

COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

February 25, 2025; 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

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We'll go ahead and get started.

If everybody could go ahead and stand, we'll say the prayer, then the Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag.

(Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We'll go ahead and get started on tonight's agenda.

And I want to thank everybody for coming tonight. We got a big night.

And I just want to make sure that everybody is respectful tonight. Because we'll give everybody a chance to say what they need to say at the end of the meeting. So let's respect everybody. I don't want any hollering or yelling or anything like that, holding up signs, okay, or I'm going to ask you to leave.

So but other than that, I appreciate you guys being here. And let's get started with

1 the agenda. Okay.

2 The agenda is here in front of us. Is
3 there any deletions, corrections, or deletions
4 to the agenda?

5 MR. STEPP: Not here.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Hearing none, the
7 chair moves that the agenda be accepted as
8 unanimous. Okay.

9 We've had the minutes in front of us on
10 January 14th and 28th. Is there any additions,
11 deletions, or corrections to the minutes?

12 MS. HAYTHE: No.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: None?

14 MS. HAYTHE: None.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. The chair moves that
16 the minutes be accepted as unanimous consent.

17 The next on the agenda is the
18 disbursements of the February 4th and
19 February 11th. And Council has taken a look at
20 that. Is there any --

21 MS. HAYTHE: There's two more.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm sorry. Yeah, you're
2 right.

3 February 18th and February 25th.

4 Sorry about that. Thank you, Keasha.

5 Is there any deletions or corrections or
6 additions to the disbursements?

7 MS. HAYTHE: No.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Hearing none, the
9 chair moves that the disbursements be accepted
10 as unanimous consent. Okay.

11 First on the agenda tonight is Lyndsey
12 Ryan. Would you like to come on up? Is
13 Lyndsey here?

14 MR. SCHMIDT: So I'm not Lyndsey. She's
15 on the way.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: You don't quite look like
17 her, you know.

18 MR. SCHMIDT: Look at that.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: There she is.

20 MR. SCHMIDT: Ask and you shall receive.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. There she is.

1 MS. RYAN: Good evening. I was outside
2 for a bit.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: You tried, Brian. You
4 tried, you tried.

5 MR. SCHMIDT: I was trying.

6 MS. RYAN: You can take this.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Brian and Lyndsey
8 are here tonight to discuss some of the Trappe
9 stuff that's been discussed throughout the last
10 several months.

11 Lyndsey, I'm going to turn it over to you
12 so you can kind of give a brief to Council on
13 some of the stuff that's been brought up in the
14 public and try to clarify for us, please.

15 MS. RYAN: Absolutely.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

17 MS. RYAN: Are we good?

18 MR. STAMP: Just get closer to your mic.

19 MS. RYAN: And Lyndsey Ryan here on behalf
20 of the Town of Trappe. Thank you all for
21 having us.

1 We submitted a letter back in December.
2 So I'm not going to go through every fine
3 detail.

4 But on behalf of the Town of Trappe, we
5 just wanted to come in front of the Council and
6 kind of reiterate what we've said in the past,
7 that Paris Foods, which is a business within
8 the Town of Trappe, has been in the Town of
9 Trappe for decades.

10 MR. SCHMIDT: Yeah. Maybe even a century
11 or so.

12 MS. RYAN: Came to the Town of Trappe in
13 January of 2021 with the idea of connecting the
14 Paris Foods property to Trappe's wastewater
15 treatment plant.

16 Paris Foods, at the time, had a discharge
17 permit for their own septic system, which they
18 would need to renew in 2022. So they were in
19 the process of reviewing different
20 opportunities and options for what they would
21 have to provide sewer to their property.

1 When they came in January of 2021, the
2 Trappe Council put it on the Council agenda, of
3 course, discussed the idea of connecting the
4 property to Trappe's wastewater treatment
5 plant, and ultimately decided and entered into
6 an agreement with Paris Foods to have Trappe's
7 consulting engineer review the discharge that
8 was coming from Paris Foods to confirm, one,
9 that Trappe had available capacity and, two,
10 that the discharge coming from Paris Foods was
11 of a level and a magnitude that could be
12 treated by Trappe's wastewater treatment plant
13 and it wasn't going to have any adverse effects
14 on Trappe's plant.

15 So for the next six months, the town's
16 engineer reviewed various daily and monthly
17 discharge reports and monitoring reports, in
18 addition to lab tests from Paris Foods's
19 wastewater treatment plant. And they
20 ultimately concluded that the treatment from
21 the Paris Foods was within the typical domestic

1 influent wastewater strength and determined
2 that the town had capacity.

3 So in August of 2021, the town entered
4 into another agreement to provide 16 EDUs to
5 the Paris Foods property.

6 The Paris Foods property was connected
7 shortly thereafter and has been connected to
8 the town since then with no issues.

9 So I just wanted to clarify. And at the
10 time, the MDE permit for the force main and
11 showing the connection to Paris Foods was
12 approved in April of 2021, when the maps
13 attached to the 281 were in effect showing the
14 Paris Foods property as S-1, W-1.

15 And so when Trappe considered this in
16 January of 2021 and town's consulting engineer
17 reviewed it, the property was consistent with
18 the comprehensive water and sewer plan at that
19 time.

20 Recently, it's been brought to Trappe's
21 attention that after the various maps and

1 corrections and everything that happened after
2 281 related to properties in Trappe, the Paris
3 Foods property was actually unprogrammed.

4 And so we have since submitted an
5 application to revise the comprehensive water
6 and sewer plan to amend the Paris Foods
7 property to S-1 only. There's no future or
8 current plan to connect that property to the
9 town's water facility. They are served by an
10 on-site well.

11 So the Trappe Council considered the
12 comprehensive water and sewer plan application
13 in January of this year and approved it. And I
14 have been working with representatives from
15 Paris Foods to submit that application.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. That's
17 great.

18 Do you have anything to say?

19 MR. SCHMIDT: No.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: You're good?

21 MR. SCHMIDT: No. She said it at all.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good.

2 Any questions from Council?

3 MR. LESHER: I have a couple.

4 MS. RYAN: Okay.

5 MR. LESHER: The town, as you say, relied
6 on the erroneous map that was attached to
7 Resolution 281?

8 MS. RYAN: So this application, when we
9 entered into the agreement with Paris Foods to
10 study the connection and then ultimately
11 approved the connection, this was in August of
12 2021.

13 The mapping issues with consistency within
14 the language of 281 and shades of the colors on
15 the map didn't really come to light until
16 November of 2021.

17 And at that point, we had already
18 submitted the application and it just didn't
19 come on our radar.

20 MR. LESHER: But you were aware that the
21 maps were erroneous by that time, by November

1 of 2021?

2 MS. RYAN: I don't believe that it was
3 really brought to our attention. I know that
4 there was speculation to the maps being
5 erroneous.

6 But again, at the time, we were focused on
7 Lakeside and the other properties. I don't
8 think anyone at the time went back and said oh,
9 Paris Foods is actually unprogrammed but let's
10 not fix it.

11 MR. SCHMIDT: So my understanding was at
12 the time that it came before us, that 281 was
13 law. And the map that was attached to 281
14 showed that Paris Foods was S-1, W-1.

15 And so, you know, and then slowly things
16 started receding with 281. But it wasn't when
17 we were deciding about Paris Foods.

18 So when we made a decision about Paris
19 Foods, the map that was attached to 281, and
20 281 being law, said that it was fine for us to
21 do Paris Foods.

1 MR. LESHER: And sitting at Council and
2 being shown an illustration that shows that
3 it's appropriate on the map, I understand, but
4 you had legal counsel that understands the
5 difference between the text and the map.

6 MS. RYAN: That argument --

7 MR. LESHER: -- authoritative.

8 MS. RYAN: So that argument hadn't come to
9 light yet. There was no discussion about the
10 maps in 281 being incorrect.

11 Certainly, had we been aware of that and
12 looked into the issue, we wouldn't have
13 approved the connection. But our understanding
14 at the time, in looking at the maps, was that
15 Paris Foods was S-1.

16 MR. LESHER: And you have said that there
17 have been no violations since the time of the
18 connection?

19 MS. RYAN: I did not say there have been
20 no violations.

21 I said there have been no issues with the

1 Paris Foods connection since that time.

2 MR. LESHAR: But there was, in fact, a
3 letter from MDE last year about a violation
4 that is related to --

5 MS. RYAN: No. So --

6 MR. LESHAR: -- the discharge.

7 MS. RYAN: There was a letter from MDE
8 where it was indicating that the Paris Foods
9 connection could have caused a rise in some of
10 the discharge parameters.

11 It was not proven to have come from Paris
12 Foods.

13 MR. LESHAR: And you've proven that it was
14 not?

15 MS. RYAN: We have done sampling and
16 determined that the rise in the discharge
17 parameters was not coming from Paris Foods.

18 MR. LESHAR: Are you going to be
19 requiring, are you going to be requiring
20 pretreatment on the Paris Foods for their
21 discharge before it reaches the Trappe system?

1 MS. RYAN: No. We have consulted with the
2 town engineer, and they don't believe that
3 that's not necessary at this time.

4 MR. LESHER: But you haven't concluded
5 what caused the violation?

6 MS. RYAN: That's not what I said.

7 MR. LESHER: You have concluded what
8 caused the violation?

9 MS. RYAN: We have concluded that it was
10 not Paris Foods causing the violation.

11 MR. LESHER: Interesting. Were there any
12 other connections to the Trappe wastewater
13 treatment plant made in between the time the
14 comprehensive water and sewer plan map
15 erroneously showed some properties as S-1,
16 eligible for a connection, and the time those
17 corrections were made in the comprehensive
18 water and sewer plan?

19 MS. RYAN: Are you aware of any?

20 Not that I'm aware of, but I'd have to go
21 back and check with the town office.

1 MR. LESHER: Thank you. I think for the
2 record, that would be...

3 MS. RYAN: Sure.

4 MR. LESHER: That would be worth knowing.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

6 MR. LESHER: It's your -- and I presume
7 not, but the reason, the reason for ultimately
8 Paris Foods getting this was the Trappe
9 discharge pipe came across their property, they
10 needed to give, provide an easement across
11 their property for that discharge pipe, and
12 they've tapped into that discharge pipe?

13 MS. RYAN: What was the question?

14 MR. LESHER: The rationale for -- the
15 opportunity for them to connect was because of
16 a discharge pipe from Lakeside being led across
17 an easement on their property?

18 MS. RYAN: So there was certainly a force
19 main from the Lakeside property to the Town of
20 Trappe.

21 Whether Paris Foods would have come to the

1 Town of Trappe to run a force main to their
2 property, I'm not sure.

3 MR. LESHER: And is Lakeside still
4 discharging in that pipe that runs across the
5 Paris Foods property?

6 MR. SCHMIDT: I don't --

7 MS. RYAN: No.

8 MR. SCHMIDT: I don't believe so.

9 MR. LESHER: The town itself, when did you
10 become aware of this illegal connection?

11 MS. RYAN: So from our opinion, the
12 connection was not illegal or there was no act
13 from the town to make it illegal.

14 We believed that it was designated S-1
15 when we approved the connection.

16 When there were recent articles in the
17 paper about the property being unprogrammed, we
18 went back and looked at it and realized that
19 the property should have been S-1, which we
20 believed it was at the time of the application.
21 And we immediately worked with the property

1 owner to submit a comprehensive water and sewer
2 plan application.

3 MR. LESHER: Are we taking steps to ensure
4 that we won't have more illegal connections
5 that aren't granted S-1 in the comprehensive
6 water and sewer plan?

7 MS. RYAN: So what the Town of Trappe does
8 when looking at a connection, especially for a
9 property that is not within the infill, which I
10 will call areas close to the town office, is we
11 look at the comprehensive water and sewer plan
12 and make sure that it is designated S-1 or W-1,
13 which is what we did at this time and what
14 we'll do in the future.

15 MR. LESHER: And when you are aware of
16 this, did you alert the county about the
17 discrepancy?

18 MS. RYAN: When we became aware of it, we
19 submitted a letter to the county in December
20 and we immediately applied for a comprehensive
21 water and sewer plan application in January.

1 MR. LESHER: Not until December of this is
2 2024?

3 MS. RYAN: Correct. Which is when it
4 was -- shortly after it was brought to our
5 attention.

6 I believe the articles in the paper were
7 in October or November.

8 The Trappe Council meets once a month. So
9 we're kind of limited to when I can get
10 approval for drafting and providing specific
11 letters.

12 MR. LESHER: Understood. I'm not so
13 concerned with the sequence after, after this
14 realization, but the long gap between when the
15 erroneous maps came to light in November of
16 2021 and this report to the county in December
17 of 2024.

18 MS. RYAN: Honestly, we -- there was a
19 Paris Foods's request for the connection. The
20 town approved it. And it just kind of didn't
21 come to our attention. We weren't thinking

1 about it. It wasn't something in the back of
2 our minds when we were going through the
3 corrective maps to 281.

4 So we are apologetic for that.

5 MR. LESHER: This was, indeed, a fault of
6 the town that you erroneously allowed this
7 connection at a time based on, based on your
8 reading of an erroneous map --

9 MS. RYAN: Well, we --

10 MR. LESHER: -- and not on the text of the
11 comp water and sewer plan.

12 MS. RYAN: So we reviewed the maps
13 connected to 281 that were approved at that
14 time, and we agreed to the connection, we
15 approved the connection.

16 We have available capacity and the ability
17 to treat the wastewater that is coming from
18 Paris Foods. And we were reliant upon the maps
19 connected to 281, which were adopted at the
20 time.

21 MR. LESHER: Well, I know that you're a

1 very sharp attorney. I hope you'll not
2 disappoint your client next time and not rely
3 on mere maps and take a sharper look at the
4 text.

5 MS. RYAN: Absolutely.

6 MR. LESHER: No further questions.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Any other questions?

8 MS. HAYTHE: Just one for Lyndsey. So
9 Lyndsey, when was the hookup actually done for
10 Paris Foods?

11 MS. RYAN: So they paid the connection and
12 capacity fees in August of 2021. And at that
13 time, they would have been able to connect. So
14 it was between August and October of 2021, but
15 I can give you the exact date that they were
16 really turned on for service.

17 MS. HAYTHE: So from 2001 to 2024, this
18 Council was unaware of the hookup?

19 MS. RYAN: We were aware of the hookup.
20 We just weren't aware of the Paris Foods going
21 from S-1 to unprogrammed --

1 MS. HAYTHE: No. I mean this Council.
2 The Talbot County Council was not aware of the
3 hookup that the Town Council had allotted to
4 Paris Foods?

5 MS. RYAN: So we believe that within the
6 applications and materials that were submitted
7 with 281 and the construction permit showing
8 the force main from Lakeside to the Town of
9 Trappe's wastewater treatment plant, it showed
10 the lateral that was going to be serving the
11 Paris Foods property.

12 MS. HAYTHE: But we didn't have that
13 information, just to be clear.

14 MS. RYAN: I believe you had the
15 construction drawings.

16 But no, we -- Town of Trappe did not
17 specifically state on the record that the Paris
18 Foods was going to be a connection at that
19 time.

20 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. Because we became
21 aware of it in 2024, same way you did with the

1 articles.

2 MS. RYAN: Yeah.

3 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.

4 MS. MIELKE: I do have questions.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

6 MS. MIELKE: When this was being
7 considered, the connection of Paris Foods, is
8 Paris Foods the only industrial use that has
9 been attached to the Trappe water and sewer
10 plant?

11 MR. SCHMIDT: I'm sorry. Thinking about
12 that. Yeah, yes.

13 MS. RYAN: As far as I know, yes.

14 MS. MIELKE: And what studies were done to
15 determine that the effluent from the plant
16 would be able to be treated by the wastewater
17 treatment plant in town?

18 MS. RYAN: So GNB, the town's engineer, at
19 the time took samples of both the domestic
20 wastewater, which they have approximately 60
21 employees, and the operational wastewater that

1 comes from the operation of the facility.

2 Those were lab tested. They reviewed the
3 results. They reviewed the results over
4 periods of months to determine that Trappe had
5 the ability to treat it. And what they
6 determined, that the concentration produced
7 from Paris Foods was within the typical
8 domestic influent wastewater standards and that
9 Trappe had the ability to treat it.

10 And recently, the Town of Trappe
11 considered specific standards for wastewater
12 for industrial users. And of course, we
13 consulted with the town's engineer. And the
14 town's engineer felt that it wasn't necessary
15 at this time because the town already has the
16 ability to take direct samples from the
17 industry user.

18 MS. MIELKE: Well, hasn't MDE advised you
19 that there are contaminants that are
20 originating from Paris Foods going through that
21 plant?

1 MS. RYAN: MDE advised that there may be
2 contaminants coming from that plant and they
3 advised that there are industrial wastewater
4 standards that the town can adopt.

5 And we looked into it adopting some of
6 those standards, but we already have the
7 ability to require those measures that would be
8 adopted by that standard, such that the town's
9 engineer didn't find that would be necessary.

10 MS. MIELKE: Did Shore Rivers get in touch
11 with you about their concerns about the
12 effluent?

13 MS. RYAN: Shore Rivers submitted a draft
14 industrial wastewater ordinance for the town's
15 consideration, which is then what we submitted
16 to the town's engineer.

17 MS. MIELKE: I mean --

18 MS. RYAN: -- provided the opinion.

19 MS. MIELKE: I mean recently.

20 MS. RYAN: Yeah. I would say that was
21 within the last...

1 MR. SCHMIDT: Few months.

2 MS. RYAN: Four or five months.

3 MS. MIELKE: So they did have concerns
4 about what was processed or what could be
5 processed at the plant that wasn't?

6 MS. RYAN: I'm not sure if they had
7 concerns or not. They submitted a draft
8 ordinance saying here is something for Trappe's
9 consideration and would the Council consider
10 it.

11 And the Trappe Council did consider it and
12 they brought in their consulting engineer,
13 which is, you know.

14 MS. MIELKE: But that was recently, that
15 wasn't done originally when the town was making
16 the decision to hook up to the plant, correct?

