highlights again for yourselves and also for</p> <p>5 our residents and our users of the financial</p> <p>6 statements, which can be found on our county</p> <p>7 website under the Finance Department and in the</p> <p>8 financial reports.</p> <p>9 So on page two of our ACFR is the</p> <p>10 transmittal letter, which serves as a formal</p> <p>11 cover letter and introduction to the governing</p> <p>12 body, creditors, and the public.</p> <p>13 Page 15 contains the management discussion</p> <p>14 and analysis, which is often called the MD&amp;A.</p> <p>15 Provides an objective readable narrative</p> <p>16 analysis of a government's financial</p> <p>17 performance, explaining the why figures change</p> <p>18 and trends occurred, covering highlights,</p> <p>19 capital assets, debt, and future impacts.</p> <p>20 On page 33, is the balance sheet for the</p> <p>21 governmental funds. And under the, particular</p>
Page 7	<p>1 disbursements will be accepted as unanimous</p> <p>2 consent. Okay.</p> <p>3 First on the agenda is the Annual</p> <p>4 Comprehensive Financial Report. You guys want</p> <p>5 to come on up?</p> <p>6 Welcome, Martha and Chris. How are you</p> <p>7 guys doing?</p> <p>8 MR. LEHMAN: Good. Thank you for having</p> <p>9 us.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Good, good. Tell us all</p> <p>11 good stuff now.</p> <p>12 MS. SPARKS: We can do that.</p> <p>13 Martha Sparks, finance director for Talbot</p> <p>14 County.</p> <p>15 So I'm here with our auditor, independent</p> <p>16 auditor, SB &amp; Company, and the audit partner,</p> <p>17 Chris Lehman.</p> <p>18 He's going to go over the process of the</p> <p>19 report, but I just wanted to highlight for the</p> <p>20 Council. I've given you a memo discussing --</p> <p>21 okay. So I have provided Council with a memo</p>	Page 9	<p>1 for us, under the fund balances category</p> <p>2 heading of our reserves, we are reporting for</p> <p>3 the first time reserves in our categories that</p> <p>4 are in accordance with the reserve policy</p> <p>5 adopted by Council in February of 2025.</p> <p>6 And page 126 is the beginning of the</p> <p>7 statistic section that provides historical</p> <p>8 context, trends and multiyear data, typically</p> <p>9 ten years. That assists users in assessing a</p> <p>10 government's economic condition, financial</p> <p>11 trends, debt capacity, and operating</p> <p>12 performance beyond the basic financial</p> <p>13 statements.</p> <p>14 And on page 44, notes to the financial</p> <p>15 statements. This section contains a wealth of</p> <p>16 information on the county. And I'd like to</p> <p>17 emphasize specific areas of interest, page 55</p> <p>18 through 56, where it discusses deposits and</p> <p>19 investments. And on page 65, it discusses the</p> <p>20 long-term debt and summary, the long-term debt</p> <p>21 summary.</p>

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1 So if you have any questions, please let  
 2 me know.  
 3 And I will turn this over to Chris.  
 4 MR. LEHMAN: Well, thank you, everyone.  
 5 And again, I'm Chris Lehman. I was the  
 6 engagement partner over the financial statement  
 7 audit.  
 8 So I have a brief presentation that I'll  
 9 go over that goes through our firm and  
 10 industry-required communications to those  
 11 charged with governance.  
 12 And if you have any questions, feel free  
 13 to jump in. Or I will also ask at the end.  
 14 So we were engaged to audit the June 30,  
 15 2025, financial statements for the county, also  
 16 termed the ACFR, or the Annual Comprehensive  
 17 Financial Report.  
 18 In addition, because the county has  
 19 expended or received more than \$750,000 of  
 20 federal funding, there's also a uniform  
 21 guidance single audit that's required by the

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1 federal government. That audit's currently  
 2 underway.  
 3 We've also completed an audit of the 911  
 4 trust fund activity that's required by the  
 5 State, as well as calculations and financial  
 6 ratios that go along with the landfill  
 7 agreed-upon procedures.  
 8 In addition, the State requires a UFR,  
 9 uniform financial report, to be submitted,  
 10 along with the financial statements. And we  
 11 have reviewed that as part of our audit.  
 12 And then lastly, once the single audit is  
 13 submitted, a data collection form will also be  
 14 submitted to the federal government to show  
 15 that the county has met its requirements for  
 16 the single audit.  
 17 I just have a high level summary of the  
 18 results here. We've issued a clean or what's  
 19 termed unmodified opinion on the financial  
 20 statements. And that would be the best opinion  
 21 we could give under professional standards.

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1 Our audit is not a forensic audit, but we  
 2 are required to have a healthy skepticism that  
 3 fraud could happen at any time. And we did not  
 4 discover any instances of fraud through our  
 5 audit procedures, nor did we identify any  
 6 material weaknesses in any of the internal  
 7 controls.  
 8 And we also received the full cooperation  
 9 of management. So all records that we  
 10 requested backup for, we obtained adequate  
 11 support and we obtained timely and adequate  
 12 answers to all questions.  
 13 And we, as I mentioned, we're currently in  
 14 the process of completing the single audit.  
 15 That's due at March 31st of this year. So we  
 16 are still well within the deadline period for  
 17 the single audit.  
 18 This here is just a picture of our, really  
 19 our risk-based audit approach. The audit is  
 20 really designed to funnel out risk. Risk of  
 21 error within the financial statement is what

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1 we're auditing for to ultimately get to that  
 2 hopefully clean. And in this case, the clean  
 3 opinion that we did issue.  
 4 And we spent a significant amount of  
 5 time -- I'll go through in the next two or  
 6 three slides the results of the second phase  
 7 here, which is understanding and testing the  
 8 design and the operation of the internal  
 9 controls. And we're looking at key processes  
 10 and functions that impact the financial  
 11 statements. And I'll explain those here in a  
 12 couple of slides.  
 13 This slide here, we assess the control  
 14 environment. And there's five interrelated  
 15 components that really need to be present to  
 16 determine whether or not there is an effective  
 17 environment. And we have concluded that there  
 18 is an effective environment for the county for  
 19 the period under audit.  
 20 And those five interrelated components are  
 21 listed to -- well, starting on this page, three