17 MS. RYAN: Shore Rivers's comments?

18 MS. MIELKE: Well, yes.

19 MS. RYAN: I'm not sure what Shore Rivers
20 had to say at the beginning. But the town's
21 consulting engineer did certainly pull samples

1 and review the lab tests from the discharge
2 that was coming from Paris Foods to determine
3 that the town had the ability to treat it.

4 MS. MIELKE: Okay. Thank you.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

6 MR. LESHER: Just one follow-up. In your
7 statements, you twice talked about the Paris
8 Foods property going from S-1 to unprogrammed.

9 But you acknowledge that the property
10 today is unprogrammed?

11 MS. RYAN: Yes. We acknowledge that,
12 which is why we have applied. And maybe that
13 was just a misstatement. That we believed at
14 the time of the application, it was S-1. We
15 now recognize that it is unprogrammed and we
16 have now submitted --

17 MR. LESHER: And that it always has been
18 unprogrammed?

19 MS. RYAN: And we recognize that now, and
20 we have submitted an application to correct
21 that.

1 MR. LESHER: Thank you.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

3 MS. HAYTHE: Just a follow-up question for
4 Brian.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

6 MS. HAYTHE: Going forward, is there any
7 way that we can better communicate between the
8 town and the county just to --

9 MR. SCHMIDT: Sure, absolutely.

10 MS. HAYTHE: -- try and avoid this in the
11 future?

12 MR. SCHMIDT: Absolutely.

13 MS. HAYTHE: I mean if we could set up
14 some type of system. And we don't have to
15 figure that out today.

16 MR. SCHMIDT: Right.

17 MS. HAYTHE: But if we can do a follow-up
18 just to see how we can ensure -- I mean we
19 understand that -- we recognize you're your own
20 municipality, of course.

21 But in working together in the spirit of

1 working together, if we can try to find a way
2 to proactively, you know, list the possible
3 hookup connections that you've done just so
4 that the communication is shared.

5 MR. SCHMIDT: Sure.

6 MS. HAYTHE: In the future.

7 MR. SCHMIDT: And just to kind of be
8 clear, the property that we're talking about
9 has been a canning factory for maybe 100 years.
10 I don't know exactly when Kirby started canning
11 there. But this has been an industrial
12 property for a very long time.

13 So I mean between the canning of tomatoes
14 and whatever else they were doing, when the
15 Adamses and now this Paris Foods, I mean this
16 isn't something that just popped up in 2020 as
17 an industry there.

18 I mean it's been there long before any of
19 us were here. So I mean it's --

20 MR. LESHER: What is new is simply the
21 connection --

1 MR. SCHMIDT: Correct. I understand.

2 MR. LESHER: -- to the sewer system.

3 MR. SCHMIDT: I'm just saying. Yeah.

4 MS. MIELKE: Big difference.

5 MS. RYAN: Yeah. To be clear, the Town of
6 Trappe, when the request was made to them, you
7 know, after the town's consulting engineer
8 reviewed the discharge that was coming and
9 determined that it wouldn't have any adverse
10 effect on the town, it determined that it was
11 in the best interest of the town and the
12 property and the environment to connect to
13 Trappe's wastewater treatment plant, rather
14 than having a sewage disposal on site.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds good.

16 Anything else?

17 Thanks a lot for clearing that up for us.
18 I appreciate it.

19 MS. RYAN: Thank you. And we will work on
20 a method of better communication so that both
21 parties are aware in the future.

1 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you. Appreciate that.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: That would be great.

3 MS. HAYTHE: Have a good night.

4 MS. RYAN: You, too.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda
6 is Certificate of Recognition of the Teacher of
7 the Year of 24-25. Come on up.

8 How are you, Jeremy?

9 MR. HILLYARD: Good. How are you?

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Good, good. Would you like
11 to go ahead and sit down for a second?

12 MS. HAYTHE: We're going to read the
13 recognition for you.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. You can go ahead and
15 sit down.

16 MR. HILLYARD: Oh, I can sit right there?

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, yeah.

18 MS. HAYTHE: The hot seat.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go. You're
20 special tonight. Okay. You're very special
21 tonight. Okay.

1 Madam Secretary, could you go ahead and
2 read that certificate into the record, please.

3 SECRETARY: Certificate of Recognition to
4 Jeremy Hillyard, Talbot County Public Schools
5 Teacher of the Year 2024-2025.

6 In recognition of the tireless energy,
7 time, passion, and commitment to the students
8 at Easton High School, both in the classroom
9 and within the school community, to help ensure
10 their success, not only in school, but also in
11 life.

12 We, the County Council of Talbot County,
13 do hereby bestow upon you as a token of the
14 esteem and gratitude of Talbot County, this
15 Certificate of Recognition in commemoration of
16 your positive contributions to the students at
17 Easton High School.

18 Given under our hands in the great seal of
19 Talbot County this 25th day of February in the
20 year of our Lord, 2025.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.

1 Is there a motion?

2 MS. HAYTHE: Yes.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

4 MS. MIELKE: Second.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
6 second to go ahead and approve that as
7 presented. 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. Leshner.

14 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

15 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

16 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

17 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

18 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Jeremy, the floor is
20 yours. Tell us a little bit about you.

21 MR. HILLYARD: Okay. So my name is Jeremy

1 Hillyard. I've taught at Easton High School,
2 this is year number 15. All have been at the
3 high school.

4 So when I first started, I taught only
5 Spanish. But now, as of the last few years,
6 I've also picked up a math course for the
7 English language learners that are new to the
8 United States. So I teach, I say I teach
9 Spanish to the Spanish learners, math to the
10 English learners.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. There you
12 go, there you go.

13 MR. HILLYARD: And I've taught a lot of
14 your children in this room I think.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.

16 MS. HAYTHE: Mine for sure.

17 MR. HILLYARD: Yeah.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Council, any
19 comments?

20 MR. STEPP: I mean one heck of an award.
21 Thank you for all you do in the high school and

1 just being a great teacher, great mentor. And
2 everything that was just read in the
3 proclamation, well deserved. Thank you.

4 MR. HILLYARD: Thank you.

5 MR. LESHER: Yes. Congratulations on this
6 recognition and for all that you represent for
7 the whole faculty, that we know how challenging
8 it is in public education today. And we are
9 grateful for, not only your service, but how it
10 is recognized what outstanding service you are
11 providing to our students.

12 MR. HILLYARD: Thank you.

13 MS. MIELKE: Job well done. Thanks for
14 all you do. (Indiscernable.)

15 MS. HAYTHE: Well, congratulations on this
16 again, for being Teacher of the Year.

17 MR. HILLYARD: Thank you.

18 MS. HAYTHE: And yes, you taught two of my
19 students and certainly helped them get into
20 college with their Spanish classes.

21 But I'm going to have to come to you so

1 that you can help me with my Spanish, because
2 I'm --

3 MR. HILLYARD: I got you.

4 MS. HAYTHE: I'm a little rusty on that.

5 But I want to know about those socks that
6 you be posting on social media.

7 MR. HILLYARD: Oh, my goodness. Today is
8 Superman socks.

9 MS. HAYTHE: All right. Jeremy posts on
10 social media all the time about his students
11 and his socks. I love following that.

12 MR. HILLYARD: Yeah. I kind of have a
13 goofy sock collection.

14 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah.

15 MR. HILLYARD: It's become a whole thing
16 in my classroom, like what socks are you
17 wearing today.

18 MS. HAYTHE: Well, congratulations --

19 MR. HILLYARD: Thank you.

20 MS. HAYTHE: -- again, Jeremy, for all
21 your hard work in serving the public schools.

1 MR. HILLYARD: Thank you.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, congratulations,
3 Jeremy. Come on up. We got a little award for
4 you.

5 MR. HILLYARD: All right.

6 MS. HAYTHE: I know, right. It's a nice
7 tie.

8 MS. KILMON: All right. We'll get these
9 guys first, Konner.

10 One more. Perfect.

11 MR. HILLYARD: Thank you.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That was great.
13 Okay.

14 Next is another recognition of the Talbot
15 County Public Schools, Support Staff of the
16 Year.

17 Ms. Steele, you want to come on up. Yup.
18 You can go ahead and have a seat there.

19 MS. HAYTHE: She's like what.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary, you
21 want to go ahead and read that into the record,

1 please.

2 SECRETARY: Certificate of Recognition to
3 Rosario Steele, Talbot County Public Schools
4 Support Staff of the Year 2024-2025.

5 In recognition of the welcoming manner,
6 patience, and understanding of the needs of
7 students at Easton High School, particularly
8 the ESOL students, as they navigate a new
9 country, a new language, and learn unfamiliar
10 concepts.

11 And in recognition of your
12 responsibilities as a translator and tutor for
13 the ESOL students in their English and math
14 classes to help ensure the students are on par
15 with other students in their classrooms. And
16 often using your own time to learn material in
17 science and language arts classes to be able to
18 translate for and tutor the students on your
19 own time, who need additional assistance in
20 those classes.

21 We, the County Council of Talbot County,

1 do hereby bestow upon you as a token of the
2 esteem and gratitude of Talbot County, this
3 Certificate of Recognition in Commemoration of
4 your positive contributions to the students at
5 Easton High School.

6 Given under our hands in the great seal of
7 Talbot County this 25th day of February in the
8 year of our Lord, 2025.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.
10 Is there a motion?

11 MR. STEPP: So moved.

12 MS. HAYTHE: Second.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
14 second to go ahead and present it, approve,
15 approve, put it in the records. Madam
16 Secretary, could you call the vote.

17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

19 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

20 MR. STEPP: Aye.

21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

1 MR. LESHER: Aye.

2 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

3 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

4 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

5 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good.

7 Well, welcome.

8 MS. STEELE: Thank you.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. You want to just say
10 a few words about it.

11 MS. STEELE: Well, I have been an ESOL
12 (indiscernible) assistant in Easton High for
13 the past seven years. And I help the students
14 with language barriers that come to this
15 country with very little English. I help them
16 inside and outside the classroom.

17 My biggest reward is when I see these
18 students after graduation in the community that
19 that (indiscernible). And some of them have
20 been very successful. And that's what I love
21 the most is my job when I see them succeeding

1 in the community.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. That's
3 great. That's great.

4 Keasha.

5 MS. HAYTHE: Congratulations on being
6 Support Staff of the Year and for all your
7 dedication to the students. We greatly
8 appreciate it.

9 MS. STEELE: Thank you so much.

10 MS. MIELKE: And thank you for all you've
11 done for our schools.

12 MS. STEELE: Thank you.

13 MR. LESHER: I know that Easton High
14 School, Talbot County Public Schools have
15 remarkably high graduation rates and that some
16 of the toughest students to get to qualify for
17 graduation are the most recent arrivals.

18 And I have no doubt that you are
19 personally responsible for getting quite a
20 number of those across the finish line.

21 Thank you so much for your contributions.

1 MS. STEELE: Thank you. Thank you so
2 much.

3 MR. STEPP: And I will echo everything all
4 of my peers have said up here. I mean
5 phenomenal job, well deserved. We're lucky to
6 have you here in Talbot County. Thank you.

7 MS. STEELE: Thank you.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: We sure are. Come on up,
9 we'll give you recognition.

10 MS. KILMON: All right. One more. One
11 more over here. Ready? Perfect.

12 MS. STEELE: Thank you.

13 MR. LESHER: Yes, indeed.
14 Congratulations.

15 SPEAKER: (Spanish spoken.)

16 MS. STEELE: (Spanish spoken.)

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda
18 is Chesapeake College.

19 SPEAKER: Water's Edge.

20 MS. HAYTHE: Water's Edge.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, I'm sorry. Water's

1 Edge. Okay.

2 Madam Secretary, could you read that in
3 the record, please.

4 SECRETARY: Certificate of Recognition,
5 Water's Edge Museum.

6 Whereas, Water's Edge Museum in Oxford,
7 Maryland, was founded in February 2021 to
8 showcase through art the centuries old rich
9 cultural history of the early black Americans
10 who lived, worked the water, tilled the land,
11 worshiped, and established communities
12 throughout Talbot County, becoming in their own
13 right the founding black families of America,
14 and where their descendants still reside and
15 worship, including The Hill in Easton, Oxford,
16 St. Michael's, and the Villages of Bellevue,
17 Unionville, and Copperville.

18 And whereas, the pictorial history and
19 artifacts on display at the museum portray a
20 resilient people who lived their lives and
21 loved and fought for their country and

1 continued to forge ahead, despite the obstacles
2 and hardships faced, and where the everyday
3 lives of everyday people created a lasting
4 legacy which reverberated throughout the
5 communities of Talbot County, the region, the
6 state, and the nation through such natives as
7 Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass.

8 And whereas, the mission of Water's Edge
9 Museum is to celebrate and elevate the
10 contributions of a culture whose work ethic,
11 patriotism, religious traditions, and musical
12 influence have often been overlooked or
13 undervalued, and to inspire today's young
14 people to connect with their heritage, discover
15 their personal strengths, and find their voice
16 in addressing the issues and challenges of the
17 present day.

18 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of
19 Talbot County, do hereby bestow upon you as a
20 token of the esteem and gratitude of Talbot
21 County, this Certificate of Recognition in

1 commemoration of the establishment of Water's
2 Edge Museum.

3 Given under our hands in the great seal of
4 Talbot County this 25th day of February in the
5 year of our Lord, 2025.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.

7 MR. STEPP: So moved.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

9 MR. LESHER: Second.

10 MS. HAYTHE: Second.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I got a motion and
12 second for approval. Madam Secretary, could
13 you call the vote.

14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

16 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

17 MR. STEPP: Aye.

18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

19 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

20 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

21 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

1 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

2 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Welcome.

4 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Tell us a little bit about
6 you, just a little bit.

7 MS. BROWN: My name is Kay Brown. And I'm
8 actually from Queen Anne's County.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

10 MS. BROWN: I'm newly in the position as
11 the assistant director at the Water's Edge
12 Museum since I really say just the very end of
13 June.

14 And the amount of time as I have been in
15 this position has been nothing but gratifying.
16 And being able to network and speak with people
17 and hear their stories that come into our
18 museum, it's a learning experience for me when
19 they come in.

20 So we perfectly, absolutely welcome
21 everyone.

1 I am just one of three other ladies, Sarah
2 Parks, who is at Syracuse University, who will
3 be graduating. And then we have Kiara Brummel,
4 as well as Ja?Lyn Hicks. So those are my team.

5 And we are avidly working on the next
6 project and having the middle passageway
7 signage brought to Oxford in the proper setting
8 from the water's edge to the docking area.
9 That needs to be handled. And we're working on
10 having that signage placed properly.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds great. That
12 sounds great.

13 Mr. Stepp.

14 MR. STEPP: I mean yet another example,
15 just our rich history here and being able to
16 celebrate it.

17 Phenomenal job. Keep up the great work.
18 Thank you.

19 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

20 MR. LESHER: Those stories were untold for
21 too long.

1 MS. BROWN: Absolutely.

2 MR. LESHER: And you are changing that.
3 You are making a real difference in this
4 community. And I'll add in the right place to
5 do so.

6 Thank you for doing so.

7 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

9 MS. MIELKE: Congratulations on this
10 award. It's well earned.

11 I know Barbara Paca.

12 MS. BROWN: Absolutely.

13 MS. MIELKE: Who was the champion of this
14 in the beginning.

15 And it's good to see this project carried
16 through and demonstrate the historic diversity
17 of this county.

18 And thank you for all you do.

19 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

20 MS. HAYTHE: So we met at the four-year
21 celebration. Am I right, four years?

1 MS. BROWN: Absolutely. Four years.

2 MS. HAYTHE: It was standing room only.

3 MS. BROWN: Yes.

4 MS. HAYTHE: I mean and it was a great
5 event.

6 I was glad to be able to come down, but I
7 have to come back.

8 MS. BROWN: Yes.

9 MS. HAYTHE: So that I can really look at
10 the museum a little bit further.

11 But I just wanted to bring you in just to
12 say congratulations on the great work that
13 you're doing.

14 Thank you for telling the stories.

15 Having a grandfather that was a waterman,
16 it's important to tell those stories of the
17 heritage and the history and the diversity that
18 we have in Talbot County.

19 So thank you so much for taking time out
20 to come in and accept this recognition on
21 behalf of the County Council.

1 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup. Congratulations.
3 Am I correct by saying you guys were on
4 WBOC last week?

5 MS. BROWN: Absolutely.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. And you did such a
7 great job, too.

8 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: You really did. And it
10 really brought light really throughout, you
11 know, the lower shore and western shore, people
12 seeing you on TV. And you did a phenomenal
13 job. That's for sure.

14 MS. BROWN: We were front page Star
15 democrat as well.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go.

17 MS. HAYTHE: You're a rock star.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: You are. You sure are.
19 So come on up. We got a certificate for
20 you.

21 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

1 MS. KILMON: One, two, three. All right.

2 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

3 MS. MIELKE: Congratulations.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That was great.

5 Recognitions for all these people. That's for
6 sure.

7 Next on the agenda is Chesapeake College.

8 MS. HAYTHE: He's outside.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.

10 DR. COPPERSMITH: Good evening,

11 Mr. President.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. How are you guys?

13 DR. COPPERSMITH: We're good. We have
14 something rather routine for you today.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good. That's good.

16 DR. COPPERSMITH: So we're asking for
17 approval of a fund balance request to deal with
18 it's a combination of a need we have to have
19 and we don't have the staffing to deal with it.
20 So we have a consultant helping with this.

21 And we don't have the funding for it in

1 the budget. So we're going to seek a fund
2 balance request to help us out with that.

3 We've got Karen Smith with us this evening
4 to help us out with the details and answer any
5 questions that the Council might have.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

7 MS. SMITH: Good evening.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.

9 MS. SMITH: We've selected the firm Design
10 Collective throughout a RFP process to conduct
11 and write the ten-year facilities master plan.

12 It is due to the State agencies by
13 February 1st of '26. So we have a little bit
14 of time. We've already started gathering data
15 for them.

16 So to complete this project, we're
17 requesting a use of our fund balance in the
18 amount of \$167,550.

19 We had already allocated in our M&R
20 budget, which the Council approves as a part of
21 the regular budget, 75,000 for an athletic

1 complex planning study. So we're going to
2 combine those funds with this to do the whole
3 ten-year master plan, of which that athletic
4 plan will be part of it.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: I see. Okay. Okay. Open
6 it to Council.

7 MR. LESHER: So this is funding that we've
8 already appropriated to you, and other
9 counties, that you simply need to come back to
10 us to allocate because this is funding that got
11 underspent from other projects and --

12 MS. SMITH: Correct. Anytime we use fund
13 balance, we do require -- we present it to the
14 counties so they can approve it.

15 MR. LESHER: Well, sorry that it's such a
16 difficult process for you, but thank you for
17 following through with it.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other questions
19 from Council?

20 MR. LESHER: I'll move approval.

21 MS. HAYTHE: Second.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
2 second for approval. Madam Secretary, could
3 you call the vote.

4 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

6 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

7 MR. STEPP: Aye.

8 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

9 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

10 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

11 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

12 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

13 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, guys.

15 DR. COPPERSMITH: Thank you.

16 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Appreciate it.

18 Okay.

19 Next on the agenda, introduction of
20 administrative resolutions. Madam Secretary,
21 could you read the first one, please.

1 SECRETARY: You want me to read it in its
2 entirety or just the title?

3 MR. CALLAHAN: You can just read the
4 title.

5 SECRETARY: Okay. Administrative
6 resolution adopting and approving a general
7 fund reserve policy for Talbot County,
8 Maryland.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Welcome.

10 MS. SPARKS: Hi. Good evening, Council.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.

12 MS. SPARKS: Martha Sparks, finance
13 director for Talbot County.

14 So the fund balance is a key element of
15 financial resilience for any county or
16 municipal organization. It helps to mitigate
17 the impacts of unanticipated revenue shortfalls
18 and provides a buffer for the unexpected
19 expenditure requirements. Maintaining and
20 adhering to a reserve policy is a best practice
21 recognized by the Government Finance Officers

1 Association, also known as GFOA, and is among
2 the factors considered by rating agencies when
3 assessing the creditworthiness of an
4 organization.

5 In 2023, the GFOA came out with a series
6 of articles that described opportunities for
7 reserve optimization beyond the one size fits
8 all guidance provided in its best practice.

9 One of the recommendations was made that
10 governments establish a formal reserve policy
11 that considers the government's specific
12 circumstances.

13 Talbot County does not have a formal
14 written policy on the use of reserves. The
15 rainy day fund that the county has used for
16 many years is more a policy of practice. It's
17 only mentioned in a couple of sentences in our
18 annual financial statements.

19 So after discussions with the county
20 manager about our reserves, we engaged our
21 financial advisers, Davenport & Company, to

1 help us evaluate our county's unique
2 circumstances to ensure that our reserves are
3 best utilized to manage the risk that comes
4 from fluctuations and revenues and expenditures
5 in the future years.

6 And boy, we're certainly there now; aren't
7 we?

8 This policy has been reviewed and vetted
9 by Davenport; our bond counsel, McKennon,
10 Shelton & Henn; our county manager; and our
11 county attorney.

12 And the policy itself, I followed the only
13 other formal policy that we have, financial
14 policy that we have adopted by Council, is the
15 investment policy from several years ago. So I
16 just followed in that format for consistency.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That would be great.

18 Any questions from Council?

19 MR. STEPP: I just, Martha, I mean just
20 for record so everyone knows. Can you speak to
21 just basically how we, by what means we save,

1 what methods we use to represent taxpayer
2 dollars?

3 MS. SPARKS: So how we --

4 MR. STEPP: Where are we investing?

5 MS. SPARKS: So in our reserves, our
6 reserves, really fund balance, and you'll hear
7 the terms fund balance and reserves.

8 Really reserves is a budgeting
9 terminology, and fund balance is an accounting
10 terminology.

11 So the purpose for using reserves is to
12 help as a budgeting tool.

13 So historically Talbot County budgets very
14 conservatively. We have budgeted, under
15 projected revenues, mainly income tax revenues
16 because they are so volatile in Talbot County
17 because we have a high reliance on a small
18 percentage of very successful people that call
19 Talbot County their home.

20 So because of that volatility, we've
21 typically under projected those revenues.

1 So what happens is, so we're budgeting our
2 expenditures throughout the year more
3 accurately. And we also have savings when we
4 don't spend all of the money that's in our
5 budget.

6 So those over -- those actually go to
7 build up our reserves. And that's what's
8 happened.

9 And a lot of that happens, has happened to
10 our schools, to other municipalities through
11 the COVID years when there was an influx of
12 federal funding to pay for certain things that
13 maybe the county government would not normally
14 spend. So that's another reason.

15 We also have had some very successful
16 individuals in our county. You can tell by our
17 levels of income tax reserves. So that is how
18 we've built those reserves.

19 Now, those reserves moving forward are a
20 budgeting tool for us. They are also a use for
21 risk mitigation in the fluctuations that we'll

1 get in revenues or expenditures, which we're
2 experiencing intense pressures from the State
3 legislature right now. And the impacts of them
4 trying to balance their budget, they've pushed
5 a lot of costs down to the counties.

6 So these reserves will help us to weather
7 the storm, so to speak.

8 And is that...

9 MR. STEPP: Yeah. No. Absolutely.

10 And I'll finish with just a thank you.
11 Right? We don't get the recognition that we
12 get as a county from our financial advisors and
13 those who are looking at our books, right, we
14 don't get that without phenomenal work from you
15 and your team. So job well done.

16 Especially looking at things, like I said,
17 underestimating on the income. I'm sorry.
18 Underestimating on the income and
19 overestimating on the expenses. So job well
20 done. Thank you.

21 MS. SPARKS: Thank you so much.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Go ahead, Mr. Stamp.

2 MR. STAMP: I'd just like to weigh in and
3 thank the Council, thank our finance team.

4 This county, through its conservative
5 budgeting efforts, have been able to create a
6 strong or healthy fund balance.

7 We knew in the past years that we needed
8 to do that because there's a lot of
9 uncertainties out there. Some of them we're
10 seeing come to bear.

11 The next step, in order to strength our
12 fiscal position, is to adopt this policy, which
13 will place funds in the proper place for use if
14 we and as we need them.

15 So, again, I think that that comes through
16 a lot of hard work by not only the staff, but
17 clear guidance from a Council that is concerned
18 about managing properly.

19 So thank you.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.

21 Any other questions or comments?

1 MR. LESHER: I know that we've been quite
2 proud in Talbot County because of prudent
3 management to have a AAA rating from Fitch and
4 a AA one, bond rating from Moody's, if I have
5 those --

6 MS. SPARKS: Correct.

7 MR. LESHER: -- straight.

8 I presume that implementation of these
9 reserve policies will further strengthen our
10 standing in the eyes of those bond rating
11 agencies and make it continue to be as
12 affordable as anybody gets in terms of our
13 access to credit for future bond issuances?

14 MS. SPARKS: That is correct. It is very
15 highly favored with the rating agencies when
16 there are formal policies adopted.

17 MR. LESHER: Which means that when we go
18 out to bond, that we pay the lowest possible
19 rates?

20 MS. SPARKS: Correct.

21 MR. LESHER: And make the best possible

1 use of our taxpayers' funds.

2 MS. SPARKS: That is correct. And we will
3 be doing that in several months.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other comments?

5 MS. HAYTHE: No.

6 MS. MIELKE: No.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is there a motion?

8 MR. LESHER: I will move --

9 MS. HAYTHE: Motion.

10 MR. LESHER: -- to approve the
11 administrative resolution.

12 MS. HAYTHE: Second.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We've got a motion
14 and second. Madam Secretary, could you call
15 the vote.

16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

18 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

19 MR. STEPP: Aye.

20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

21 MR. LESHER: Aye.

1 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

2 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

3 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

4 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job.

6 MS. SPARKS: Thank you, Council.

7 MS. MIELKE: Thank you.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay. Madam
9 Secretary, could you go ahead and read the next
10 one.

11 SECRETARY: Administrative resolution
12 amending certain provisions regarding citizen
13 representatives on the Bicycle and Pedestrian
14 Advisory Committee.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. (Indiscernible.)

16 MR. LESHER: I can or do we want --

17 MR. THOMAS: Yeah. Just to give a brief
18 overview.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

20 MR. THOMAS: So this resolution was
21 requested by Vice President Leshner.

1 This will amend the administrative
2 resolution that established the bike and
3 pedestrian committee by giving the Council more
4 flexibility in appointing the citizen
5 appointees to the board, while ensure that all
6 of the areas of the county are still
7 represented.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's good.

9 MR. LESHER: We've actually had a lot of
10 interest in this, and particularly from some of
11 our larger jurisdictions like Easton. We
12 simply want to be able to make a little extra
13 room.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.

15 MR. LESHER: To be able to accommodate
16 some of that citizen interest.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.

18 MR. LESHER: Thank you.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Any other?

20 MR. STEPP: And in short, we're moving it
21 from seven up to 11, correct?

1 MR. LESHER: Up to 11, yes.

2 MS. HAYTHE: Up to 11, yeah.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Eleven committee members?

4 MR. LESHER: Yeah. I'll move approval of
5 the administrative resolution.

6 MS. MIELKE: Second.

7 MS. HAYTHE: Second.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
9 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
10 vote.

11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

13 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

14 MR. STEPP: Aye.

15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

16 MR. LESHER: Aye.

17 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

18 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

19 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

20 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Could

1 you read the next.

2 SECRETARY: Administrative resolution
3 repealing administrative resolutions of
4 June 23, 2020, and July 14, 2020, regarding
5 diversity training and development of a Talbot
6 County diversity statement, respectively.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

8 MS. HAYTHE: Patrick, (indiscernible.)

9 MR. CALLAHAN: No. You want to go ahead
10 and comment?

11 MR. STEPP: Yeah. So yeah. I'm the
12 Council member who has proposed this
13 legislation. I've actually prepared a
14 statement here, and I'd like to read aloud to
15 everyone. So here we go.

16 To begin, I'd like to thank everyone for
17 being here tonight, as well as for sharing your
18 thoughts and opinions on this matter over of
19 the course of the last few weeks.

20 Filling the room is the Constitution at
21 work. Exercising your God-given right to

1 freedom of speech and right to petition your
2 government for a redress of your grievances,
3 both of which are upheld in the First Amendment
4 to the US Constitution and --

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, excuse me, Dave.

6 Could you sit down with that sign, please?

7 SPEAKER: Oh, I was told if I stood in the
8 back, I could hold it.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, you can't hold a sign
10 up.

11 SPEAKER: Okay.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm not going to allow it.

13 SPEAKER: Okay. I checked with Susan this
14 afternoon. She said I should stand in the
15 back.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: No. You can stand, but
17 don't put the sign up. You can stand all you
18 want.

19 SPEAKER: Okay. She said as long as I'm
20 not -- she said the protocol is as long as I'm
21 not blocking anybody's view --

1 MR. CALLAHAN: The protocol is what I'm
2 telling you.

3 SPEAKER: I'm sorry?

4 MR. CALLAHAN: The protocol is what I'm
5 telling you. No signs.

6 SPEAKER: It's on the Council website.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: No signs.

8 MS. HAYTHE: Let her.

9 SPEAKER: Pardon?

10 MR. CALLAHAN: No signs.

11 MS. HAYTHE: Just let her --

12 SPEAKER: That's not the way Susan
13 explained it to me. She said as long as we're
14 not blocking anybody's view. That's why she
15 said to stand in the back.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Here is what I'll --
17 you stand right outside that door and you can
18 hold that sign up.

19 SPEAKER: Where?

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Right outside this door,
21 right here. It's got glass --

1 SPEAKER: Outside the door?

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Outside that door and you
3 can hold it up all you want.

4 SPEAKER: That's not the protocol. I'm
5 sorry. It's -- it's on the public website.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: All right.

7 SPEAKER: And I checked with Susan Moran
8 this afternoon and she told me I should stand
9 right here.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Keep going. You okay?

11 MR. STEPP: Oh, yeah.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

13 MR. STEPP: I'll restart this last
14 sentence.

15 Filling the room like this is the
16 Constitution at work, exercising your God-given
17 right to freedom of speech and right to
18 petition your government for a redress of your
19 grievances, both of which are upheld in the
20 First Amendment to the US Constitution, and
21 which all five of us up here are sworn to

1 uphold on your behalf.

2 Over the last few years, I've heard from
3 many of you; in person, over the phone, and
4 through letters and emails, many in favor of
5 this repeal and many against.

6 I will say I've learned a lot on this one,
7 but what I've learned was not what I expected
8 at all.

9 Being and reminding everyone here that
10 this is a matter only affecting Talbot County
11 employees, I expected to hear from many
12 employees, and I did. All of our county
13 employees that I spoke with were kind. They're
14 hard working and fully supportive of repealing
15 these policies.

16 I heard from a grand total of zero county
17 employees that requested to keep these DEI
18 policies in place.

19 I've unfortunately learned that many in
20 favor of retaining these DEI-based policies,
21 employee policies, those claiming to be

1 tolerant and diverse and equitable and
2 inclusive, like to spew hateful language when
3 your obligations and ideas do not align with
4 their political ideology.

5 To the contrary, those in favor of
6 repealing these policies could not have been
7 more polite and respectful.

8 Folks, this is simple. Disagreement does
9 not have to equal disrespect.

10 I've learned that mathematical results
11 speak louder than words when it comes to the
12 effectiveness of having these two
13 administrative resolutions in place over of the
14 last five years. Let's quickly look at one
15 example.

16 Our African American community, which
17 census data shows Talbot County at 12.9 percent
18 of our total population. In 2020, Talbot
19 County's workforce was 17.5 percent African
20 American. Five years after implementing these
21 policies, it is down to 15.8 percent.

1 Mathematically having these resolutions in
2 place have been a failure in terms of
3 diversity, equity, and inclusion.

4 Talbot County has always been a great
5 employer, and it will continue to be a great
6 employer, with some of the hardest working
7 individuals you've ever met working to serve
8 you 24/7/365.

9 The Talbot County employee handbook on
10 page 21 memorializes Talbot County as an equal
11 opportunity employer, both in principle and in
12 fact.

13 Our ADA, anti-discrimination, and
14 anti-harassment practices are all covered, and
15 all decisions are based on individual
16 qualifications without regard to race, creed,
17 sex, or national origin.

18 The same format is already afforded every
19 citizen in Talbot County found in Section 102
20 of the Talbot County Charter.

21 Folks, the Constitution and its amendments

1 are not political tools. It is not there just
2 for some Americans and not others. It is not
3 there to be a weaponized tool. It is a living,
4 breathing document, enshrining the rights and
5 freedoms to all Americans by our creator,
6 almighty God himself.

7 I personally ran a campaign for this role
8 based upon what I call the five Fs; faith,
9 family, freedom, fiscal responsibility, and
10 fighting for you.

11 This is fiscal responsibility and fighting
12 for you at its core, protecting the millions of
13 dollars both in operational and capital form
14 that Talbot County receives from the federal
15 government every year.

16 Politically motivated DEI statements, such
17 as the two currently affecting our workforce,
18 are crumbling all over. In the federal
19 government, with President Trump's Executive
20 Order on January 20th, in schools and
21 universities, looking at the 2023 Supreme Court

1 ruling in Students for Fair Admissions versus
2 Harvard.

3 And just at the end of last week, the
4 American Bar Association's section of legal
5 education and admissions suspending their DEI
6 requirement. And I quote, over fears of
7 litigation risk and potential violations of the
8 law. I'm guessing that the lawyers who grant
9 the privilege for new lawyers to practice law
10 understand a thing or two about the 14th
11 Amendment. Just a hunch.

12 It's time we as Talbot County, the
13 employer, stop letting a politicized DEI
14 product get in the way of true and real unity
15 that is displayed daily in all of Talbot
16 County. The type of unity we all see in Talbot
17 Day, a day that all five Council members of
18 this Council adopted, which glorifies God and
19 celebrates, and I repeat all, Talbot County
20 citizens.

21 It's the type of unity that we see in our

1 churches, our schools, our workplaces, and our
2 volunteer organizations. The type of unity
3 that even those with differing opinions should
4 treat other with. And most importantly, the
5 type of unity that Jesus commanded in Matthew
6 22 verse 39 --

7 SPEAKER: No.

8 MR. STEPP: -- love your neighbor as
9 yourself.

10 SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

11 MR. STEPP: I'll end with a closing
12 paragraph from my open letter on February 11th.

13 Talbot County is a great county. It is
14 known for history, culture, and natural beauty,
15 just to name a few of its attributes.

16 We are also known for our low taxes and
17 deservedly recognized for our financial
18 stewardship.

19 With the economic and inflationary
20 pressures Talbot County citizens have had to
21 endure in recent years, I want to do my part

1 and ensure Talbot County residents know that
2 their tax dollars are well represented locally
3 and fiercely fought for nationally.

4 Thank you, again, for everyone being here.
5 And I respectfully ask for a yes vote from my
6 fellow Council members on this administrative
7 resolution today.

8 Mr. President, back to you.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,
10 Mr. Stepp.

11 Any other comments?

12 MR. LESHER: I do want to thank the 128
13 citizens who wrote to us urging us to be weary
14 about repealing a policy statement that does
15 not bind us or restrict us in any fashion but
16 could send negative signals that we are hard
17 pressed to recruit and retain.

18 Repealing this statement, which contains
19 nothing that could be construed as
20 objectionable, could have a negative impact on
21 those efforts to attract and retain the best

1 and most qualified workforce we can have for
2 this county.