Page 14	<p>1 of them are listed to the left here. Control                  2 environment, management's risk assessment                  3 process, the specific control activities, and                  4 then also information and communication, and                  5 then monitoring of internal controls. All five                  6 elements would need to be present in order for                  7 there to be an effective control environment.                  8 And as I mentioned, we have concluded that                  9 there was an effective environment.                  10 And then taking that a step further, we're                  11 auditing key processes with two primary                  12 objectives. One, is the process designed                  13 effectively. Meaning are there proper                  14 approvals, timely approval of transactions, and                  15 things of that nature. And then secondly, are                  16 the results being achieved. So we're testing                  17 the operating results through transactions to                  18 ensure that they were properly approved, they                  19 were recorded to the correct account, and in                  20 the correct amounts. That will go on to three                  21 slides.</p>	Page 16	<p>1 non-accounting. I'm not supposed to use                  2 non-accounting terms, but that's a good result.                  3 Any questions on that?                  4 MR. LESHMER: I'm just glad -- I've been                  5 around remembering days when the best opinion                  6 you could get was the unqualified opinion. And                  7 it's nice that that language has changed over                  8 the years.                  9 MR. LEHMAN: Yup. I guess it keeps us on                  10 our toes by changing the language.                  11 But yes, it used to be unqualified. And                  12 now it's unmodified. But it essentially means                  13 the same, the same thing.                  14 And I won't go into numbers too much. And                  15 this is probably a little small on the screen.                  16 And this is taken out of Martha mentioned                  17 the management discussion and analysis section                  18 of the ACFR. And these are just summaries of                  19 really the balance sheet. This is the balance                  20 sheet here of the entity-wide financial                  21 statements.</p>
Page 15	<p>1 But you'll see listed on this slide, we've                  2 assessed the design and the operation of the                  3 treasury function. There's certain estimates                  4 within the financial statements. A lot of                  5 those estimates are actuarially driven with                  6 pension and OPEB calculations.                  7 We've assessed the financial reporting                  8 process, cash disbursements or expenditures,                  9 payroll, revenue, fixed assets, information                  10 technology as it relates to the accounting                  11 system, and then we're currently working                  12 through the grant compliance piece. And we                  13 have not noted any significant deficiencies or                  14 material weaknesses in any of those processes.                  15 We've concluded both the design and the                  16 operation was effective for the period under                  17 audit.                  18 MS. SPARKS: Which is something you always                  19 want to hear your auditor tell you.                  20 MR. LEHMAN: And a long-winded way of                  21 saying it's good. I can't really use</p>	Page 17	<p>1 So this just includes all the activity,                  2 both from a governmental activity perspective,                  3 which includes the general fund, it includes                  4 the capital project fund. But it also includes                  5 long-term assets, capital assets, it includes                  6 debt. And then in the business-type                  7 activities, that includes all the                  8 proprietary-type funds. So that's just the                  9 snippet there of the balance sheet or the net                  10 position at the end of the year derived                  11 directly from the management discussion and                  12 analysis.                  13 And then here is just a year over year                  14 comparison of the same level of information                  15 that shows revenues at the top and the expenses                  16 down below.                  17 Any questions?                  18 MR. LESHMER: It's a remarkably healthy                  19 picture.                  20 MS. SPARKS: Yes, it is.                  21 MR. LEHMAN: And then I won't walk through</p>

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1 each page here. And I mentioned some of these  
 2 at my introduction.  
 3 But had we had difficulties getting  
 4 through the audit, I'd be required to bring  
 5 that to your attention. Had we had  
 6 disagreements with management, had we had audit  
 7 adjustments. Really we had nothing of a  
 8 negative nature that I need to bring to your  
 9 attention through the audit process. So it's a  
 10 very wordy way to say that.  
 11 And then lastly, I just have my contact  
 12 information here, if there's questions outside  
 13 of the audit, audit season. But we do work  
 14 with Martha and management on any questions  
 15 that come up throughout the year. I also make  
 16 myself available if you all have any issues or  
 17 questions.  
 18 Any questions?  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions,  
 20 Council? Okay.  
 21 MR. LESHER: Martha, before, as a

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1 historian, I don't have a lot of experience  
 2 reading these things. And I appreciate your  
 3 memos that tell us where we might particularly  
 4 want to focus our attention on this, and that's  
 5 most helpful. Thank you.  
 6 MS. SPARKS: You're welcome.  
 7 MR. STEPP: I'll just add in comments.  
 8 Chris, thank you for the presentation.  
 9 Thank you for using the simplistic words to  
 10 summarize it.  
 11 MR. LEHMAN: I tried.  
 12 MR. STEPP: So thank you for that.  
 13 But I'll continue the thanks to Martha and  
 14 your entire team. We would not be able to get  
 15 such a glowing recommendation if it weren't for  
 16 you and your team. So thank you. And please  
 17 extend thanks to them as well.  
 18 MS. SPARKS: I will do that. Thank you.  
 19 MR. LEHMAN: Thank you.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 21 MS. MIELKE: No comment.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 2 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you, Martha, and thank  
 3 you, Chris, for the update.  
 4 MR. LEHMAN: Thank you.  
 5 MS. HAYTHE: Appreciate it.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Go ahead, Clay.  
 7 MR. STAMP: I just, I'd be remiss if I  
 8 didn't, as your chief administrative officer,  
 9 just say how proud I am of our team, Martha and  
 10 Kaitlyn and the group.  
 11 I've just watched them over the last three  
 12 years get better and better every year. And  
 13 it's comforting. And I know you take comfort  
 14 in that. And the citizens of Talbot County  
 15 should take comfort that the competence that we  
 16 have in that sector.  
 17 And Chris, your team has been great to  
 18 work with. And we appreciate your service to  
 19 the county.  
 20 MR. LEHMAN: Thank you.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. I'll add onto

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1 that, too. Martha and Chris.  
 2 I mean the whole team that you've put  
 3 together, Martha, has been spectacular. Last  
 4 three years with working with you and your team  
 5 and Kaitlin, I mean it's been phenomenal, it  
 6 really has.  
 7 And it's really a comfort level, not only  
 8 to this Council, but to the citizens. It's  
 9 their money, you know.  
 10 MS. SPARKS: And we, we feel that, too.  
 11 That this is the citizens', these are taxpayer  
 12 dollars.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Absolutely.  
 14 MS. SPARKS: When we look through that.  
 15 So we take that same approach like it's our --  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.  
 17 MS. SPARKS: -- and our wallet.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: And we feel that when we're  
 19 in budget hearings and stuff like that. And  
 20 it's comforting to know that what you put in  
 21 front of us is good numbers, you know. And we