3 And on the fiscal end, the idea that
4 retaining the statement and any report on
5 training could disqualify the county from
6 federal grants for, for example, airport
7 modernization or rural development grants for
8 broadband is based on either a misreading or
9 lack of understanding of the recent White House
10 Executive Order. So county funding is not at
11 risk.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

13 MS. HAYTHE: Lynn.

14 MS. MIELKE: You want to go ahead?

15 MS. HAYTHE: No. Go ahead.

16 MS. MIELKE: I'm surprised at this
17 administrative resolution. It is based on an
18 Executive Order that President Trump has
19 presented, but it hasn't gone through a legal
20 process about whether that's even enforceable
21 or permissible.

1 Our statements in our county documents do
2 not have the same requirements that the DEI
3 statutes, federal government, have. It's just
4 a statement of who we are and what we
5 recognize.

6 I see no reason to withdraw this from our
7 government documents. I oppose it.

8 MS. HAYTHE: So sitting here as the double
9 minority, I am diversity, I am equity, and I am
10 inclusion as well.

11 Sitting on this Talbot County Council as
12 the double minority, we have to take a pause.
13 And it's okay to say let's step back, let's
14 take a breather, let's put this on the table
15 until the legal process has played out with
16 this Executive Order.

17 And so I am going to ask my fellow Council
18 member, who, yes, we have done a great job of
19 unity on this Council and coming together and
20 being considerate of each and every individual
21 member here.

1 So I'm going to propose to Councilman
2 Stepp that we pause, that we take a breath,
3 that we gather information regarding how the
4 county may be required to move forward
5 regarding federal funding, and we wait for the
6 legal process to play out.

7 So that is what I'm asking Councilman
8 Stepp to consider with his administrative
9 resolution at this time.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Anyone else?

11 MR. STEPP: I mean we have a lot of folks
12 who have come out here. Obviously this is,
13 even being a county employee issue, it
14 obviously brought out a lot of members of our
15 community, both for or against. Right?

16 So if we want to take a look at that, and
17 I would obviously love for everyone to have
18 their stake during public comment and state
19 their opinions. I mean that's how this process
20 works. That's what you elected us to do, is to
21 be your voice.

1 And, you know, like I said, I'd love to
2 hear what everyone has to say during public
3 comment. So if we want to delay this a little
4 bit and push a vote, then we can push it.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

6 MS. HAYTHE: I'm asking to...

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Table it?

8 MS. MIELKE: Table it.

9 MS. HAYTHE: Table it. And vote now and
10 allow the people that are here that have come
11 out to speak during public comment so that the
12 public comments can be part of --

13 MR. STEPP: I want them, too. The record.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: The record?

15 MS. HAYTHE: Yes, the record.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: That's fair enough.

17 MS. HAYTHE: So there'd have to be a
18 motion to table it, correct? Am I correct in
19 that?

20 MR. THOMAS: Yes.

21 MS. HAYTHE: By Mr. Stepp.

1 MR. STEPP: It can come from anybody. If
2 you want, I'll go ahead and make a motion.
3 We'll table it for the time being so we can
4 make sure we hear everyone's comments. And
5 we'll go from there.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Is there a second?

7 MS. HAYTHE: I second that motion to table
8 it.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,
10 we've got a motion and a second to go ahead and
11 table this. Can you call the vote.

12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

14 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

15 MR. STEPP: Aye.

16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

17 MR. LESHNER: Nay.

18 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

19 MS. MIELKE: Nay.

20 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

21 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Okay. Next on the
2 agenda, Madam Secretary, we've got the public
3 hearing. We've got Resolution Number 366.

4 SECRETARY: Resolution number 366. A
5 resolution to amend the Talbot County
6 comprehensive water and sewer plan to
7 reclassify and remap certain real properties
8 located on the east side of US Route 50, south
9 of Dutchman's Lane, Easton, Maryland. Shown on
10 tax map 34 as parcels 128 and 175, from W-3,
11 S-3 and unprogrammed, respectively, to W-1,
12 S-1, immediate priority status, pursuant to an
13 application filed by Corrigan & Trippe
14 Ventures, LLC.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Patrick, you want to
16 help us?

17 Is Brennan out there?

18 MR. THOMAS: Yeah. I think Ray is coming
19 in.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Is Ray coming in?

21 MR. THOMAS: Yup.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

2 MS. HAYTHE: So you wanted to vote on it?

3 MS. MIELKE: Yeah. It would have been a
4 no and done.

5 MS. HAYTHE: You wanted it to be over.
6 Well, somebody could have proposed a motion to
7 vote on it.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, guys. How you doing?

9 MR. CLARKE: Good, good.

10 MR. YELTON: Good evening.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Good.

12 Guys, if you could keep it down? We're
13 still in the meeting now. If you could keep it
14 down. Appreciate it. Thank you.

15 MR. CLARKE: Council, Ray Clarke, county
16 engineer. Just advise the County Council on
17 January 16th, the Public Works Advisory Board
18 met to review Resolution 367.

19 The Council basically -- I'm sorry. The
20 board basically voted for, with one abstaining,
21 to recommend the County Council adopt 367.

1 Again, the second item on their agenda --

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Ray, it's 366.

3 MR. CLARKE: Oh, I apologize. Then I
4 apologize.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem. I just wanted
6 to make sure.

7 MR. CLARKE: Then I'll turn it over to
8 Bryce.

9 MR. YELTON: Apologize for the mixup.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.

11 MR. YELTON: Bruce Yelton, Planning and
12 Zoning, Talbot County.

13 The Planning Commission met most recently
14 on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, and made a
15 motion and that was seconded to certify that
16 Resolution 366 was consistent with the 2016
17 Talbot County Comprehensive Plan and the seven
18 relevant standards in accordance with
19 Environmental Article 9506A1 of the Maryland
20 Annotated Code. That motion was passed four to
21 zero.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

2 MR. CLARKE: And the board did vote on
3 that. I think it was five to zero on
4 December 19th.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: It did. Okay.

6 MR. CLARKE: Recommending Council adopt
7 it.

8 MR. YELTON: That's correct.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. At this point, I'll
10 go ahead and open the public hearing.

11 And if anybody wants to come up here, I'll
12 give them three minutes to talk about it. And
13 if you're representing an organization, I'll
14 give you five minutes.

15 So at this time, we are opening the public
16 hearing, Resolution 366. Yes, sir. Come on
17 up.

18 MR. SMITH: Good evening, Council. Zach
19 Smith on behalf of the property owner, Corrigan
20 & Trippe Ventures, LLC, speaking in support of
21 Resolution 366.

1 And as the Council will recall, this
2 property was annexed into the Town of Easton
3 last year, largely based on a commitment by the
4 property owner to build some affordable housing
5 on the site, something that the town and I
6 think the county both recognize is certainly
7 needed in our community.

8 We then came to the County Council and
9 sought a zoning waiver, which the County
10 Council unanimously approved, allowing the town
11 zoning to become immediately effective on that
12 property.

13 And this is the next step in that same
14 process, right, to update the comprehensive
15 water and sewer maps to allow the Town of
16 Easton to serve the property with public water
17 and sewer.

18 That's customary following annexation.
19 It's logical. The town has the ability to
20 serve it. But in order to do so, the county
21 has to update its maps. And so that's the

1 request that's before you.

2 As Mr. Clarke and Mr. Yelton reported,
3 both the Public Works Advisory Board and the
4 Planning Commission unanimously forwarded
5 favorable recommendations to the County Council
6 to approve.

7 And particularly important, the Planning
8 Commission's recommendation included a finding
9 that this proposal is consistent with the
10 county's Comprehensive Plan.

11 So for those reasons, we would ask the
12 county to approve Resolution 366. Thank you.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Smith.
14 Appreciate it. Thank you.

15 Anybody over here to my left want to talk
16 about 366? Okay.

17 Go over here to my right. Anybody want to
18 talk about, come up about 366? Okay.

19 At this time, I'll go ahead and close the
20 public hearing on 366.

21 And it is eligible for vote. So at this

1 time, any other comments from Council?

2 MS. HAYTHE: No.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Any comments?

4 MR. LESHER: No. I think that we heard
5 from Easton that this is, this is, has passed
6 muster with the town, is going to achieve some
7 of their objectives in terms of affordable
8 housing, is providing infill or it is -- this
9 recent annexation helped to move toward
10 regularization of the town's boundary. There's
11 town on most every side of this property.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.

13 MR. LESHER: And so it's a logical place
14 in the view of Easton for new development to
15 take place.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other comments,
17 Council?

18 Okay. At this time, Madam Secretary,
19 could you call the vote.

20 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

1 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

2 MR. STEPP: Aye.

3 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

4 MR. LESHER: Aye.

5 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

6 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

7 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

8 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Next on the
10 agenda is Resolution 367.

11 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 367, a
12 resolution to amend the Talbot County
13 comprehensive water and sewer plan to
14 reclassify and remap certain real property
15 located at 7510 Quaker Neck Road, Bozman,
16 Maryland. Shown on tax map 39 as parcel 79,
17 from unprogrammed to S-1, immediate priority
18 status, pursuant to an application filed by
19 Kevin Mills.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

21 MR. CLARKE: Council, again, apologize.

1 The Public Works Advisory Board met on --

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, Ray, could you tell
3 people who you are.

4 MR. CLARKE: I am Ray Clarke, county
5 engineer. Sorry about that.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.

7 MR. CLARKE: On January 16th, the Board
8 met and reviewed the application for Mr. Mills.

9 And ultimately, after some discussion, and
10 then we actually prepared a map to identify
11 similar lots that would need look at being
12 extended the sewer, I think that addressed a
13 lot of the concerns by the Public Works
14 Advisory Board.

15 And ultimately, the board did support the
16 motion recommending the County Council adopt
17 Resolution 367. And that passed via four votes
18 with one abstaining.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any Council comments
20 on 367?

21 MR. LESHER: Wait until after the public

1 hearing.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. I'll go
3 ahead now and open it up to -- I'm sorry.

4 MR. LESHER: Bryce.

5 MR. YELTON: I'm sorry.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, I'm sorry.

7 MR. YELTON: Council, just want to fill
8 you in on the Planning Commission.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Sorry.

10 MR. YELTON: Bryce Yelton, Talbot County
11 Planning and Zoning.

12 The Planning Commission first heard this
13 on January 8th meeting with the Planning
14 Commission. And based on the Public Works
15 Advisory Board's initial tabling of the
16 application, they wanted to also table the
17 application until they got the same information
18 that was provided to the Public Works Advisory
19 Board.

20 Their recommendation, when they heard it
21 with that additional information on February

1 5th, was certifying that it was consistent with
2 the Comprehensive Plan and the seven relevant
3 standards. Their motion passed by a vote of
4 four to zero.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, guys.
6 Appreciate it.

7 So okay. At this time, I'll go ahead and
8 open the public hearing up to Resolution 367.

9 Anybody over here to my left here want to
10 come on up and talk about 367? Okay.

11 Anybody over here to my right, come on up,
12 367? Okay. All right.

13 I think we're eligible for vote; aren't
14 we?

15 SECRETARY: Yes.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: So I'll go ahead and close
17 the public hearing now.

18 And Council comment.

19 MR. LESHER: Yeah. This is one where this
20 would be an extension to the Resolution 250
21 properties down on the Bozman Neavitt corridor.

1 We do have a project now to extend water
2 and sewer down there. We've been under
3 construction with the force main on that
4 project. We're getting close, I hope, to being
5 able to provide, provide connections along that
6 corridor.

7 This would be a further extension of that,
8 along one of the necks off of the Bozman
9 Neavitt corridor.

10 And when Resolution 250 was constructed,
11 it was done very carefully to ensure that we
12 are not extending water and sewer to places
13 that would facilitate development that might
14 not otherwise happen.

15 Now, while this is not a subdividable
16 property I am assured, I'm not convinced that
17 it is not facilitating development that might
18 not otherwise happen in terms of what can
19 happen on this particular property.

20 And so I'm, I remain skeptical and not
21 ready to support this extension at this time.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other Council
2 comments at this time on 367? Okay.

3 We're ready to vote on this. Madam
4 Secretary, could you call the vote.

5 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

7 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

8 MR. STEPP: Aye.

9 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

10 MR. LESHNER: Nay.

11 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

12 MS. MIELKE: Nay.

13 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

14 MS. HAYTHE: I have a question. Planning
15 Commission approved?

16 MR. LESHNER: Yes.

17 MS. HAYTHE: And Public Works Advisory
18 Board approved?

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. But there was one --

20 MR. CLARKE: Abstain. One board member
21 abstained.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: One board said no.

2 MS. HAYTHE: One board member on Public
3 Works Advisory?

4 MR. CLARKE: Yes.

5 MR. YELTON: Yes.

6 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. All right. Oh, I
7 guess I'm up for a vote, huh. Sorry.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: That's okay.

9 MS. HAYTHE: Yes.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Okay. All right.
11 Next, Madam Secretary, Resolution 369.

12 SECRETARY: Resolution 368.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, is it eight? I'm
14 sorry. Yup.

15 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 368, a
16 resolution to amend the Talbot County
17 comprehensive water and sewer plan to
18 reclassify and remap certain real property
19 located at 4502 Old Trappe Road, Trappe,
20 Maryland. Shown on tax map 54 as parcel 302,
21 from unprogrammed to W-1, S-1, immediate

1 priority status, pursuant to an application
2 filed by Brian Hause.

3 MR. CLARKE: Again, Ray Clarke, county
4 engineer. The Public Works Advisory Board met
5 on January 16th to review this application.
6 Again, they needed some additional information
7 from the Town of Trappe.

8 One of the things that they learned from
9 the Town of Trappe, it would only be for one
10 EDU, or equivalent dwelling unit, at this point
11 in time. So that was one of the informations
12 that the board was trying to find out.

13 After receiving that information, as well
14 as I guess some additional information as it
15 related to the -- I guess this is zoned light
16 industrial. The Public Works Advisory Board
17 made a recommendation to the County Council to
18 adopt Resolution 368. And that went via a four
19 votes for and one abstaining.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

21 MR. YELTON: Council, thank you. Bryce

1 Yelton, Talbot County Planning and Zoning.

2 This property is within the municipal
3 boundaries of the Town of Trappe. And this is
4 one of their only industrial parcels that are
5 zoned within the county or within the
6 municipality.

7 And so this was annexed back in I believe
8 in 2007 by town resolution. And the rest of
9 the property was finished up annexing in 2023.
10 With that, it's fully within the Town of
11 Trappe.

12 And the Planning Commission initially
13 heard this in their January meeting and passed
14 a motion to table it until they received
15 additional information as well as the things
16 that the Public Works Advisory Board had
17 requested.

18 And after hearing and reviewing the
19 documents that they had requested, and
20 considering that only one EDU for the water and
21 sewer service would be granted to that parcel

1 at this time, they voted to pass a motion that
2 it was consistent with the Comprehensive Plan
3 and the seven relevant standards in the
4 Environmental Article. That motion was passed
5 by a vote of four to zero.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great. Thank
7 you, guys.

8 MR. LESHER: Before you go, question.
9 Under the comprehensive water and sewer
10 with this change, is that single EDU, is that
11 wired into the comprehensive water and sewer
12 plan? Does it require water and sewer plan
13 amendment to say increase that to five or ten
14 or any other number?

15 MR. CLARKE: Typically with the county,
16 what we've done in the past is actually
17 requested that that be increased in the number
18 of EDUs. We've done that on county
19 applications to where we've only had one EDU
20 provided to a parcel. And then if it comes
21 back, we've asked them to come back with an

1 application to increase that number of units.

2 MR. LESHAR: So it is hardwired into the
3 county approval process? It does -- those EDUs
4 would not increase without, without further
5 county level review?

6 MR. CLARKE: We would request that, yes,
7 sir.

8 So our problem will be is that once it
9 goes into the town, if they were to subdivide
10 it and not notify us, then I don't know what
11 would happen at that point.

12 MS. HAYTHE: So how would we request it?

13 MR. CLARKE: I think the key would be is
14 through a municipal review with the towns.
15 We'll work to have those municipal reviews with
16 the town on an annual basis to go through that
17 process.

18 Again, I think my understanding, with this
19 parcel, they are looking at, at some point in
20 the future, they have not put together a plan,
21 a subdivision plan for this parcel. So it's

1 not -- it's right now we're only allocating one
2 EDU. So we don't know what that potential
3 subdivision plan would be.

4 MS. HAYTHE: So wouldn't we want to have a
5 plan in place for the process of them coming
6 back to us for additional EDUs, considering
7 what we just went through in the beginning of
8 the meeting?

9 MR. CLARKE: And that's where I think the
10 county has, you know, the Public Works Advisory
11 Board was requesting how many EDUs are being
12 allocated to this parcel. So that came from
13 the town. It was one EDU.

14 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. Thank you.

15 MS. MIELKE: What is the size of the
16 property?

17 MR. CLARKE: I would have to go back and
18 look.

19 MR. YELTON: It's approximately
20 32.73 acres that was originally annexed in
21 2007. And there's a remaining 5.125 acres that

1 were annexed to the town in 2023. So that
2 would be around 38, 38 acres, roughly.

3 MS. MIELKE: Okay. So if I understand you
4 correctly, they could come back at a later date
5 and ask for, propose a subdivision?

6 MR. CLARKE: Exactly. And with additional
7 EDUs.

8 MS. MIELKE: Also, is this property
9 located by the Rural Museum?

10 MR. CALLAHAN: I think it is.

11 MR. YELTON: I believe so. Is that near
12 Old Trappe Road?

13 MS. MIELKE: Isn't it adjacent to it?

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

15 MR. YELTON: I believe so.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

17 MS. HAYTHE: I think that's where it is.

18 MS. MIELKE: Potential contradiction.

19 MS. HAYTHE: Do we have to make a decision
20 on it tonight?

21 MR. CALLAHAN: We could table it.

1 MS. HAYTHE: I mean it's up to you guys.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: You want more information
3 on it you're thinking?

4 MS. HAYTHE: I'm just concerned about the
5 EDUs and them not coming --

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, they would have to
7 come back to us --

8 MS. HAYTHE: Not --

9 MR. CALLAHAN: They would have to come
10 back to us for --

11 MS. HAYTHE: I don't have faith that
12 that's going to happen.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: You're saying that they're
14 asking for one?

15 MR. CLARKE: And that's what we received
16 from the town. They would be allocating one
17 EDU for this.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: For that 38 acres?

19 MR. CLARKE: Yes, sir.

20 MS. MIELKE: But the town could do it
21 later?

1 MR. CLARKE: They could submit something
2 to us, as long as we're aware of that. Yes.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: For more EDUs?

4 MR. CLARKE: For more EDUs, yes.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: They would have to come to
6 us.

7 MR. CLARKE: Yes.

8 MR. LESHER: It is the county and not the
9 town that awards EDUs?

10 MR. CLARKE: It is the town that would
11 award the EDUs.

12 So they would have to receive that
13 subdivision plan in order to know how many
14 additional EDUs would be I guess being
15 developed.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: And this, maybe, maybe --

17 MS. HAYTHE: We need a process.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Huh?

19 MS. HAYTHE: I think we need a process.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: It's either that or we need
21 to put it in the resolution and...

1 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: And back it up.

3 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah. I think that would
4 be --

5 MR. LESHER: I'll move Resolution 368 to
6 the table.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

8 MS. MIELKE: Second.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got and a second
10 to table this. Okay.

11 SECRETARY: Who seconded it?

12 MS. HAYTHE: Lynn.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay. So 368 is
14 tabled. Okay.

15 Next would be --

16 MR. LESHER: Do we need a vote on that?

17 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm sorry. Sorry about
18 that.

19 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

20 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

1 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

2 MR. STEPP: Aye.

3 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

4 MR. LESHER: Aye.

5 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

6 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

7 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

8 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Council.

10 Okay.

11 Next would be 369, Resolution 369.

12 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 369, a
13 resolution to formally decline to offer -- to
14 accept the offer of dedication for the paper
15 street portion of Rude Avenue as shown on a
16 subdivision plat entitled map showing
17 Harrisonia property of S.T. and George J.
18 Harrison, Tilghman Island, Talbot County,
19 Maryland, dated November 1927 and recorded
20 among the land records of Talbot County,
21 Maryland, at liber CBL 212, folio 394. And to

1 authorize the execution of a quitclaim deed to
2 convey a 6,000 square foot portion of such
3 paper street adjacent to 5419 Rude Avenue,
4 Tilghman, Maryland. Being all that portion of
5 Rude Avenue between parcel one and parcel nine
6 of Talbot County tax map 44 to the owners of
7 such property, Jorge A. Ramirez and Christina
8 E. Rilke, for no monetary consideration.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Welcome.

10 MR. SCHEIRER: Good evening, Council.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.

12 MR. SCHEIRER: My name is Edward Scheirer
13 on behalf of the property owner. I'm with
14 McAllister, DeTar, Showalter, Walker. I think
15 Brennan Mullaney has been working on this
16 matter with your attorney, Patrick Thomas.

17 I'm here to answer any questions you may
18 have.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: First, I want to make sure
20 everybody understands. I want to open this to
21 public hearing. Three minutes for single

1 person up here, and then five minutes for
2 organizations.

3 So, sir, no. You're good. You can stay
4 up here. Go ahead, go ahead. You're good.
5 You got five minutes.

6 MR. SCHEIRER: Oh, well, sorry. My client
7 owns --

8 MR. CALLAHAN: You're shocked at our new
9 clock is what it is. We got a new clock here.

10 MR. SCHEIRER: It's very nice.

11 I represent the property owners. They own
12 two parcels. There is a small strip, around
13 6,000 square feet, of county land that serves
14 as essentially their driveway.

15 It services no other lots or parcels
16 behind it.

17 Currently, my understanding is the --
18 there's an unimproved parcel and then a parcel
19 with a residential structure that is owned by
20 my client.

21 The unimproved parcel right now might be

1 arguably non-conforming. Combining the two
2 would make it more in conformity with the
3 county's.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

5 MR. SCHEIRER: Zoning code.

6 And also, our client intends to -- is
7 prohibited, as it's currently plated, it's
8 prohibited from constructing any ancillary
9 structures.

10 So if there's an intent in the future to
11 explore installing a pool on the unimproved
12 parcel as well as solar panels, that's
13 something that he would like to explore but
14 cannot presently explore due to this one strip
15 of county land.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Did you want to add
17 anything?

18 MR. THOMAS: Yes. Just to clarify. So
19 the land that the attorney for the applicants
20 is referring to, it's a paper street. It only
21 exists on a plat. Most of it's unimproved.

1 And it's not owned by the county. These
2 are not county-owned roads. They're not part
3 of the county roads inventory. But because
4 they're on a plat, it's an offer of dedication
5 of the land to public use.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

7 MR. THOMAS: And that paper street being
8 there prevents them consolidating their
9 properties into one property and being able to
10 use it accordingly under the zoning code.

11 So this just takes the county out of the
12 equation and gives them a quitclaim deed for
13 whatever interest the county has, which is to
14 say, in this case, nothing.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: I see.

16 MR. THOMAS: And let's them move forward
17 in that process.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
19 Appreciate it.

20 MR. SCHEIRER: Thank you.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Any other person like to

1 come up and talk about 369? Okay.

2 I'll go ahead and close the public hearing
3 on that.

4 And I think that's eligible for vote, too;
5 isn't it?

6 SECRETARY: Yes, it is.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So Madam Secretary,
8 could you call the vote.

9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

11 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

12 MR. STEPP: Aye.

13 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

14 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

15 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

16 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

17 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

18 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda,
20 we got some bills.

21 Bill Number 1580. Madam Secretary, could

1 you read that, please.

2 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1580, a bill to
3 authorize the improvement of athletic fields at
4 public schools within Talbot County.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I'll go ahead and
6 open that up to public hearing.

7 Like I was telling everybody, three
8 minutes for individual and five minutes for an
9 organization.

10 And come on up if you want to talk about
11 Bill 1580. Come on up.

12 Kevin, I know you want to come up, you
13 know. I know you want to come up.

14 MR. SHAFER: I am good.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: You're good right now.
16 Okay. You're good. That's good. That's good.

17 Would anybody else like to come on up?
18 Okay.

19 Do we keep -- this isn't --

20 SECRETARY: If you bring it to third
21 reader.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Third reader on this one.
2 Yup.

3 SECRETARY: You can vote on it.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: So Madam Secretary, we got
5 to go ahead and go to third reader on this.

6 MR. LESHER: We need a motion to do so.

7 This has been in the capital budget. So
8 we are expecting it. This is simply the next
9 step in the process to authorize this.

10 And so in the interest of moving it along
11 in a timely fashion, I will move Bill 1580 to
12 third reader.

13 MS. MIELKE: Second.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
15 second. Madam Secretary, move that to third
16 reader, please.

17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

19 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

20 MR. STEPP: Aye.

21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

1 MR. LESHER: Aye.

2 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

3 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

4 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

5 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

6 MR. LESHER: Now ask her to read the title
7 again.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Could you read the
9 title.

10 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1580, a bill to
11 authorize the improvements of athletic fields
12 at public schools within Talbot County.

13 MR. LESHER: It's now eligible for vote.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay.

15 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

17 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

18 MR. STEPP: Aye.

19 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

20 MR. LESHER: Aye.

21 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

1 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

2 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

3 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda
5 is Bill 1581, if you don't reading that, Madam
6 Secretary.

7 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1581, a bill to
8 authorize replacement of the auditorium
9 lighting system at Easton High School.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I'm going to open it
11 to public hearing. Would anybody love to come
12 up here and talk about those lights because
13 we've been hearing about it for years? We
14 definitely need them. That's for sure.

15 SPEAKER: Fix them.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. Exactly. Okay.

17 I think this is eligible for third vote.
18 So we need a motion.

19 MR. LESHER: This is something that we
20 heard about during the budget hearing last May.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Correct.

1 MR. LESHER: And again, this is moving it
2 along.

3 So in the interest of doing so, I move
4 Bill 1581 to third reader.

5 MR. STEPP: Second.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
7 second. Madam Secretary, call the vote.

8 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

10 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

11 MR. STEPP: Aye.

12 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

13 MR. LESHER: Aye.

14 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

15 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

16 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

17 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,
19 could you call the vote.

20 MR. LESHER: No. Read the title.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Read the title and then

1 vote.

2 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1581, a bill to
3 authorize replacement of the auditorium
4 lighting system at Easton High School.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

6 MR. LESHER: Now you can call.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Now we call the vote.

8 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

10 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

11 MR. STEPP: Aye.

12 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

13 MR. LESHER: Aye.

14 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

15 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

16 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

17 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Great. And I will say
19 that's huge for the auditorium. So I'm glad
20 that went through, and that's going to be big
21 for the school. That's for sure. Okay.

1 Next up is 1582.

2 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1582, a bill to
3 authorize replacement and improvement of
4 interior lights at St. Michaels High School.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Everybody needs lights now,
6 you know, everybody. Yup. Exactly. All
7 right.

8 So I'm going to open that up to the public
9 hearing. Anybody want to come up and talk
10 about St. Michael's lights at the school, 1582?
11 You're welcome to come up, try our new clock or
12 something, you know.

13 MR. STAMP: I think we're good. We'll get
14 to try it out here shortly.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. It's doing its work.
16 Okay. It's eligible for third reader.

17 MR. LESHER: I move Bill 1582 to third
18 reader.

19 MS. MIELKE: Second.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
21 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the

1 vote.

2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

4 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

5 MR. STEPP: Aye.

6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

7 MR. LESHER: Aye.

8 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

9 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

10 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

11 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's read those
13 lights one more time.

14 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1582, a bill to
15 authorize replacement and improvement of
16 interior lights at St. Michaels High School.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Call the vote.

18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

20 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

21 MR. STEPP: Aye.

1 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.

2 MR. LESHER: Aye.

3 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

4 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

5 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

6 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: We got lights all over the
8 county now. That's good. Okay.

9 Next bill, 1583.

10 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1583, a bill to
11 authorize Talbot County, Maryland, the county,
12 to borrow not more than \$26,900,000 in order to
13 finance and refinance the acquisition,
14 renovation, and/or construction of improvements
15 to and expansion of the Chapel District
16 Elementary School and to effect such borrowing
17 by the issuance and sale of one or more than
18 one series of its general obligation bonds
19 payable from ad valorem taxes to be levied by
20 the county. Exempting the bonds from the
21 provisions of sections 19-205 and 19-206 of the

1 Local Government Article of the Annotated Code
2 of Maryland. Authorizing the consolidation of
3 separate series of bonds into one or more
4 bonds. Authorizing the refunding of such bonds
5 and relating generally to the issuance and sale
6 of such bonds for such purposes.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. At this time, I'm
8 going to go ahead and open it up to the public
9 hearing on 1583. Like I said, three minutes
10 for a single and five minutes for an
11 organization.

12 So anybody would come up and like to talk
13 about 1583? Okay.

14 MR. LESHER: Nobody ever testifies on
15 bonds.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: This is his deal right now.
17 That's his deal. That's his deal.

18 Well, I can comment that the Council is
19 very proud of you, Kevin. You're doing a
20 phenomenal job. This is a big deal for the
21 Chapel School and everything. We're proud to

1 be involved in all that.

2 And you've done excellent keeping us up to
3 speed on everything and trying to keep
4 everything on budget. And we really, really
5 appreciate it. It's huge for the community
6 down there, too.

7 And I see you got a guy beside you here.
8 I see him. He snuck in here on us.

9 Mr. Past President Pack, I see you.

10 MR. PACK: You have my full support.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go, there you go,
12 there you go.

13 Okay. Does anybody need to come up here
14 and talk about 1538?

15 If not, we're eligible for vote.

16 SECRETARY: Third reader. Bring it for
17 third reader.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. For third.

19 MR. LESHER: You're going to close the
20 public hearing.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. I want to close the

1 public hearing, too. Thank you.

2 MR. LESHER: And I move Bill 1583 to third
3 reader.

4 MS. MIELKE: Second.

5 MS. HAYTHE: Second.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and second.
7 Third reader, Madam Secretary.

8 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

10 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

11 MR. STEPP: Aye.

12 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

13 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

14 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

15 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

16 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

17 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sorry. This one's
19 long. Sorry.

20 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1583, a bill to
21 authorize Talbot County, Maryland, the county,

1 to borrow not more than \$26,900,000 in order to
2 finance and refinance the acquisition,
3 renovation, and/or construction of improvements
4 to and expansion of the Chapel District
5 Elementary School and to --

6 MR. LESHER: I move that so much be
7 considered a reading.

8 MS. MIELKE: Here-here.

9 MR. LESHER: If there's no objection.

10 MR. STEPP: I'll give that a second.

11 MR. LESHER: If there's no objection.

12 MS. HAYTHE: No objection.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you
14 call the vote.

15 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

17 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

18 MR. STEPP: Aye.

19 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

20 MR. LESHER: Aye.

21 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

1 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

2 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

3 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job.

5 Okay. Now, we've got Clay's stuff now.

6 Your clock is running or is that the real
7 time?

8 MR. STAMP: So I need to talk fast or slow
9 tonight?

10 Good evening, Council. For your county
11 manager report this evening, I have several
12 things.

13 First, under board and committee
14 appointments, for the Agriculture Resolution
15 Board, we're requesting the reappointment of
16 Robert Greenlee to serve on that board.

17 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve.

18 MR. LESHER: Second.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and second.
20 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

2 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

3 MR. STEPP: Aye.

4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

5 MR. LESHER: Aye.

6 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

7 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

8 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

9 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

10 MR. STAMP: Is Cristy Morrell here?

11 Cristy, could you come up? Thank you.

12 Okay. We have Christy Morrell from
13 Critchlow Adkins Children's Center. She's here
14 requesting a letter of support.

15 I'll let her issue her request to Council,
16 fill in any blanks that she might miss.

17 Christy.

18 MS. MORRELL: Thank you for having us,
19 Council. I just get so nervous when I come up
20 here.

21 We're requesting a letter of support for a

1 legislative bond initiative for our Cordova
2 site expansion project. And we are -- this is
3 approximately a \$2 million project at this
4 point. And we have exactly \$225,000 left to
5 raise, which happens to be the exact amount of
6 the legislative bond initiative request.

7 Kevin Shafer and Talbot County Public
8 Schools have done an amazing job. Our new site
9 looks beautiful. You can see the exterior. If
10 you go to our website, we will double the
11 capacity of before and after care children that
12 we can care for and have a three-year-old
13 classroom that, if and when qualified, we can
14 participate in the Blueprint, Maryland
15 Blueprint expansion, that public private
16 expansion.

17 So we're very excited to be so close to
18 the finish line. And your support will help us
19 get there.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Great. Thank you.

21 MR. STAMP: And again, just to reiterate,

1 there are no county funds that are required.

2 This is just a letter of support.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Do I have a motion?

4 MS. HAYTHE: So before I do the motion to
5 support, I just want to say congrats on
6 Leadership Maryland.

7 MS. MORRELL: Oh, thank you.

8 MS. HAYTHE: And I make a motion to
9 support the letter of support.

10 MR. LESHER: Second.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
12 second for a support letter. Madam Secretary,
13 could you call the vote.

14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

16 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

17 MR. STEPP: Aye.

18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

19 MR. LESHER: Aye.

20 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

21 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

1 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

2 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job.

4 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Christy.

5 MS. MORRELL: Thank you, thank you, thank
6 you.

7 MR. STAMP: Council, I'll invite Mr. Herb
8 Cain to come forward for Upper Shore Aging.
9 They're here to request some additional funds
10 to cover unanticipated costs related to their
11 congregate and Meals on Wheels program.

12 He'll speak to that. I'll fill in where
13 there might be any blanks. Welcome.

14 Oh, Corey. And we have Corey Pack, former
15 president of the Council. I know he misses the
16 county manager report.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: He does. He really does.

18 MR. CAIN: Mr. Pack is the vice president
19 of the Upper Shore Aging Board of Directors.
20 So he's here for support.

21 Good evening, Council. Thank you for

1 hearing me.

2 Upper Shore Aging is required to rebid its
3 food contract every two to three years. And
4 our past food contract expired the end of
5 September 2024.

6 Previously, we had two, two separate
7 vendors. Business Food Solutions was the
8 vendor for Kent and Caroline Counties, and
9 Delmarva Community Services was the vendor for
10 Talbot County.

11 And when I began with Upper Shore Aging in
12 July, I was informed by my senior center
13 director and staff that the quality of the food
14 supplied by Business Food Solutions was below
15 standard and that the seniors in Caroline and
16 Kent County were being served food that was of
17 much lesser quality than the food that was
18 being served to the seniors in Talbot.

19 And they strongly recommended to me that
20 we needed to find a new vendor and not to renew
21 the contract with Business Food Solutions.

1 So when the bids came in, we received
2 three bids. And the bids were sent out, our
3 understanding, that the vendor would supply all
4 three counties.

5 And Business Food Solutions was the lowest
6 bidder at \$6.79 a meal for the congregate meals
7 and \$7.69 a meal for home-delivered meals.

8 Eat Sprout was the middle bid at \$8.50 a
9 meal for both across the board.

10 Delmarva Community Services was the
11 highest bidder at \$10.10 for the congregate
12 meals and \$10.70 for the home-delivered meals.

13 And so we ruled out the low bid due to our
14 previous experience with the low quality food,
15 and we chose to award the bid to Eat Sprout.

16 Our reasonings for that, Eat Sprout is a
17 local company based here in Easton that's known
18 for healthy food options and using organic and
19 locally-produced ingredients.

20 During COVID, Eat Sprout supplied meals
21 for our grab and go program that was run both

1 here in Talbot and my understanding in Caroline
2 County. And I knew that my predecessor, Andy
3 Hollis, and Childlene Brooks, the Brooklet
4 Senior Center manager, had secured funding to
5 restart the grab and go program at Brooklets
6 using Eat Sprout as the food vendor the
7 beginning of the calendar year. And that
8 program has been restarted.