Page 22	<p>1 really appreciate that.</p> <p>2 And Chris, you looking over stuff like</p> <p>3 that, knowing the comfort level that you're in,</p> <p>4 that things are going properly and</p> <p>5 professionally, it's really good to know. And</p> <p>6 I appreciate your hard work, too.</p> <p>7 MR. LEHMAN: Thank you.</p> <p>8 MS. SPARKS: Chris knows. I've worked</p> <p>9 with Chris the three, four audits that we've</p> <p>10 gone through here. Also worked with him when I</p> <p>11 was with the Town of Centreville as well. So</p> <p>12 Chris and I have a -- as far as working</p> <p>13 relationships go.</p> <p>14 And I'm probably one of his TMI clients.</p> <p>15 I never hide anything from the auditor because</p> <p>16 if there's something wrong, we want to come out</p> <p>17 from under it and fix it. And he's, you know,</p> <p>18 they've been good guides and making sure that</p> <p>19 we're accurately reporting items.</p> <p>20 And I can't say enough about the</p> <p>21 partnership that my assistant finance director,</p>	Page 24	<p>1 that, please.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Just the title?</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. That would be great.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Administrative resolution</p> <p>5 changing the designated resident agent for</p> <p>6 Talbot County, Maryland.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Thomas, you want</p> <p>8 to go ahead and explain what we have to do to</p> <p>9 kind of do some clean that up.</p> <p>10 MR. THOMAS: Sure. So under State law,</p> <p>11 each county has to designate a resident agent</p> <p>12 for purposes of legal process.</p> <p>13 Back in 2004, the Council designated the</p> <p>14 county manager as the resident agent without</p> <p>15 referring to the individual.</p> <p>16 However, in 2016, the Council adopted an</p> <p>17 administrative resolution that specifically</p> <p>18 named Andy Hollis, who was the county manager</p> <p>19 at the time, as the resident agent.</p> <p>20 This resolution simply updates the</p> <p>21 resident agent from Mr. Hollis to Mr. Stamp, as</p>
Page 23	<p>1 our assistant finance officer, Kaitlin</p> <p>2 Foster-Clark. She really is a phenomenal</p> <p>3 addition to the team.</p> <p>4 But we have, all of our team members put</p> <p>5 the effort. This is their work that they do</p> <p>6 every day, is going through this. And I'm</p> <p>7 incredibly proud of them as well.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.</p> <p>9 Okay. Well, I appreciate it, guys. And I</p> <p>10 think I appreciate the report and good job.</p> <p>11 MS. SPARKS: Thank you.</p> <p>12 MR. LESHHER: No action from Council on</p> <p>13 this?</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: No.</p> <p>15 MR. LESHHER: Okay.</p> <p>16 MR. LEHMAN: Thank you, all.</p> <p>17 MS. SPARKS: Thank you.</p> <p>18 MR. STAMP: Thank you.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda,</p> <p>20 introduction to administrative resolution.</p> <p>21 Madam Secretary, would you go ahead and read</p>	Page 25	<p>1 the current county manager.</p> <p>2 And then it also gives the Council the</p> <p>3 flexibility to update the designated resident</p> <p>4 agent in the future when there's a change in</p> <p>5 county manager. So you won't have to adopt</p> <p>6 another administrative resolution at that time.</p> <p>7 So it will make the process a little easier.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right.</p> <p>9 So any discussion, Council?</p> <p>10 MS. HAYTHE: No.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>12 MS. HAYTHE: All you need is a motion?</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: We just need a motion.</p> <p>14 MR. STEPP: Mr. Thomas, if I'm not</p> <p>15 mistaken, I believe in here it does state where</p> <p>16 it, it does mention Mr. Stamp. But it's also</p> <p>17 by title, correct?</p> <p>18 MR. THOMAS: Yes.</p> <p>19 MR. STEPP: Okay. Just so again, we don't</p> <p>20 have to keep visiting this in the future.</p> <p>21 MR. THOMAS: Correct. There's a form that</p>

Page 26	<p>1 can be filled out and filed with the State</p> <p>2 Department of Assessments and Taxation to</p> <p>3 change the resident agent.</p> <p>4 And the resolution is written in a way</p> <p>5 that whoever fills it out and submits it will</p> <p>6 be able to attach that resolution whenever</p> <p>7 there's a change without having the Council</p> <p>8 having to take any action.</p> <p>9 MR. STEPP: Thank you.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: So at this point, can we</p> <p>11 blame everything on Andy?</p> <p>12 MR. THOMAS: I wouldn't put that on Andy.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: I hope Andy's watching.</p> <p>14 You know what I'm saying?</p> <p>15 But no. This cleans everything up?</p> <p>16 MR. THOMAS: Correct.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good, good.</p> <p>18 So is there a motion?</p> <p>19 MR. LESHER: You want a show of hands to</p> <p>20 introduce?</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, okay. Sorry.</p>	Page 28	<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds good.</p> <p>3 Thank you, Mr. Thomas, for that.</p> <p>4 Okay. Next on the agenda would be a</p> <p>5 discussion on a proposed text amendment on</p> <p>6 Chapter 190 concerning the short-term rental</p> <p>7 license and the Review Board. Okay.</p> <p>8 MR. THOMAS: Yes. This proposal was</p> <p>9 brought forward by Council Member Stepp. This</p> <p>10 is simply to refer this to the Planning</p> <p>11 Commission for review and a recommendation.</p> <p>12 The proposal is to amend sections</p> <p>13 190.63.2G23 and 190.63.A4A3 to provide that</p> <p>14 applicants for new and renewal short-term</p> <p>15 rental licenses provide notice to the 50</p> <p>16 properties nearest to the short-term rental</p> <p>17 dwelling or owners of all other properties with</p> <p>18 a property line within 1,000 feet, including</p> <p>19 line of sight within 1,000 feet across</p> <p>20 waterways, whichever is less.</p> <p>21 Under the code currently, notices are to</p>
Page 27	<p>1 MR. STEPP: For administrative resolution?</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah. I didn't even think...</p> <p>3 MR. STEPP: I thought administrative</p> <p>4 resolution we just go right to vote.</p> <p>5 MS. HAYTHE: Just a vote.</p> <p>6 MR. THOMAS: I think we typically</p> <p>7 introduce administrative resolutions and then</p> <p>8 vote on it, just for the record.</p> <p>9 MR. LESHER: So introduced by Council.</p> <p>10 And then you can call the vote.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>12 call the vote, please.</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. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>20 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p>	Page 29	<p>1 be sent to owners of all the properties with a</p> <p>2 property line within 1,000 feet, including line</p> <p>3 of sight within 1,000 feet across waterways.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds good.</p> <p>5 And this is just -- do you want to say</p> <p>6 anything?</p> <p>7 MR. STEPP: No. I mean Mr. Thomas just</p> <p>8 basically did it.</p> <p>9 But just the genesis of this. Out of the</p> <p>10 previous legislation we had for STRs, I heard</p> <p>11 this from actually constituents. So I love</p> <p>12 these requests when they come directly from a</p> <p>13 constituent. Seem to make good common sense,</p> <p>14 and actually make the process a little less</p> <p>15 cumbersome for renewal and new applications.</p> <p>16 So that's the genesis of this.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other</p> <p>18 discussion?</p> <p>19 MS. MIELKE: I just wanted to mention that</p> <p>20 we will be revisiting the issue of a major</p> <p>21 renovation of the short-term rental licenses,</p>

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<p>1 and I think that it should all be handled 2 together. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So right now it's 4 just a matter of introduction. 5 MR. THOMAS: A motion to refer it, refer 6 this proposed text amendment to the Planning 7 Commission. 8 MR. LESHER: Do we want to workshop this 9 rather than do this in a piecemeal fashion? 10 MR. CALLAHAN: I think Mr. Stepp wants to 11 move forward. 12 MR. STEPP: At this time I do not, as I 13 don't have a line of sight into what that is. 14 This is just a very minor change to the 15 legislation. 16 So I'll make a motion that we proceed to 17 send this over to the Planning Commission. 18 MS. HAYTHE: Second. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 20 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the 21 vote.</p>	<p>1 nonprofit, but it is also associated with the 2 business, which would be prohibited under the 3 current zoning code. 4 So this text amendment would allow the use 5 of that flag and would open it up to other 6 similar businesses as well. 7 And I believe Mr. Smith is here and can 8 give you a little bit more context to the 9 request. 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Zach, would you like 11 to come on up? 12 MR. SMITH: Sure. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. 14 MR. SMITH: Good evening, Council. Zach 15 Smith on behalf of Preston Automotive. Thank 16 you very much for the opportunity to be here in 17 consideration of this text amendment. 18 As Mr. Thomas said, Preston did recently 19 purchase the Toyota dealership on Route 50 20 that's located just outside the Town of Easton 21 and under the county's land use regulations.</p>
Page 31	Page 33
<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 4 MR. STEPP: Aye. 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 6 MR. LESHNER: Nay. 7 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 8 MS. MIELKE: Nay. 9 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 10 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next we've got a 12 text amendment of Chapter 190 on concerning 13 signs. 14 MR. THOMAS: Yes. This request was 15 brought forward by Zach Smith on behalf of 16 Preston Automotive. Again, this is a request 17 for referral to the Planning Commission. 18 As you may be aware, Preston recently 19 acquired the Toyota dealership on Route 50. 20 They want to have a flag with their frog logo 21 on it, which apparently relates to their</p>	<p>1 And Preston would like to do there, like 2 they do at all their dealerships, have an 3 arrangement of three flags where they fly the 4 American flag, the State flag, and then their 5 corporate flag which is simply their logo of 6 the frog, which is something they do across all 7 their dealerships to show the affiliation with 8 that family of dealerships. 9 But also, importantly, Preston, and 10 Mr. Wilson in particular, are very 11 philanthropic. They give a lot of money to 12 local charities and causes. And they use that 13 flag to sort of raise awareness and promote 14 their causes. 15 So, for example, during Breast Cancer 16 Awareness Month, they focus their giving on 17 breast cancer awareness and the frog will be 18 pink. During Talbot Goes Purple, the frog will 19 be purple. When they're raising money for 20 veterans organizations, it's green and so on. 21 This is just something they do across all their</p>

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<p>1 dealerships.</p> <p>2 But unfortunately, they're not able to put</p> <p>3 the flag up at this location under the current</p> <p>4 code because the county code doesn't permit</p> <p>5 corporate flags. I guess it would permit it as</p> <p>6 a sign, but that would be your one sign you're</p> <p>7 entitled to and you couldn't have other</p> <p>8 signage.</p> <p>9 And so this amendment proposes to allow</p> <p>10 for a corporate flag in addition to signage</p> <p>11 that otherwise is permitted. We think that's</p> <p>12 appropriate.</p> <p>13 It's worth noting that I think both Easton</p> <p>14 and St. Michaels' zoning codes allow for</p> <p>15 corporate flags in addition to other flags that</p> <p>16 are flown. It's just something they do to help</p> <p>17 the business community.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure.</p> <p>19 MR. SMITH: And so the amendment does</p> <p>20 propose a limitation of one per commercial or</p> <p>21 industrial property and a maximum area of 40</p>	<p>1 mind for this is part of that gateway zoning to</p> <p>2 the Town of Easton.</p> <p>3 I know that the county and the town have</p> <p>4 really worked together to improve design</p> <p>5 standards.</p> <p>6 Does Easton have a comparable standard?</p> <p>7 MR. SMITH: It does, yes. So Easton does</p> <p>8 permit corporate flags in addition to other</p> <p>9 commercial signage.</p> <p>10 I can check and confirm, but I think these</p> <p>11 limitations are less than what is allowed in</p> <p>12 the town, certainly no more in terms of the</p> <p>13 area of the flag.</p> <p>14 But to answer your question directly,</p> <p>15 Easton does permit corporate flags in addition</p> <p>16 to other commercial signage, similar to what</p> <p>17 we're asking for here.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHER: Thank you.</p> <p>19 MS. MIELKE: No questions.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Any other discussion?</p> <p>21 MS. HAYTHE: No.</p>
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<p>1 square feet and no higher than 30 feet. And we</p> <p>2 worked with Mr. Tarleton's office to come up</p> <p>3 with some reasonable limitations to ensure</p> <p>4 there aren't unintended consequences</p> <p>5 (indiscernible).</p> <p>6 So we would ask the Council to please</p> <p>7 forward it onto the Planning Commission and</p> <p>8 hope to be back to you with a presentation at</p> <p>9 that time.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHER: Mr. Smith, this is in -- this</p> <p>12 would apply to various zones, not just the</p> <p>13 county gateway zoning?</p> <p>14 MR. SMITH: As drafted, it would apply to</p> <p>15 any commercial or industrial properties. So</p> <p>16 yes, Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>17 MR. LESHER: Okay.</p> <p>18 MR. SMITH: It wouldn't be commercial or</p> <p>19 industrial zoning, per se. But a commercial or</p> <p>20 industrial land use.</p> <p>21 MR. LESHER: And the site that we have in</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>2 MR. STEPP: So I'll make a motion that we</p> <p>3 send it to the Planning Commission.</p> <p>4 MS. HAYTHE: Second.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>6 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>7 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. Leshner.</p> <p>13 MR. LESHER: 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. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>19 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Council.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Zach.</p> <p>21 Appreciate it. Okay.</p>