9 So everything indicated to me that the Eat
10 Sprout was the best choice. And that's who we
11 awarded the bid to.

12 Last year, we served 48,260 meals in
13 Talbot County, 6,500 congregate meals at
14 Brooklets, 1,560 congregate meals at Bay
15 Hundred in St. Michaels, and 40,560
16 home-delivered meals at a cost of \$281,619.

17 So that same number of meals, 48,620
18 meals, at the increased cost will total
19 \$413,270. And the difference is an increase of
20 \$131,651.

21 But since the new food contract started in

1 October, the increase for FY26 is 98,738.

2 That's October through June.

3 So I met with Mr. Stamp back in the fall,
4 and we discussed the situation. And in
5 gratitude for the generosity of the Talbot
6 County Council in supporting the operational
7 cost at the Talbot Senior Center, I'm only
8 asking for 60,000 of the \$98,000 increase.

9 Unfortunately, the economic picture is
10 much more dismal now than it was back in the
11 fall with everything that's going on with the
12 State and federal budgeting processes and
13 pauses and whatnot.

14 So I humbly ask that the Council approve
15 this request. And it will be a tremendous help
16 to Upper Shore Aging in meeting its obligations
17 to provide meals to the Talbot seniors for the
18 remainder of the fiscal year.

19 You know, at Upper Shore Aging, the last
20 thing that we want to have to do is to tell
21 people who are receiving meals that we will no

1 longer be able to provide them with meals.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Are you good?

3 MR. PACK: Yeah. I'm good.

4 So certainly, as Herb said, we appreciate
5 all the work that Talbot County Council has
6 done in taking on those additional costs over
7 at Brooklets.

8 One of the things I think Herb and I
9 discussed trying to do is to hold the number
10 going into fiscal 26 and perhaps not take on
11 any new people until we can find out, see our
12 way through this fiscal dilemma we're facing
13 right now.

14 Cutting the amount, the ask back to 60
15 would get us through '25. And if we can hold
16 the numbers going into FY26, we should be able,
17 hopefully be able to get through without coming
18 back to any of the counties.

19 You might want to tell them that Kent also
20 chipped in.

21 MR. CAIN: Yes. Went to Kent. And they

1 gave \$50,000 to cover -- actually their cost
2 for the three-quarters of the year is a little
3 bit more.

4 MR. PACK: So we have gone to other
5 counties as well.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good.

7 Any other comments?

8 MR. LESHER: Just to fill in, Mr. Council
9 President. The request of \$60,000 would come
10 from contingency, and there are adequate funds
11 in the contingency line item for the request.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Okay. Any other
13 questions from Council? Okay.

14 MR. LESHER: I'm the Council's liaison to
15 Upper Shore Aging.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

17 MR. LESHER: I was certainly aware of this
18 process and the rationale for the decision.

19 I appreciate your bringing that rationale
20 to the full Council at this time. I think it's
21 not only important but essential that we

1 support this as identified by our county
2 manager that can come out of contingency.

3 So I'll move for the allocation.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

5 MR. STEPP: 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. Leshner.

14 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

15 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

16 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

17 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

18 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job.

20 MR. CAIN: Thank you, Council.

21 MR. PACK: Thank you.

1 MR. STAMP: Council, the next item I have
2 is from our Roads Department. I'll be standing
3 in for our roads superintendent, Mr. Brian
4 Moore.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

6 MR. STAMP: The Roads Department is
7 seeking Council approval to extend the terms of
8 a bid with Asphalt Emulsion Industries, LLC
9 through the term of June 30, 2026.

10 Terms are \$2.63 per gallon delivered,
11 \$2.98 per gallon delivered and applied for
12 emulsified asphalt.

13 This is an annual request, and we are
14 seeking Council's approval.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Do I have a motion?

16 MR. STEPP: So moved.

17 MR. LESHER: Second.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
19 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
20 vote.

21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

2 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

3 MR. STEPP: Aye.

4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

5 MR. LESHER: Aye.

6 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

7 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

8 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

9 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

10 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.

11 Finally, I would ask Brennan and Ray to
12 come up. We have Public Works and Planning and
13 Zoning. They're requesting Council approval to
14 award a construction management services to
15 Tilghman on the Chesapeake resilient green
16 infrastructure project.

17 And they'll fill you in and I'll fill in
18 wherever they might miss.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

20 MR. CLARKE: Ray Clarke, county engineer
21 again.

1 Council, this is actually a project that
2 our planning office has been working on for
3 quite some time. And we're just here to work
4 with them, working to basically hire Lane
5 Engineering through our open-ended engineering
6 services agreement. It was bid under 22-08.

7 The estimated amount that was budgeted for
8 these services was \$110,000. Lane has provided
9 us with a proposal of \$100,500.

10 And so we're making the request that the
11 County Council award this work, basically the
12 bidding and construction management, to Lane
13 Engineering for \$100,500.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any?

15 MR. TARLETON: Good evening, Council.
16 Brennan Tarleton with the Department of
17 Planning and Zoning.

18 I just wanted to say thank you to Ray and
19 his team for helping us out expediting this
20 process.

21 We came before you a number of times with

1 the award of these grants that basically
2 covered the funding to allow this project to
3 move forward in the amount of \$1.4 million
4 between DNR's Wildlife Inheritance (sic.)
5 Program and National Fish and Wildlife Service.

6 Through the process of the design, we
7 assisted and worked with the community a great
8 deal.

9 At this point moving forward with the
10 construction phase, obviously we needed the
11 assistance of our engineering team to help us
12 get this project out to bid.

13 Based on the construction timeline outline
14 for the actual work that needs to be completed,
15 it would have to take place within the timeline
16 of October '25 to April of '26. So getting all
17 of these moving parts in line to really
18 commence construction and get this project
19 moving forward and ultimately to fruition is
20 very important for us and very important for
21 that community.

1 And I just wanted to say thank you to Ray
2 and his team and thanks to my team for offering
3 the support as well in moving this project,
4 this relatively unique project forward that
5 will hopefully serve as a future example for
6 other county projects for coastal resiliency.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right.

8 MR. STAMP: No additions.

9 MR. LESHER: This project is, this is
10 essentially a living shoreline?

11 MR. TARLETON: Yes. It's essentially,
12 it's a living shoreline with there's also a
13 planted meadow component to it.

14 But there's also some interesting things
15 like oyster breaks included to reduce the wave
16 action along the shoreline, with added
17 components, such as a dune with planted grasses
18 on it which will serve as kind of like a
19 sacrificial marsh area, so to speak.

20 So as the marsh slowly creeps back, that
21 dune will fill back in the marsh naturally and

1 allow that to retain itself over time instead
2 of just washing out completely.

3 MR. LESHER: And this is -- you spoke
4 about the grant funds. This is entirely
5 covered by those grant funds, no county funds
6 are required for this project?

7 MR. TARLETON: Yes, that's correct.

8 MR. LESHER: I'll move approval of the
9 bid.

10 MS. HAYTHE: Second.

11 MR. STEPP: Second.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
13 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
14 vote.

15 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

17 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

18 MR. STEPP: Aye.

19 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

20 MR. LESHER: Aye.

21 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

1 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

2 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

3 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

4 MR. CLARKE: Thank you.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good, guys. Good
6 job.

7 MR. TARLETON: Thank you.

8 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council. That
9 completes your county manager report for this
10 evening. Thank you.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds good.
12 Okay.

13 Next on the agenda is public comment.
14 Could you guys go check and see if there's a
15 list? That would be great.

16 MS. HAYTHE: Can you just let everybody
17 know that wants to speak, they have to sign up?

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, yeah.

19 MS. HAYTHE: (Indiscernible.)

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, once we get past the
21 list, anybody else can come up. We have to get

1 past the list.

2 MR. STEPP: Hey, Chuck. You got someone
3 with their hand up.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Huh?

5 MR. STEPP: You got somebody with their
6 hand up. I'm not sure if they want to speak
7 now.

8 SPEAKER: I just have a clarification
9 question. Sorry.

10 Based on the earlier vote, are the vote
11 for the resolution that Councilman Stepp
12 brought forward is not going to be voted on
13 tonight, it will move to a further meeting.
14 Correct?

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Correct.

16 SPEAKER: Okay. Great. I just wanted to
17 make sure. Thank you.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

19 SPEAKER: So can I just ask one more
20 question?

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

1 SPEAKER: So as Ms. Haythe had suggested,
2 wait until we see how the federal thing shakes
3 out to see whether it's necessary to even visit
4 this again or is it going to be -- when will it
5 be brought up for a vote again?

6 MR. CALLAHAN: We'll give you ample enough
7 time when we feel, the Council feels like it
8 needs to be put back on the table and come to
9 vote.

10 SPEAKER: Okay.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, though. Thank
12 you.

13 SPEAKER: Can someone call for the vote?

14 MR. CALLAHAN: We've tabled it at this
15 time.

16 MS. HAYTHE: So Patrick, a question for
17 you. If it's been tabled but we didn't set a
18 date, would we be able to vote on it after
19 public comment?

20 MR. THOMAS: No. It's been tabled. So
21 you can't.

1 MS. HAYTHE: Okay.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Right.

3 (Cross talk from the public.)

4 MS. HAYTHE: Yes.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

6 MR. STAMP: We haven't opened it yet.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Are you first? Go
8 ahead.

9 MR. LESHER: Do you want to take this in
10 order of those that signed up first?

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Did you sign up
12 first?

13 SPEAKER: Pardon me?

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Did you sign up first?

15 SPEAKER: Oh, okay.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yeah. No, no, no.

17 MR. STAMP: He's got a list.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: I've got a list, sir. I've
19 got a list.

20 MR. LESHER: And we'll provide an
21 opportunity.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: And we'll call you up.

2 SPEAKER: Okay.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

4 SPEAKER: Clarification, then. So if we
5 have not yet signed up for public comment
6 opportunity, it's no longer possible?

7 MR. CALLAHAN: No, no. I'm going to give
8 you time. I'm going to call --

9 SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. Yes, ma'am. I'm
11 going to call the list and then ask anybody
12 else that wants to come up. Yup.

13 MS. HAYTHE: They didn't know.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: That's okay.

15 MS. HAYTHE: They didn't know that the
16 list was outside.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem, no problem.
18 Okay. All right.

19 So first on the list.

20 MR. LESHER: Council President has opened
21 this up for public comment.

1 We do honor those who signed up in advance
2 first.

3 And the first name on the list is Ray
4 Careo. Mr. Careo.

5 MR. CAREO: I'm going to defer my comments
6 given postponement.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the list.

8 MR. LESHER: Next is E. Dickens Bishop.

9 MS. HAYTHE: I want to hear that comment.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. They're not here.

11 MR. LESHER: Dickens Bishop.

12 Next on the list is Regina Whitesell.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

14 MR. LESHER: If not present, then next on
15 the list is Rebecca Ellison.

16 MS. ELLISON: I was going to speak on
17 this, but I did write you a lengthy letter.

18 I would like to speak after this topic is
19 over on a different topic, if that's alright.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: You can submit the letter,
21 too, to us, unless you already have.

1 MS. ELLISON: I already have.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: You already have. Okay.

3 MR. LESHER: This is open public comment.
4 You're not bound by a topic.

5 MR. STEPP: You can talk about anything
6 you want.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. You can come on up.

8 MS. ELLISON: All right. Well, some of
9 you may know me. Rebecca Ellison, Oxford,
10 Maryland.

11 I've been following the Trappe situation
12 very closely. I was pretty surprised to see
13 what was on your agenda tonight about the Paris
14 Foods Corp.

15 And my -- I'm speaking because I don't
16 think you have all the information, that some
17 of us have a lot of information. And, of
18 course, no one knew that this was going to come
19 up as a topic.

20 And in fact, I think that there was a time
21 I used to send out newsletters regularly with a

1 lot of -- too many words, information,
2 attachments.

3 And I believe that some of my own
4 newsletters that were sent to you have a great
5 deal of information about that at its first
6 inception, the first that I heard about it
7 before it happened. It wasn't after the fact.
8 It was before the fact.

9 So I don't know what would be appropriate
10 at this time. I couldn't tell if this is
11 questioning that's completed or if it's going
12 to go forward. But I think there's a lot you
13 probably would need to know if you want to know
14 everything.

15 That sounds dumb; doesn't it?

16 MR. CALLAHAN: No, no, no. I understand.

17 MS. ELLISON: So I don't know what the
18 vehicle. If you're taking more comments, I
19 would love to have a chance to know what the
20 arguments are and bring papers.

21 I don't have a dog in the hunt, as they

1 say. But I might have some answer to a
2 question.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, I appreciate your
4 comments, and we'll take them --

5 MS. ELLISON: As I say, I may have already
6 sent you information that you don't realize you
7 have.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. And we'll read what
9 you wrote us. That would be great. Thank you.

10 MS. ELLISON: Oh, thank you.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next.

12 MR. LESHER: Next is Brennan Kelly.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

14 MR. LESHER: If not, Dr. James Kelly.

15 Next is Robin Strickoff.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Just a reminder, our clock
17 is right there. Three minutes.

18 MS. STRICKOFF: I was going to say good
19 afternoon, but it's really good evening.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: I know it. Yeah.

21 MS. STRICKOFF: And thank you for this

1 opportunity to address you. I really do
2 appreciate it.

3 Years ago, I was here in this chair. And
4 at that time, your county manager reported on
5 your diversity metrics. And there was
6 congratulations, both from staff, as well as
7 from Council members at that time. It wasn't
8 that long ago.

9 So I ask each of you what has changed?

10 I will be quoting from your diversity,
11 equity, and inclusion statement.

12 Do you no longer think it's important
13 that, quote, every individual is valued, end of
14 quote?

15 Do you no longer value a work environment
16 that fosters, quote, respect, understanding,
17 acceptance of differences, end of quote, an
18 environment, quote, that optimizes the quality
19 of services to our residents?

20 You acknowledge in your words that what
21 takes place in a work environment transcends

1 into the community, and in this case, to the
2 services that's provided to community members.

3 Why have a diversity, equity, and
4 inclusion statement? Again, I defer to your
5 incredibly visionary comments. Quote, the
6 county must move forward toward a culture of
7 diversity, equity, and inclusion, thereby
8 increasing the consciousness and appreciation
9 of differences associated with the heritage,
10 characteristics, and values of many different
11 groups, as well as increasing the respect for
12 the uniqueness of each and every individual,
13 end of quote. Your words, not mine.

14 In closing, your words, quote, Talbot
15 County expects employees to treat others with
16 dignity and respect at all times, end of quote.

17 So I ask you again. What has changed?
18 What has changed in five years? Thank you.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

20 MR. LESHER: Next is Jim Bent.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. I don't think Jim's

1 here.

2 MR. LESHAR: If not, next is Corey Pack.

3 MR. PACK: I'm here. Good evening,
4 Council.

5 I guess I can start off with what the
6 last --

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Could you introduce
8 yourself, Corey?

9 MR. PACK: Introduce myself. My name is
10 Corey Pack. I'm a resident of Easton.

11 I can pick up right off where the last
12 speaker just spoke. What has changed over the
13 last five years here in Talbot County and with
14 you all?

15 I'm sure there's different people in the
16 seats, and that's diversity at work here.

17 But the diversity statement doesn't -- it
18 just memorializes, if you would, what the
19 intensions are here in Talbot County, to be
20 respectful of each other, to make sure that
21 those persons who are coming in our doors

1 understand this is what we stand for.

2 The fact that we ask the county manager to
3 do a diversity report once a year as far as
4 what each department may or may not be doing
5 regarding diversity, it's just so he can inform
6 you all as to what's going on within the
7 various departments.

8 You have a lot on your plate each and
9 every day, each and every month. And I know
10 that.

11 So hearing that report just to inform you
12 as to what's going on.

13 If you believe in diversity, if you
14 believe in a workforce that treats each other
15 well, why not put that into a statement for all
16 to see?

17 Regarding the funding thing that
18 Councilman Stepp spoke about, I can't find it,
19 either, Mr. Leshner. I don't know where he's
20 pulling that down from. But there's nothing
21 that comes down. I've even spoken to your

1 county manager about it as well, that says
2 you're going to lose any funding by having a
3 diversity statement currently in place.

4 So I think that's a moot point. A red
5 herring, if you would, just to drum up action.
6 But there's nothing right now that says you're
7 going to lose anything by having a diversity
8 statement in place and by saying to your
9 employees we want everyone to treat each other
10 fair and equal and make sure that any new
11 employees who may be considering Talbot County
12 as a place to work understand this is what you
13 stand for and this is what you will and will
14 not accept when it comes to diversity and
15 equality.

16 So I understand that Ms. Haythe tabling
17 this and basically putting it aside for a
18 period of time. I hope it stays there and just
19 dies a slow death. I would have liked to have
20 seen the beast killed tonight, but that's me.

21 But anyway, I thank you for your time. I

1 thank you for hearing me.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Appreciate it.

3 MR. LESHER: Tom Dennis.

4 MR. DENNIS: Thank you. Tom Dennis. I'm
5 a resident of Cookes Hope here in Easton. I've
6 appeared before you a couple of times. Thank
7 you for the opportunity to share some comments.

8 Candidly, having spent 35 years as a
9 lobbyist in Washington working on federal
10 programs my entire career, and understanding
11 the law at a fairly high level, I'm kind of
12 astonished that this resolution would even be
13 before the Council for some different reasons.

14 Were this adopted today, and again, I'm
15 not privy to any of the legal analysis that the
16 county attorney may have provided in support of
17 this, but in my opinion, we would be in
18 violation of the Civil Rights Act, the American
19 for Disabilities Act, and other programs that
20 require, not just -- they mandate diversity and
21 inclusion.

1 We're in -- this is not a steady state
2 we're in. This is a dynamic world that's been
3 turned upside down. And if anybody here is so
4 good that they can predict what's going to
5 happen in federal law, boy, I'll be joining
6 you. No one is that smart.

7 I think the economic consequences here are
8 astounding because we could actually lose
9 federal funding by having such a resolution
10 adopted.

11 So I would ask you to look at this, not
12 just from a legal point of view, look at it in
13 terms of Title 9, Title 6, losing funding for
14 schools.

15 If you could tell me, Mr. Stepp, that you
16 know that, in fact, any entity that has DEI
17 language that's going to lose federal funding,
18 I'd be surprised.

19 The economic disadvantages to the
20 community here need to be assessed. And I
21 would hope that you would provide to the public

1 the legal analysis that supported this,
2 including the points I've referenced regarding
3 federal funding.

4 And with respect to the idea that this
5 resolution could not be brought up unless there
6 are some different kind of rules regarding the
7 procedures here, under Robert's Rules of Order,
8 that resolution can be brought back up even
9 though it's tabled, because you've already had
10 another point of business decided.

11 So if the Council would like to take it
12 up, you can do so, unless the county attorney
13 tells me that you operate under a different set
14 of rules.

15 Anyway, thank you for the opportunity to
16 comment.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

18 MR. LESHER: Leonard Palmer.

19 MR. PALMER: Good evening, Council.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.

21 MR. PALMER: My name is Mr. Leonard L.E.

1 Palmer, Sr.

2 I am calling, I'm here to speak in regards
3 to the diversity statement.

4 I don't know much about the economics, but
5 I do know much about the personal. If you say
6 that you value individuals when the economy is
7 good for you, and then you say I'm not sure
8 about how much we value when the economy is bad
9 for you, do you really value the individuals?

10 As a pastor, no matter what anyone says to
11 me or what anyone does to me, I have a duty, a
12 duty to seek (indiscernible) to see the God
13 within them, to respect them, for they are all
14 created by our Lord and savior.

15 The value we put on another's life is the
16 same value we should ask ourselves would we
17 like to be judged on and have our lives placed.

18 What amount of money is worth your
19 dignity? What amount of money is worth tossing
20 people aside as if there is no value to them?

21 Just because our federal government might

1 be out of its mind does not mean that we have
2 to be as well.

3 I hope that we can look at each other and
4 see the value of our differences, the value
5 that we all bring to the table. And even if we
6 disagree, does not mean that we have to be
7 disagreeable.

8 Thank you for your time.

9 MR. LESHER: Richard Potter, Richard
10 Potter.

11 MR. POTTER: Good evening.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.

13 MR. POTTER: Let me thank the Council for
14 the opportunity to come before you tonight to
15 speak on the administration resolution to
16 abandon the D, E, and I statement.

17 I sat there outside and I did hear the
18 comments from Council Member Stepp, but I also
19 heard a lot of misguided information in those
20 comments.

21 And someone having spent 20 years of doing

1 diversity, equity, and inclusion work
2 throughout the public schools, higher
3 education, State government, I think it's
4 important that you understand that diversity,
5 equity, inclusion efforts are foundational in
6 creating environments where every individual
7 feels valued, respected, and empowered to
8 contribute their unique perspectives.

9 The purpose of D, E, and I initiatives is
10 to dismantle systemic barriers but foster a
11 culture of belonging and ensure equitable
12 opportunities for all regardless of their
13 background.

14 The significance of D, E, and I lies in
15 the ability to drive innovation, enhance
16 decision-making, and improve organizational
17 performance by bringing together diverse voices
18 and experiences. By prioritizing diversity,
19 equity, and inclusion, organizations not only
20 reflect their communities they serve, but also
21 cultivate more dynamic and resilient workforce.

1 Diversity, equity, and inclusion
2 initiatives aims to level the playing field,
3 provide access to resources and opportunities
4 that may have been previously inaccessible.

5 Ultimately, diversity, equity, and
6 inclusion efforts enrich the collective
7 experience and success of all individuals
8 within an organization, fostering a more
9 inclusive and just society.

10 That is the truth about diversity, equity,
11 and inclusion. And if that's what you want to
12 have as a workforce in Talbot County, there's
13 no reason why to do away with the statement.
14 If anything, we need to put more teeth to the
15 statement and create opportunities for
16 individuals like yourself to feel comfortable
17 in picking up the phone and calling someone
18 like myself to have a real conversation about
19 diversity, equity, and inclusion, instead of
20 listening to what happens and transpiring in
21 our world as we see it.

1 As it relates to doing the right thing, I
2 would ask this Council to vote tonight on the
3 matter, and which, and which it can be done.
4 According to Robert's Rules of Order, the
5 newly-revised 12th edition, section 34, the
6 motion can be reopened if this Council deems
7 necessary.

8 And based upon the information that we
9 heard about the funding, the State of Maryland
10 has already made the decision that they're not
11 doing away with their D, E, and I initiatives.
12 So if the State is not doing away with it,
13 don't we think that they would be hit first
14 with the funding before it gets down to Talbot?
15 Most of our funding comes from the State.

16 So the information that we gave tonight,
17 let's have dialogue so that when you come back,
18 you can present that correct information.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

20 MR. POTTER: Because I will be here to
21 challenge the wrong information.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Potter.

2 MR. POTTER: Thank you.

3 MR. LESHER: And the last one on the list
4 is Jim Bruce.

5 MR. BRUCE: I'm Jim Bruce. I'm a resident
6 of St. Michaels.

7 The label DEI encompasses a wide array of
8 programs. But the two county resolutions, by
9 their words, are aimed -- that are proposed to
10 be repealed, by their words are aimed at a very
11 narrow and laudable result, to improve the
12 awareness of county employees about the
13 diversity of those who live here so the county
14 can better serve the public.

15 It's not about hiring. It's not about
16 hiring employees who are diverse. Instead,
17 it's to simply make those aware who are hired
18 about the diversity of the county.

19 That may explain why none of the county
20 employees have objected under this issue. It
21 didn't cover that. It wasn't about them.

1 Some may believe that President Trump's
2 Executive Orders require action by the Council
3 to eliminate all the DEI programs. They do
4 not.

5 Constitutionally, the President has no
6 direct jurisdiction over our County Council and
7 its DEI resolutions, especially with a mere
8 Executive Order.

9 Congress has not changed any law on DEI.
10 Maryland State law has no mandate for
11 diversity. They leave it up to the counties.

12 And so if it's in your discretion as to
13 what you do, if you repeal these resolutions,
14 it will be seen as a very deliberate volitional
15 act, not as a result of any mandate.

16 Further, even if President Trump did have
17 direct jurisdiction over counties, the orders
18 on DEI by their terms do not appear to apply to
19 us. They apply to the military, the federal
20 agencies, and federal contractors. There is
21 some application to federal grantees

1 potentially, but only to the extent that the
2 grants funded are DEI, DEIA, or environmental
3 justice programs since January 20, 2021.

4 In other words, the Congress -- the
5 federal government cannot appropriate monies to
6 the states and counties, which they've
7 certainly done broadly, and then yank them
8 because there's some policy, some Executive
9 Order that they didn't like. There has to be
10 some connection between that Executive Order
11 and what the money is that's being yanked.

12 So what that really means is there's no
13 reason to wait for the courts to resolve the
14 legality of these resolutions because whether
15 they're lawful or not, they don't apply to the
16 resolutions that we have before us.

17 So I urge the Council to retain these DEI
18 resolutions. Thank you.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

20 MR. LESHER: Mr. Callahan, that is the
21 extent of those who signed up in advance.

1 So you can open the floor to those who
2 have not signed up.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yes, sir. Come on
4 up.

5 MR. PARKS: I'm Steve Parks. I'm in
6 Easton.

7 And I came here tonight in response to
8 Councilman Stepp's proposal to dump the DEI
9 resolutions passed by this Council in 2020.

10 And it seemed -- I didn't know that also,
11 among your items for this meeting was and I
12 found it very ironic compared to the proposal
13 to drop DEI altogether, that we recognize the
14 Water's Edge Museum in Oxford for it's fitting
15 in perfectly with the spirit of those
16 resolutions.

17 And I was very happy to see it turns out
18 there was cooperation among the Council,
19 especially after Congresswoman (sic.) Haythe
20 mentioned that we could table it for now.

21 On the other hand, I did hear some people

1 suggesting we could reopen the vote. And from
2 comments I heard earlier, I think it would be
3 defeated.

4 But I commend Councilman Stepp for
5 agreeing to table it for now because there's no
6 connection between -- there's nothing in the
7 resolutions passed by the Council that requires
8 them to fund anything or demand hiring of any
9 certain type of people.

10 So it's, you know, it's not in violation
11 of anything I think the federal government
12 could enforce.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, sir.

14 This gentleman, you like to come up? Yes,
15 sir. Come on up.

16 If somebody could move that chair for him,
17 I'd appreciate it.

18 MR. LOPEZ: I've heard a lot here
19 regarding the practical and legal implications
20 of the decision to remove the diversity
21 statement.

1 MR. LESHER: Would you like to introduce
2 yourself?

3 MR. LOPEZ: Oh, sorry. My name is Ian
4 Lopez. I'm a citizen here, born and raised.

5 I would like to (indiscernible)
6 underpinning of the rationale behind this
7 decision.

8 It is ultimately discussion of whether or
9 not the government has the right, has the moral
10 and legal right to -- sorry.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Just take your time.

12 MR. LOPEZ: I went off script. I'm just
13 going to go back on script.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem. Take your
15 time.

16 MR. LOPEZ: That's fine.

17 Freedom is not and never should be for
18 sale. That is ultimately what you're deciding
19 on, if a self-proclaimed king can buy rights.

20 You may think me hyperbolic. But remember
21 who they came for first. And what happens when

1 they finally come for you?

2 Give me liberty or give me death. Thank
3 you.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, sir.

5 Okay. Next.

6 MS. ORBIN: My name is Cindy Orban. And
7 full disclosure. Council Member Stepp is my
8 most excellent next door neighbor. And we have
9 a wonderful neighbor relationship, but I have
10 to say on this issue we could not be farther
11 apart.

12 I was born and raised in Talbot County.
13 Attended and graduated from Talbot County
14 schools. I am very, very proud of Talbot
15 County. I love Talbot County, except for one
16 part of Talbot's history, which is, in my
17 lifetime, and as you can tell, I've been around
18 a while.

19 It was 12 years after Brown versus Board
20 of Education before Talbot County chose --
21 decided to integrate schools. That was my

1 sophomore year in high school.

2 So I grew to be that old without having
3 the benefit of black men, young men and young
4 women in my class to get to know in those
5 years.

6 The second I think black mark on our
7 county in this issue is the move the monument.
8 If I'm correct, beginning in 2015, it took
9 years and years and the effort of I'm sure many
10 of those sitting behind me, and perhaps some of
11 you, to move that Confederate boys monument
12 from right in front of this building, where
13 anyone and everyone passing through the doors
14 had to look at it.

15 And some of us, who look like me, might
16 not have paid much attention. But there
17 certainly were many, many of those who don't
18 look like me for whom that was very harmful.

19 And now I can only say I am beyond
20 disappointed. I am grieved. I am heartsick
21 that in 2025 we are in this room, Council

1 members are sitting in their positions, and we
2 are actually having a conversation about taking
3 a massive step backwards. It does grieve me.

4 I love Talbot County. It's my home. But
5 in this particular part of Talbot's history --
6 and I have to tell you it's only been as an
7 adult that I have learned more about other
8 aspects of Talbot County history which are
9 equally shameful and more shameful. This --
10 please.

11 I'm sorry. I see my time is up. Thank
12 you.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

14 MS. WHITE: Good evening. My name is
15 Megan White.

16 And I will first start by speaking on
17 behalf of Shore Rivers. As it sounds, like
18 from earlier, you are familiar with us. But
19 we're an environmental non-profit dedicated to
20 the protection and restoration of Eastern Shore
21 waterways through science-based advocacy,

1 restoration, outreach, and education. And this
2 includes --

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Could you slow down for me?

4 MS. WHITE: Oh, yes. I'm sorry. I
5 apologize. I do talk very fast.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: I know you do. Thank you.

7 MS. WHITE: One of the values that we have
8 reaffirmed the last few months is our
9 commitment to environmental justice.

10 And as you all have received a letter from
11 myself and other members of the Talbot Equity
12 Coalition, I just want to reiterate that letter
13 and just one important aspect of that.

14 DEI initiatives and programming has
15 brought economic value and money to Talbot
16 County.

17 Shore Rivers alone has invested hundreds
18 of hours and thousands of grant dollars into
19 the natural landscape of Talbot County by
20 planting trees, implementing storm water
21 management practices that were all grant funded

1 by the State and federal government
2 specifically for underserved and marginalized
3 communities.

4 We have been receiving DEI-related funding
5 that has been going directly back into the
6 community.

7 This means that DEI goes far beyond just a
8 statement. We want to make sure that as a
9 county, we are reaffirming that commitment in
10 all facets of what we do.

11 Additionally, this was not mentioned in
12 the letter, but I'm happy to send this brief to
13 you all via email. But on February 13th, a
14 legal brief from multiple states, including the
15 Attorney General of Maryland, created a brief
16 kind of guiding municipalities, nonprofits on
17 what to do during this unprecedented time
18 against attacking DEI.

19 And there are three big conclusions that
20 this brief mentioned.

21 The first one is that the Executive Order

1 is illegal.

2 The second one is that the federal
3 government does not have legal authority to
4 issue the Executive Order against the states
5 like this.

6 And then furthermore, maintaining DEI A are
7 in line with existing State and federal laws.

8 So, again, all of the DEI that exists
9 within our county is legal, and the federal
10 government is overstepping by trying to impede
11 this.

12 I also just want to take a quick -- my
13 last minute, take a step back and talk more
14 personally.

15 As a queer woman who lives on the Eastern
16 Shore and lives in this community, I'm scared.
17 I'm, quite frankly, terrified by all that is
18 happening on the federal level.

19 When people in my community or anyone is
20 experiencing that fear on a federal level, they
21 look to their communities for support.

1 And quite frankly, as I've been looking
2 towards my community, all I've -- and by
3 community, I mean the Eastern Shore and Talbot
4 County. What I'm being greeted with is
5 disrespect, rejection, exclusion.

6 It is so important that this Council
7 reaffirms their commitment to DEI for people
8 like me, for other marginalized communities,
9 and show that they are valued members of this
10 community. Thank you.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Anybody else like to come
12 up?

13 MS. DAPPERT: Good evening. My name is
14 Michelle Dappert. And I would like to thank the
15 Council for the opportunity to speak tonight on
16 retaining the two DEI or diversity equity
17 initiatives that passed unanimously by the
18 former County Council in 2020.

19 In fact, I was very proud that day when it
20 passed unanimously.

21 And as others have said tonight, I am

1 deeply troubled by the implications we would
2 send of -- if we hadn't had this in the first
3 place, that's one thing. But the fact we have
4 it and then we would take it away sends a very
5 distressing message I would believe if I was at
6 an organization, that they no longer supported
7 the goals that are so laudable in those
8 statements.

9 In those statements, it basically laid out
10 that we recognized as a County Council that we,
11 that Talbot County is a wonderfully diverse
12 place, that recognizing that diversity enables
13 better public service, and diversity training
14 is a valuable tool to improve that public
15 service.

16 They're very simple statements. I'm very
17 distressed, as many have said, that we would
18 have to have a conversation about why those are
19 important. But on the other hand, 200 years
20 ago we felt the need to state that all men are
21 created equal.

1 There is a value to continue to reaffirm
2 that founding principle of our country. And so
3 I would urge everyone here to retain these
4 resolutions and to continue to fight for those
5 fundamental values of our country. Thank you.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yes. Come on up.

7 MS. JONES: Good evening, Council Members.
8 I'm Tina Gross Jones. My pronouns are she and
9 her, which I proudly declare. And I am a
10 resident of Talbot County.

11 I also serve as the co-founder and the
12 chair of Delmarva Pride Center, I serve on the
13 Governor's Commission for LGBTQ Plus Affairs.
14 My comments tonight are mine personally.

15 I've already sent two letters to this
16 Council expressing my views.

17 I have a very unique perspective I
18 believe. Being a transgendered woman who has
19 lived my entire life in this county, I have
20 seen the benefits of privilege, of being
21 perceived as a white heterosexual cisgender

1 man.

2 Because of those privileges, I have been
3 called on by this Council, itself, to serve on
4 committees and actually chaired them for this
5 county.

6 I've also seen what happens when you
7 actually express who you truly are. And you
8 suffer job loss and you suffer from wage losses
9 and you suffer from any invitation to serve on
10 anything, to being ex-communicated from
11 churches. These are all things that happened.

12 What we are talking about here are
13 people's lives.

14 Council Member Stepp, this policy applies
15 to a lot more than just employees. It's a
16 message to all residents of this county. Don't
17 be mistaken that by taking this away, you are
18 going to put people in harm's way.

19 All the LGBTQ, anti-LGBTQ laws that have
20 been proposed, just proposed in the last year
21 in states where they have been implemented at

1 all, we have seen increases, increases in the
2 rates of suicide attempts, anywhere from 70 to
3 72 percent. We are talking about people's
4 lives. Please think about this.

5 I have buried a child who was a member of
6 the LGBTQ community because of the lack of
7 respect and, quite honestly, the hate that was
8 directed upon them because the reality is when
9 you say DEI doesn't matter, it says to other
10 folks it's fair game on these people now. And
11 it's time to stop it.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Okay.

14 Does anybody else like to come up? All
15 right.

16 So we'll go ahead and wrap things up
17 tonight. Next on the agenda is Council
18 comments.

19 MS. HAYTHE: Can I just do one thing?

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

21 MS. HAYTHE: It is my understanding that

1 we do not -- well, I'm not going to say we
2 don't operate by Robert Rules of Order. But
3 this specific item requires us to follow the
4 rules of procedures, which we can suspend as
5 Council.

6 So before we go into comments, I want to
7 make a motion to suspend the rules of procedure
8 to bring the resolution back to the floor.

9 MS. MIELKE: Second.

10 MR. STAMP: Mr. Council President, would
11 you just, would you want to take a minute to
12 have Patrick just explain the landscape?

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. That's what I would
14 like to do. Yes.

15 MR. STAMP: -- motion.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.

17 MR. THOMAS: So just to clarify, so under
18 the Council's rules of procedure, when a
19 resolution has been laid on the table, it
20 cannot be again taken up for consideration
21 during the remainder of the meeting.