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<p>1 Next is Clay's stuff.</p> <p>2 MR. STAMP: Yeah. Thank you, Council.</p> <p>3 Under county manager report this evening,</p> <p>4 we have some board and committee appointments</p> <p>5 we'd like for you to consider.</p> <p>6 The first will be the Agricultural Land</p> <p>7 Preservation Advisory Board. We're requesting</p> <p>8 the reappointment of Mr. John Swaine to that</p> <p>9 board.</p> <p>10 MR. STEPP: I'll make a motion we approve.</p> <p>11 MS. HAYTHE: 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 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>3 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>4 MR. STAMP: The next is the Frederick</p> <p>5 Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe Committee.</p> <p>6 Requesting the reappointment of Richard Marks.</p> <p>7 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve.</p> <p>8 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>10 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>11 vote, please.</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. LESHNER: 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>
Page 39	Page 41
<p>1 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>3 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>4 MR. STAMP: The next would be the</p> <p>5 Commission on Aging. We're requesting the</p> <p>6 reappointment of Jenna Marchi, Home Instead;</p> <p>7 Rachel Smith, Londonderry; Carrie Ottey, RN,</p> <p>8 Health Department, Rachel Cox, Emergency</p> <p>9 Services; Wendy Palmer, citizen; and Veda</p> <p>10 Gibson from Asbury Place.</p> <p>11 MS. MIELKE: So moved.</p> <p>12 MR. STEPP: Second.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you</p> <p>14 call the 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 MR. STAMP: And the next one is the Parks</p> <p>2 &amp; Recreation Advisory Board. We're requesting</p> <p>3 the appointment of Mr. Sean O'Connor from the</p> <p>4 Trappe District and the appointment of</p> <p>5 Mr. Michael Brophy as the Town of Easton's</p> <p>6 representative to that board.</p> <p>7 MR. STEPP: So moved as stated.</p> <p>8 MS. HAYTHE: Second.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>10 second. 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. LESHNER: 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: And finally, Council, the                  2 Tourism Board. We're requesting the                  3 appointment of Jennifer Brown, Flaneur                  4 Vacations, as the short-term rental                  5 representative.                  6 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve.                  7 MR. STEPP: Second.                  8 MR. CALLAHAN: Motion and second it.                  9 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.                  10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.                  11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.                  12 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.                  13 MR. STEPP: Aye.                  14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.                  15 MR. LESHER: Aye.                  16 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.                  17 MS. MIELKE: Nay.                  18 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.                  19 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.                  20 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.                  21 The next item of business, we'll invite</p>	<p>1 our administrative offices. But the rest of                  2 the year, it is used primarily by our citizens                  3 for a multitude of reasons.                  4 So we are asking your support in the form                  5 of a letter to get some                  6 Congressionally-directed spending to help                  7 repair and restore some of the things needed in                  8 that facility.                  9 MR. STAMP: Great. Thank you.                  10 And Council, that is a letter of support                  11 for their request for a                  12 Congressionally-directed spending in the amount                  13 of \$1.7 million for restoration. There would                  14 be no county funds required.                  15 MS. KILMON: Correct.                  16 MR. LESHER: I'll move to direct the                  17 letter.                  18 MS. HAYTHE: Second.                  19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and                  20 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the                  21 vote.</p>
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<p>1 Deena Kilmon to come forward.                  2 Ms. Kilmon is here this evening requesting                  3 a letter of support. And I'll let her provide                  4 you the information and fill in where                  5 necessary.                  6 MR. CALLAHAN: Welcome.                  7 MS. KILMON: Thank you, thank you.                  8 So y'all have read the --                  9 MR. CALLAHAN: Could you tell everyone who                  10 you are?                  11 MS. KILMON: Oh, yeah. Deena Kilmon,                  12 executive director of the Waterfowl Festival.                  13 As you know, we own the Armory Building in                  14 Easton. And it is in dire need of a little                  15 support, a little love from the community.                  16 I hope that you received the list of all                  17 the people that have used the building this                  18 year. It's in the thousands. We have dozens                  19 of organizations that use it every year. The                  20 Waterfowl Festival primarily uses it about, you                  21 know, a week out of the year. We do use it for</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.                  2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.                  3 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.                  4 MR. STEPP: Aye.                  5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.                  6 MR. LESHER: Aye.                  7 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.                  8 MS. MIELKE: Aye.                  9 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.                  10 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.                  11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. There you go.                  12 MR. STAMP: Thank you.                  13 MS. KILMON: Thank you so much, guys. We                  14 need it.                  15 MR. CALLAHAN: You do.                  16 MR. STAMP: Council, the next item of                  17 business involves the airport. And we'll                  18 invite Micah Risher, your airport manager, to                  19 provide the request to you.                  20 I'll fill in where is necessary.                  21 MR. RISHER: Thank you, Clay.</p>

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1 Council, good evening. Micah Risher, your  
 2 airport manager.  
 3 Exciting times capital planning. A lot  
 4 going on out there planning wise, although the  
 5 tractors have slowed down because of the snow  
 6 and the weather not working in our favor right  
 7 now.  
 8 Two requests for you this evening.  
 9 The first one is our normal regular annual  
 10 AIP grant request. All of our coordinating  
 11 with FAA, they've basically told us to plan on  
 12 about \$6.7 million right now to keep the  
 13 project going. We're hoping they can find a  
 14 little bit more, at least another million.  
 15 We're hoping for as much as we can.  
 16 Last year, they were able to find another  
 17 2 million for projects that were not able to  
 18 go. Our advantage is we're shovel ready. We  
 19 are ready to go, contractor lined up, plans.  
 20 So every dollar that they send to us we can put  
 21 right to work immediately.

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1 So in my first request, for our regular  
 2 planning, is I'm requesting permission to apply  
 3 for and accept this year's AIP grant for an  
 4 amount up to \$10 million to continue the  
 5 project.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions?  
 7 MR. LESHER: Mr. Risher, how does this  
 8 amount -- remind us. Is this a lowered amount  
 9 and is this FAA support's tapering down for  
 10 some reason here?  
 11 MR. RISHER: So this is a scaled-down  
 12 amount from what we were hoping for a year ago.  
 13 And a lot of that is just the demand of  
 14 the cost of the projects across the country  
 15 have increased through inflation and volatility  
 16 in the market. I mean we've seen some  
 17 construction items double in cost or more. So  
 18 projects across the board have come in  
 19 considerably higher than FAA was forecasting  
 20 even a year ago.  
 21 So basically everybody got scaled down to

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1 lower amounts, which is where we sit right now.  
 2 Like I always say when we're in our planning  
 3 meetings, the need is greater than the money  
 4 that's available to maintain our infrastructure  
 5 across the nation.  
 6 So the unfortunate thing for us is, you  
 7 know, we need a certain number. They're not  
 8 able to meet it, but they are able to keep our  
 9 project going slower than we would like.  
 10 The hope is that we keep it going and then  
 11 use another avenue, which is my second request,  
 12 to go direct to Congress and ask for more  
 13 money.  
 14 But this specific request is kind of like  
 15 the money that we know is coming. This is the  
 16 regular that we get every single year of 6.7.  
 17 And with that, we'll put our, you know, 400 and  
 18 some thousand in, the State will as well.  
 19 We'll end up doing nearly an \$8 million project  
 20 to start building the new runway.  
 21 MR. LESHER: And FAA funds this. This is

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1 through the airline passenger ticket --  
 2 MR. RISHER: That's right. This is  
 3 through the trust fund. This is when you use  
 4 the system, you fly, they collect excise taxes,  
 5 fees on fuel, things of that nature. So you  
 6 use the system, money flows into the trust  
 7 fund. Then all the airports district offices  
 8 kind of divvy it up to the projects that are  
 9 within their district.  
 10 This is our normal funding mechanism where  
 11 they pay 90 percent, State pays five percent,  
 12 and we pay five percent of construction costs.  
 13 MR. LESHER: And so FAA, rather than  
 14 picking priority projects, they're just  
 15 spreading the money a little bit more evenly  
 16 around and that's resulting in lower awards?  
 17 MR. RISHER: Well, it is prioritized.  
 18 But where we fall is a national level  
 19 general aviation airport. Of course, more  
 20 money is going to go to the BWIs, the Dulleses,  
 21 the Richmonds, even the Salisburys,

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<p>1 Haigerstowns, Martin States. They're also                  2 within our district. So we kind of fall down                  3 the list.                  4 And then it's also prioritized like what                  5 type of project is it, what category of                  6 airport.                  7 So it's a fortunate thing. We've                  8 obviously been waiting in line for a very long                  9 time to get here. We are at the head of the                  10 line for a small GA airport. FAA is supportive                  11 of this. They want to get this project off                  12 their books. But the reality is just to get                  13 this next piece done currently, we need about                  14 \$27 million. And that's just impossible. Like                  15 there's no way that under their current budget,                  16 they can give us 27 million.                  17 So the plan is 6.7 million this year and                  18 then 5 million a year through 2031 to get it                  19 complete. That's like the base level plan.                  20 MR. STAMP: Of course, his second request                  21 would be to hurry up and get the project --</p>	<p>1 the basic, you know, we know the money is going                  2 to come and we can keep the project going.                  3 The next ask is through all this                  4 communicating and coordinating, of course,                  5 we've reached out to our federal delegation.                  6 And I am happy to say that our entire federal                  7 delegation now supports our project for                  8 consideration under Congressional Community                  9 Grant funding.                  10 So working through Congressman Harris'                  11 office, they've identified this. I've kind of                  12 given them the details. They see it, they                  13 support it, and they have recommended that we                  14 put the entire ask in, the 27 million. There's                  15 no guarantee that it will be funded at that                  16 level.                  17 But like as I've explained to them, what                  18 we have working for us right now is                  19 construction package three. We have a                  20 contractor lined up, ready to go. We've bid it                  21 with the base bid and add alternates to get</p>
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<p>1 MR. RISHER: Right. The second request is                  2 the moonshot, if you will.                  3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other questions?                  4 Is there a motion?                  5 MS. MIELKE: So moved.                  6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.                  7 MR. STEPP: Second.                  8 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and second.                  9 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.                  10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.                  11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.                  12 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.                  13 MR. STEPP: Aye.                  14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.                  15 MR. LESHNER: Aye.                  16 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.                  17 MS. MIELKE: Aye.                  18 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.                  19 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.                  20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.                  21 MR. RISHER: Thank you, Council. That was</p>	<p>1 this whole project done.                  2 Currently we're doing the base bid and two                  3 add alternates. There's three more add                  4 alternates that would finish it. This is the                  5 definition of shovel ready. The only thing                  6 holding us up is the money.                  7 So Congressman Harris' office, we've                  8 worked with him. We have this teed up.                  9 And I've also been contacted by Senator                  10 Alsobrooks and Senator Van Hollen's office.                  11 We're going to apply through all three and send                  12 it up to Congress and ask for their support of                  13 funding the entire project or any portion that                  14 they can if you approve that.                  15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion?                  16 MS. HAYTHE: No. Motion to approve the                  17 request.                  18 MS. MIELKE: Second.                  19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and                  20 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the                  21 vote.</p>

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<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.                  2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.                  3 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.                  4 MR. STEPP: Aye.                  5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.                  6 MR. LESHNER: Aye.                  7 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.                  8 MS. MIELKE: Aye.                  9 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.                  10 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.                  11 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go.                  12 MR. RISHER: Thank you. We'll keep it                  13 moving.                  14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.                  15 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Micah.                  16 MR. CALLAHAN: Keep us posted. Good job.                  17 MR. STAMP: Appreciate that.                  18 MR. RISHER: Thanks a lot.                  19 MR. STAMP: Yup. So Council, I'll ask our                  20 assistant county engineer to come forward,                  21 Mr. Josh Elliott. We have a couple of</p>	<p>1 that 30-foot wide easement was \$12,000.                  2 In reviewing this with the property                  3 owners, they were seeking to be annexed into                  4 the town.                  5 In talking with Sharon Van Emburgh, the                  6 Town attorney, for that annexation, it would                  7 cost about \$15,000.                  8 As I explain to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Parker,                  9 we cannot offer them the ability to be annexed                  10 into the town. That's a political process.                  11 They would have to seek that annexation, and                  12 they've agreed to do that.                  13 So the county came back and offered them                  14 \$15,000, which is the cost of the annexation.                  15 After we had met with the property owners                  16 and reviewed that, I think Easton Utilities                  17 decided that they needed to also provide                  18 electric in that easement. So they ended up                  19 working out an arrangement with the property                  20 owners to add another \$7,500 to the offer to                  21 install electric. So there would be electric</p>
Page 55	Page 57
<p>1 requests.                  2 Oh, Ray. I didn't see you, Ray.                  3 MR. CLARKE: That's okay. No problem.                  4 MR. STAMP: Were you hiding behind?                  5 MR. ELLIOTT: I guess you were hiding                  6 behind me, yeah.                  7 MR. STAMP: Okay. So these gentlemen have                  8 a request, actually two requests for the same                  9 thing.                  10 This is a request regarding an easement to                  11 provide water service to the new hospital site.                  12 I'll let them go forward and fill in where                  13 necessary.                  14 MR. CLARKE: Ray Clarke, county engineer.                  15 We've been working with Easton Utilities                  16 on this. This is actually to run -- originally                  17 it was originally to run a water line up Hailem                  18 School Road. We were seeking a 30-foot wide                  19 easement from the property owners, Mr. Wilson                  20 and Mr. Parker.                  21 We had it appraised. That appraisal for</p>	<p>1 and water in that easement.                  2 At the same time, we have a third-party                  3 agreement kind of outlining all that.                  4 So again, this is a request from the                  5 County Council to proceed with that easement in                  6 the amount of 12,000 -- I'm sorry. \$15,000 to                  7 the property owners.                  8 MR. STAMP: And again, Council, that is a                  9 proposed offer. It certainly wouldn't move                  10 forward without Council's approval.                  11 So you have backup information. Hopefully                  12 you have the information you need to make a                  13 decision.                  14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.                  15 MR. LESHNER: And that property probably                  16 isn't eligible for annexation anyway as isn't                  17 it in the county and the town's permanent green                  18 belt area?                  19 MR. CLARKE: I believe so, yes. So that                  20 would be something they would have to work out                  21 with the town.</p>

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<p>1 MR. LESHHER: Right. And I understand for                  2 this hospital, that Easton Utilities is doing                  3 some looping of systems.                  4 MR. CLARKE: Yes.                  5 MR. LESHHER: I mean you wouldn't think                  6 that -- this is not between the hospital and                  7 Easton, but they like to loop systems. And I                  8 presume that's what's going on with this.                  9 MR. CLARKE: That is correct.                  10 Typically when you're extending a water                  11 line, you want to loop that water line. So                  12 what we have is one loop going up 662 or one                  13 line going up 662 to come around 662, come down                  14 Hailem School Road, and then ultimately through                  15 the hospital property, and then ultimately tie                  16 into their system on Hailem School.                  17 So that's basically -- which I think is                  18 also Goldsborough Neck Road.                  19 MR. LESHHER: It might not seem obvious to                  20 a listener why to connect the hospital to water                  21 that we're going the opposite direction.</p>	<p>1 be the mechanics of it. We would just need                  2 Council authority to enter an MOU for the                  3 previous issue.                  4 MR. STEPP: So moved for an MOU.                  5 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.                  6 MS. HAYTHE: Second.                  7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and                  8 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the                  9 vote.                  10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.                  11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.                  12 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.                  13 MR. STEPP: Aye.                  14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.                  15 MR. LESHHER: Aye.                  16 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.                  17 MS. MIELKE: Aye.                  18 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.                  19 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.                  20 MR. CALLAHAN: Got it.                  21 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. Appreciate it.</p>
Page 59	Page 61
<p>1 MR. CLARKE: Right. It gives redundancy.                  2 It gives redundancy in the event there is a                  3 problem.                  4 MR. LESHHER: I'll move to approve.                  5 MS. MIELKE: Second.                  6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and                  7 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the                  8 vote.                  9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.                  10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.                  11 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.                  12 MR. STEPP: Aye.                  13 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.                  14 MR. LESHHER: Aye.                  15 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.                  16 MS. MIELKE: Aye.                  17 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.                  18 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.                  19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.                  20 MR. CLARKE: We also need an MOU.                  21 MR. STAMP: Yeah. So the next item would</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, guys. Thank you.                  2 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Ray and Josh.                  3 And Council, that concludes your county                  4 manager report for this evening.                  5 And again, always thank you for your                  6 support.                  7 MR. STEPP: We have the one --                  8 MR. STAMP: Oh, I'm sorry. Yes, sir.                  9 The final item is an item, Senate Bill 791                  10 titled Community Trust Act, introduced by                  11 Senator Lam. This is a State piece of                  12 legislation.                  13 Patrick is going to give you a summary of                  14 that.                  15 And again, the ask is Council to take a                  16 position that we would relay up to the State,                  17 your position on the bill.                  18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.                  19 MR. THOMAS: I'll provide a summary from                  20 the fiscal policy note.                  21 The bill prohibits, with certain</p>

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<p>1 exceptions, an employer, agent of a State or                  2 local correctional facility in the course of                  3 their duties from taking certain actions                  4 related to immigration enforcement.                  5 Each State and local correctional facility                  6 must adopt a policy consistent with the bill's                  7 requirements. It includes penalties for a                  8 violation by an employee or agent.                  9 The bill also prohibits, with certain                  10 exceptions, law enforcement agents, during the                  11 performance of regular police functions from                  12 notifying federal immigration authorities that                  13 an individual is in custody, unless so required                  14 by a valid court order.                  15 Each law enforcement agency in the State                  16 must adopt a policy consistent with the bill's                  17 requirements and current law establishing                  18 restrictions on actions relating to immigration                  19 enforcement by law enforcement agents while                  20 performing regular police functions, including                  21 penalties for violation.</p>	<p>1 MR. LESHHER: A civil suit?                  2 MR. THOMAS: Yes.                  3 MR. CALLAHAN: Any other discussion?                  4 Okay.                  5 MR. STAMP: So we're looking for Council                  6 to -- I guess the ask is whether the Council                  7 would like to take a position on this bill and                  8 then we would send that position, we would                  9 forward that position to the legislature.                  10 MR. STEPP: And I'll add to that. So the                  11 hearing on this bill is tomorrow at 1 p.m.                  12 So I would request that that letter go out                  13 first thing tomorrow morning so that way our                  14 legislators have time to see our position.                  15 MR. STAMP: And do you have a position                  16 that you would like to offer the rest of the                  17 Council?                  18 MR. STEPP: So I will start with a motion                  19 to send a letter in opposition of Senate Bill                  20 791 to be sent first thing tomorrow morning.                  21 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p>
Page 63	Page 65
<p>1 An individual who has been subjected to a                  2 violation of this bill may bring an action for                  3 actual damages, punitive damages, and                  4 injunctive relief.                  5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Stepp, did                  6 you --                  7 MR. LESHHER: And Mr. Thomas, you want to                  8 spell out that last portion?                  9 This would be county employees and what                  10 would -- could you just use non-legal language                  11 to explain what that means?                  12 MR. THOMAS: Sure. So just to clarify, so                  13 again, in short, the bill, as it applies to the                  14 county specifically, would prohibit the                  15 Detention Center employees from communicating                  16 with the federal government regarding certain                  17 individuals subject to a detainer. And if they                  18 were to violate that, then that individual                  19 could bring an action against the county or the                  20 employee for actual damages, punitive damages,                  21 and injunctive relief.</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and                  2 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the                  3 vote.                  4 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.                  5 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.                  6 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.                  7 MR. STEPP: Aye.                  8 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.                  9 MR. LESHHER: Aye.                  10 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.                  11 MS. MIELKE: Aye.                  12 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.                  13 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.                  14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.                  15 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council. We'll see                  16 that letter gets off first thing in the                  17 morning.                  18 And this does conclude the county manager                  19 report for the evening.                  20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job.                  21 Okay. Next on the agenda is -- do we have</p>

Page 66	<p>1 any sign-up out there, public comment?</p> <p>2 MS. MORRIS: Nobody signed up.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Nobody signed up. Okay.</p> <p>4 Wrapping things up. Council comments.</p> <p>5 Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>6 MR. STEPP: Public comment. Are you</p> <p>7 calling the audience?</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.</p> <p>9 MR. STEPP: For public comment, see if</p> <p>10 there's anyone out there?</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: What did I say?</p> <p>12 MR. STEPP: You moved right to Council</p> <p>13 comments.</p> <p>14 We got two in the audience that might want</p> <p>15 to say something.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Dyslexia stuff is going on</p> <p>17 here.</p> <p>18 All right. Yeah. Public comment. I'm</p> <p>19 sorry. Anything?</p> <p>20 MS. HAYTHE: She said nobody signed up.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Huh?</p>	Page 68	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>2 MS. MIELKE: I just wanted to remind</p> <p>3 everybody that February's senior supply drive</p> <p>4 is nearing its final weeks. And encourage the</p> <p>5 community to donate. And you can contact the</p> <p>6 Commission on Aging for more information on how</p> <p>7 to do that. But there's a real need here for</p> <p>8 our senior citizens for these supplies.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>10 MS. HAYTHE: Nothing tonight.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I really don't have</p> <p>12 much, either.</p> <p>13 I just wanted to commend Public Works in</p> <p>14 the last, this weekend, you know, roads, taking</p> <p>15 care of all the roads.</p> <p>16 And all the staff. You guys meeting</p> <p>17 Sunday night.</p> <p>18 There's a lot that goes into these</p> <p>19 Emergency Services. And we rarely get a</p> <p>20 blizzard warning. So I just want to commend</p> <p>21 all the guys at County Roads for doing that.</p>
Page 67	<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: Didn't she say nobody signed</p> <p>2 up?</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. She said nobody</p> <p>4 signed up.</p> <p>5 MR. STEPP: You always call the audience</p> <p>6 then after you're done.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, okay. Yeah, yeah,</p> <p>8 yeah.</p> <p>9 Does anybody want to come up?</p> <p>10 I see we got somebody just walked in here.</p> <p>11 MS. MIELKE: No.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Hey. How are you?</p> <p>13 MS. PRICE: Good.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: All right, then. Nobody.</p> <p>15 Okay.</p> <p>16 So next would be Council comments.</p> <p>17 MR. STEPP: I'm good.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: You're good.</p> <p>19 MR. STEPP: Yeah.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>21 MR. LESHNER: Nothing for tonight.</p>	Page 69	<p>1 And you, Clay, you sort of going through</p> <p>2 what you have to do to get everything safe and</p> <p>3 sound. Appreciate it.</p> <p>4 MR. STAMP: I'll make sure I share that</p> <p>5 with our departments. It means a lot when they</p> <p>6 hear that from you.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>8 MR. STAMP: And frankly, we were quite</p> <p>9 fortunate because if we go to our east and look</p> <p>10 at Worcester County, lower Delaware, even</p> <p>11 Wicomico, they're still trying to get the roads</p> <p>12 to plow because of trees down and power</p> <p>13 outages.</p> <p>14 So it was very close to us. And we were</p> <p>15 very fortunate not to have the severity.</p> <p>16 But yes, a lot goes into that. And it</p> <p>17 makes all of us proud to see all these</p> <p>18 organizations and agencies immobilize to make</p> <p>19 sure that we can not only address the trees</p> <p>20 that may go down, the power outages, but also</p> <p>21 the human side to make sure we have shelter and</p>

Page 70	<p>1 what have you.                  2 So thanks for saying so. I'll pass that                  3 on.                  4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.                  5 MR. LESHHER: May I bank on that?                  6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.                  7 MR. LESHHER: Not only the Roads crew, but                  8 the emergency...                  9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.                  10 MR. LESHHER: The emergency planning team.                  11 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.                  12 MR. LESHHER: I listened in on one of the                  13 calls. And I happened to have it on. My wife                  14 overheard.                  15 And she remarked on how impressive it was                  16 that every single communication was specific,                  17 succinct, and relevant. And they went down                  18 every single, every single one of the                  19 partnering agencies, the schools, the Health                  20 Department, everybody who has some sort of role                  21 in this. Social Services even. Everybody had</p>	Page 72	<p>1 open to the public.                  2 The Council will also be holding a fiscal                  3 year 27 budget work session on Tuesday,                  4 March 3rd, at 4 o'clock p.m. and Thursday,                  5 March 4th, at -- no, that's not right.                  6 Thursday, March 5th. Tuesday, March 3rd, and                  7 Thursday, March 5th, at 5 o'clock p.m. The                  8 meetings are open to the public.                  9 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn                  10 this meeting and reconvene as noted?                  11 MS. HAYTHE: So moved.                  12 MR. STEPP: And a second.                  13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and                  14 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the                  15 vote.                  16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.                  17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.                  18 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.                  19 MR. STEPP: Aye.                  20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.                  21 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p>
Page 71	<p>1 a role because they deal with homelessness.                  2 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.                  3 MR. LESHHER: And the whole thing was over                  4 in less than a half an hour because everything                  5 was so -- this is very well rehearsed. This is                  6 very professional. We've got a great team in                  7 place.                  8 MR. STAMP: Thank you.                  9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You want...                  10 MR. LESHHER: The County Council's next                  11 meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10th,                  12 beginning at 5 o'clock p.m. The Council will                  13 be convening in open session at 2 o'clock p.m.                  14 for a fiscal year 27 budget work session and                  15 then adjourning into closed session, as listed                  16 on the statement for closing that meeting.                  17 On Thursday, February 26th, and Thursday,                  18 March 5th, the County Council will be holding                  19 meetings at 4:30 p.m. by way of Zoom with                  20 Provident Strategies for a briefing on the                  21 Maryland General Assembly. The meetings are</p>	Page 73	<p>1 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.                  2 MS. MIELKE: Aye.                  3 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.                  4 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.                  5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thanks a lot.                  6 Appreciate it.                  7 (Meeting concluded at: 5:56 p.m.)                  8                  9                  10                  11                  12                  13                  14                  15                  16                  17                  18                  19                  20                  21</p>

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

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

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

20 AS WITNESS my hand Notorial Seal this 2nd  
21 day of March, 2026, at Easton, MD.



Diane Houlihan  
Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2029

<b>&amp;</b>	<b>24</b> 1:7	<b>6</b>	<b>accurate</b> 74:7
<b>&amp;</b> 7:16 41:2	<b>24th</b> 6:17	<b>6.7</b> 46:12 50:17	<b>accurately</b> 22:19
<b>1</b>	<b>26th</b> 71:17	<b>6.7.</b> 48:16	<b>acfr</b> 8:2,9 10:16 16:18
<b>1</b> 64:11	<b>27</b> 50:14,16 52:14 71:14	<b>65</b> 9:19	<b>achieved</b> 14:16
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<b>10th</b> 71:11	<b>30</b> 10:14 35:1 55:18 56:1	<b>750,000</b> 10:19	<b>actions</b> 62:3,18
<b>12,000</b> 56:1 57:6	<b>31st</b> 12:15	<b>791</b> 3:12 4:1 5:16 61:9 64:20	<b>activities</b> 14:3 17:7
<b>126</b> 9:6	<b>33</b> 8:20	<b>8</b>	<b>activity</b> 11:4 17:1,2
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<b>15,000</b> 56:7,14 57:6	<b>4</b> 72:4	<b>90</b> 49:11	<b>actuarially</b> 15:5
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<b>190</b> 28:6 31:12	<b>44</b> 9:14	<b>ability</b> 56:9	<b>additions</b> 6:13 6:18
<b>190.63.2g23</b> 28:13	<b>4:30</b> 71:19	<b>able</b> 19:14 26:6 34:2 46:16,17 48:8,8	<b>address</b> 69:19
<b>190.63.a4a3</b> 28:13	<b>4th</b> 72:5	<b>absolutely</b> 21:13	
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**[adequate - assembly]**

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