1 However, the Council does have the ability
2 to suspend its rules, in whole or in part, by a
3 vote of four members of the Council.

4 So if there's a second to Ms. Haythe's
5 motion and it passes by at least four votes,
6 then you can take it off the table and proceed
7 to vote on it this evening.

8 Otherwise, it can't be acted on tonight.
9 It would have to wait until another meeting.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So we have to have
11 four?

12 MS. HAYTHE: Yes.

13 MR. THOMAS: Yes.

14 MS. HAYTHE: Super majority.

15 MR. LESHER: We have a motion and second.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Got a motion and
17 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
18 vote.

19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: No.

21 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

1 MR. STEPP: No.

2 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

3 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

4 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

5 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

6 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

7 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Okay. Back on the
9 floor.

10 SPEAKER: Shame on you. Shame on you.

11 SPEAKER: Shame. Shame.

12 SPEAKER: Shame.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Hold up now.

14 We're respecting you. You respect us.
15 Okay. Please.

16 (Cross talk.)

17 MS. HAYTHE: So we can put it on the
18 agenda for the next meeting? It can go on the
19 next meeting, right? I think that's what Dave
20 was proposing.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Want to do the next

1 meeting?

2 MS. HAYTHE: If he's -- yeah. I think --
3 yeah. Yeah, next meeting.

4 MR. STEPP: As far as I know, it's still
5 tabled.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. So we'll do it next
7 meeting?

8 MR. STEPP: Yeah.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Do it next meeting. Okay.
10 We'll go ahead and bring this to the next
11 meeting. All right.

12 So what we'll do tonight, okay, Council
13 comment.

14 MS. HAYTHE: So just to explain that.
15 Next meeting, this item will be on the agenda.
16 And it will go through the normal motions and
17 it would just be a regular vote, so a majority
18 vote.

19 SPEAKER: When is the next meeting?

20 MS. HAYTHE: March 11th.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: March 11th.

1 SPEAKER: Back here.

2 SPEAKER: We are not going away.

3 SPEAKER: I have a question.

4 SPEAKER: Still shame on you.

5 SPEAKER: Under the rules, could Mr. Stepp
6 withdraw his original?

7 SPEAKER: That's not going to happen.

8 (Cross talk.)

9 SPEAKER: Not table it. Withdraw it. Is
10 Mr. Stepp allowed to do that in this
11 proceeding?

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. He could.

13 SPEAKER: Okay. Well.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: He could.

15 SPEAKER: Well.

16 MR. STEPP: You're just saying withdraw it
17 altogether?

18 SPEAKER: Yes.

19 SPEAKER: Yes.

20 MR. STEPP: No, I'm not going to do that.

21 MS. HAYTHE: So we're still under Council

1 comments.

2 I just wanted to make sure that everybody
3 understood what would happen next.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.

5 MS. HAYTHE: Just for clarity,
6 transparency.

7 So thank you all for coming in tonight.
8 It has been a long night.

9 I'm going to conclude my comments right
10 there so I can get home to my family.

11 God bless you all. Thank you so much.

12 SPEAKER: Thank you.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

14 MS. MIELKE: I think I made my comments
15 clear tonight.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

17 MR. LESHER: I just want to express my
18 gratitude to the community for your engagement
19 this evening, for your heartfelt words. I
20 truly appreciate the turnout. I truly
21 appreciate your words. I truly appreciate the

1 meaning behind them. Thank you, all.

2 SPEAKER: Thank you.

3 SPEAKER: Thank you.

4 MR. STEPP: I'll just say the same thing
5 to everyone. Thank you for coming out. Thank
6 you for sharing your thoughts. That's how this
7 is designed to work. Thank you.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay.

9 You want to go ahead?

10 MR. LESHER: You have nothing further?

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Nope.

12 MR. LESHER: The County Council's next
13 meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11th,
14 beginning at 5 o'clock p.m. The Council will
15 be convening in open session at 2 o'clock p.m.
16 for a fiscal year 26 budget work session and
17 then adjourning into closed session as listed
18 on the statement for closing that meeting.

19 On --

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Excuse me. Excuse me.

21 We're just still having a meeting here.

1 MR. LESHER: On Tuesday, March 4th, at
2 4 o'clock p.m., the Council will be meeting for
3 a fiscal year 26 budget work session. The
4 meeting will be held in the Bradley Meeting
5 Room here and is open to the public.

6 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn
7 this meeting and reconvene as noted?

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

9 MS. HAYTHE: So moved.

10 MR. STEPP: Second.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
12 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
13 vote.

14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

16 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

17 MR. STEPP: Aye.

18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

19 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

20 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

21 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

1 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

2 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thanks a lot for
4 coming.

5 (Meeting concluded at: 7:37 p.m.)

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STATE OF MARYLAND

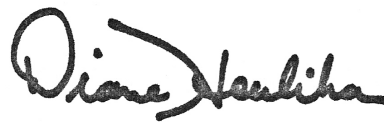
I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and for the State of Maryland, County of Baltimore City, do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot County Council Audio, personally appeared before me at the time and place herein set according to law, was interrogated by counsel.

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

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

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

AS WITNESS my hand Notorial Seal this 3rd day of March, 2025, at Easton, MD.



Diane Houlihan
Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2025

[& - 366]

Page 1

&	14 66:4	20 160:21	22 75:6
& 55:21 56:10 82:13 85:20	14th 3:10 74:10	166:3	22-08 138:6
1	15 33:2	200 177:19	225,000 126:4
1 8:14,14 9:7	15.8 71:21	2001 20:17	23 66:4
11:14,14 12:15	1538 121:14	2007 97:8	24-25 30:7
14:15 16:14,19	1580 110:21	100:21	24/7/365 72:8
17:5,12,12	111:2,11	2015 171:8	25 1:7 133:15
20:21 26:8,14	112:11 113:10	2016 84:16	139:16
82:11,12 89:17	1581 114:5,7	2020 28:16	250 92:20
95:21,21	115:4 116:2	66:4,4 71:18	93:10
1,560 131:14	1582 117:1,2	167:9 176:18	25th 4:3 31:19
1.4 139:3	117:10,17	2021 6:13 7:1	38:7 44:4
10.10 130:11	118:14	8:3,12,16	26 51:13
10.70 130:12	1583 119:9,10	10:12,16 11:1	133:10 139:16
100 28:9	120:9,13 122:2	18:16 20:12,14	187:16 188:3
100,500 138:9	122:20	42:7 166:3	26,900,000
138:13	16 8:4 190:19	2022 6:18	119:12 123:1
102 72:19	167,550 51:18	2023 55:5	281 8:13 9:2
11 64:21 65:1,2	16th 83:17 90:7	73:21 97:9	10:7,14 11:12
110,000 138:8	96:5	101:1	11:13,16,19,20
11th 3:19 75:12	17.5 71:19	2024 18:2,17	12:10 19:3,13
184:20,21	175 82:10	20:17 21:21	19:19 21:7
187:13	18th 4:3	129:5	281,619 131:16
12 170:19	19-205 119:21	2024-2025 31:5	28th 3:10
12.9 71:17	19-206 119:21	37:4	3
128 76:12	1927 105:19	2025 1:7 31:20	3 82:10,11
82:10	19th 85:4	38:8 44:5	30 136:9
12th 163:5	1st 51:13	84:14 171:21	302 95:20
131,651 131:20	2	190:13,19	32.73 100:20
1362 190:15	2 126:3 187:15	2026 136:9	34 82:10 163:5
13th 174:13	2.63 136:10	20th 73:20	35 156:8
	2.98 136:11	21 72:10	366 82:3,4 84:2
		212 105:21	84:16 85:16,21

[366 - addition]

Page 2

87:12,16,18,20 367 83:18,21 89:10,11 90:17 90:20 92:8,10 92:12 94:2 368 95:12,15 96:18 104:5,13 369 95:11 105:11,11,12 110:1 38 101:2,2 102:18 39 75:6 89:16 394 105:21 3rd 190:13	5th 92:1 6 6 157:13 6,000 106:2 107:13 6,500 131:13 6.79 130:6 60 22:20 133:14 60,000 132:8 134:9 7 7.69 130:7 70 180:2 72 180:3 75,000 51:21 7510 89:15 79 89:16 7:37 189:5 8 8.50 130:8 8th 91:13 9 9 157:13 9506a1 84:19 98,000 132:8 98,738 132:1 a aa 61:4 aaa 61:3 abandon 160:16	ability 19:16 23:5,9,16 24:7 26:3 86:19 161:15 182:1 able 20:13 22:16 37:17 45:16 46:15 48:6 60:5 64:12,15 93:5 109:9 133:1,16 133:17 144:18 absolutely 5:15 20:5 27:9,12 45:20 47:1,12 48:1 49:5 59:9 abstain 94:20 abstained 94:21 abstaining 83:20 90:18 96:19 accept 48:20 105:14 155:14 acceptance 151:17 accepted 3:7,16 4:9 access 61:13 162:3 accommodate 64:15 accordance 84:18	accounting 57:9 accurate 190:7 accurately 58:3 achieve 88:6 acknowledge 26:9,11 151:20 acquisition 119:13 123:2 acres 100:20,21 101:2 102:18 act 16:12 156:18,19 165:15 acted 182:8 action 140:16 155:5 165:2 190:12 actual 139:14 actually 9:3 11:9 20:9 45:8 58:6 64:9 66:13 90:10 98:16 134:1 138:1 157:8 172:2 179:4,7 ad 119:19 ada 72:13 adamases 28:15 add 47:4 108:16 added 140:16 addition 7:18
4 4 188:2 40,560 131:15 413,270 131:19 44 106:6 4502 95:19 48,260 131:12 48,620 131:17 4th 3:18 188:1 5 5 84:14 187:14 5.125 100:21 50 82:8 50,000 134:1 54 95:20 5419 106:3 5:00 1:7			

[additional - allowed]

Page 3

additional 37:19 91:21 96:6,14 97:15 100:6 101:6 103:14 128:9 133:6 additionally 174:11 additions 3:10 4:6 140:8 address 151:1 addressed 90:12 addressing 43:16 adequate 134:10 adhering 54:20 adjacent 101:13 106:3 adjourn 188:6 adjourning 187:17 adkins 125:13 administration 160:15 administrative 53:20 54:5 62:11 63:11 64:1 65:5 66:2 66:3 71:13 76:6 77:17 79:8	admissions 74:1,5 adopt 24:4 60:12 83:21 85:6 90:16 96:18 adopted 19:19 24:8 56:14 61:16 74:18 156:14 157:10 adopting 24:5 54:6 adult 172:7 advance 147:1 166:21 adverse 7:13 29:9 advise 83:16 advised 23:18 24:1,3 advisers 55:21 advisors 59:12 advisory 63:14 83:17 87:3 90:1,14 91:15 91:18 94:17 95:3 96:4,16 97:16 100:10 advocacy 172:21 affairs 178:13 affecting 70:10 73:17	affordable 61:12 86:4 88:7 afforded 72:18 african 71:16 71:19 afternoon 67:14 69:8 150:19 agencies 51:12 55:2 61:11,15 165:20 agenda 2:10 3:1,2,4,7,17 4:11 7:2 30:5 41:17 50:7 53:19 82:2 84:1 89:10 110:19 114:4 142:13 148:13 180:17 183:18 184:15 aging 128:8,19 129:2,11 132:16,19 134:15 ago 56:15 151:3,8 177:20 agreed 19:14 agreeing 168:5 agreement 7:6 8:4 10:9 138:6 agriculture 124:14	ahead 2:3,5,9 30:11,14 31:1 32:6 36:18,21 38:14 43:1 60:1 63:9 66:9 77:14,15 81:2 81:10 85:10 87:19 91:3 92:7,16 107:4 107:4 110:2 111:5 112:5 120:8 145:8 180:16 184:10 187:9 aimed 164:9,10 aims 162:2 airport 77:6 alert 17:16 align 71:3 allegiance 2:7,8 allocate 52:10 allocated 51:19 100:12 allocating 100:1 102:16 allocation 135:3 allotted 21:3 allow 67:12 80:10 86:15 139:2 141:1 allowed 19:6 185:10
--	--	--	--

[allowing - approximately]

Page 4

allowing 86:10	anne's 45:8	apologize 84:3	87:14 92:6
almighty 73:6	annexation	84:4,9 89:21	109:19 121:5
aloud 66:14	86:18 88:9	173:5	133:4 134:19
alright 147:19	annexed 86:2	appear 165:18	150:3 151:2
altogether	97:7 100:20	appeared	156:2 168:17
167:13 185:17	101:1	156:6 190:3	186:20,21,21
amazing 126:8	annexing 97:9	applicants	appreciation
amend 9:6 64:1	annotated	108:19	152:8
82:5 89:12	84:20 120:1	application 9:5	appropriate
95:16	annual 55:18	9:12,15 10:8	12:3 149:9
amending	99:16 136:13	10:18 16:20	166:5
63:12	another's	17:2,21 26:14	appropriated
amendment	159:15	26:20 82:13	52:8
67:3 69:20	answer 51:4	89:18 90:8	approval 18:10
74:11 98:13	106:17 150:1	91:16,17 96:1	44:12 50:17
amendments	anti 72:13,14	96:5 99:1	52:20 53:2
72:21	179:19	165:21	65:4 99:3
america 42:13	anybody 61:12	applications	136:7,14
american	81:1 85:11	21:6 98:19	137:13 141:8
71:16,20 74:4	87:15,17 92:9	applied 17:20	approve 32:6
156:18	92:11 111:17	26:12 136:11	38:14,15 52:14
americans 42:9	114:11 117:9	applies 179:14	62:10 87:6,12
73:2,5	120:12 121:13	apply 165:18	124:17 132:14
amount 45:14	142:21 146:11	165:19 166:15	approved 8:12
51:18 126:5	157:3 176:11	appointees	9:13 10:11
133:14 138:7	180:14	64:5	12:13 16:15
139:3 159:18	anybody's	appointing	18:20 19:13,15
159:19	67:21 68:14	64:4	86:10 94:15,18
ample 144:6	anytime 52:12	appointments	approves 51:20
analysis 156:15	anyway 155:21	124:14	approving 54:6
158:1	158:15	appreciate	approximately
ancillary 108:8	apart 170:11	2:20 29:18	22:20 100:19
andy 131:2	apologetic 19:4	30:1 40:8	126:3
		53:17 83:14	

[april - aye]

Page 5

april 8:12 139:16 area 46:8 140:19 areas 17:10 64:6 arguably 108:1 argument 12:6 12:8 arguments 149:20 array 164:7 arrivals 40:17 art 42:8 article 84:19 98:4 120:1 articles 16:16 18:6 22:1 55:6 artifacts 42:19 arts 37:17 aside 155:17 159:20 asked 98:21 asking 50:16 79:7 80:6 102:14 132:8 aspect 173:13 aspects 172:8 asphalt 136:8 136:12 assessed 157:20 assessing 55:3	assistance 37:19 139:11 assistant 39:12 45:11 assisted 139:7 190:7 associated 152:9 association 55:1 association's 74:4 assured 93:16 astonished 156:12 astounding 157:8 athletic 51:21 52:3 111:3 113:11 attached 8:13 10:6 11:13,19 22:9 attachments 149:2 attacking 174:18 attempts 180:2 attended 170:13 attention 8:21 11:3 18:5,21 171:16	attorney 20:1 56:11 106:16 108:19 156:16 158:12 174:15 attract 76:21 attributes 75:15 audio 190:3 auditorium 114:8 116:3,19 august 8:3 10:11 20:12,14 authoritative 12:7 authority 175:3 authorize 106:1 111:3 112:9 113:11 114:8 116:3 117:3 118:15 119:11 122:21 authorizing 120:2,4 available 7:9 19:16 avenue 105:15 106:3,5 avidly 46:5 avoid 27:10 award 33:20 36:3 47:10 103:11 130:15 137:14 138:11	139:1 awarded 131:11 awards 103:9 aware 10:20 12:11 14:19,20 16:10 17:15,18 20:19,20 21:2 21:21 29:21 103:2 134:17 164:17 awareness 164:12 aye 32:10,12,14 32:16,18 38:18 38:20 39:1,3,5 44:15,17,19,21 45:2 53:5,7,9 53:11,13 62:17 62:19,21 63:2 63:4 65:12,14 65:16,18,20 81:13,15,21 88:21 89:2,4,6 89:8 94:6,8 104:21 105:2,4 105:6,8 110:10 110:12,14,16 110:18 112:18 112:20 113:1,3 113:5,16,18,20 114:1,3 115:9 115:11,13,15 115:17 116:9
---	---	---	--

[aye - bishop]

Page 6

116:11,13,15 116:17 118:3,5 118:7,9,11,19 118:21 119:2,4 119:6 122:9,11 122:13,15,17 123:16,18,20 124:1,3 125:1 125:3,5,7,9 127:15,17,19 127:21 128:2 135:10,12,14 135:16,18 137:1,3,5,7,9 141:16,18,20 142:1,3 183:3 183:5,7 188:15 188:17,19,21 189:2	174:5 175:13 181:8 183:8 185:1 background 161:13 backwards 172:3 bad 159:8 balance 50:17 51:2,17 52:13 54:14 57:6,7,9 59:4 60:6 baltimore 190:2 bar 74:4 barbara 47:11 barriers 39:14 161:10 based 19:7,7 70:20 72:15 73:8 77:8,17 86:3 91:14 130:17 139:13 143:10 163:8 172:21 basically 56:21 83:19,20 138:4 138:11 139:1 155:17 177:9 basis 99:16 bay 131:14 bear 60:10 beast 155:20	beautiful 126:9 beauty 75:14 becoming 42:12 began 129:11 beginning 25:20 47:14 100:7 131:7 171:8 187:14 behalf 5:19 6:4 48:21 70:1 85:19 106:13 172:17 believe 11:2 14:2 16:8 18:6 21:5,14 97:7 101:11,15 149:3 154:13 154:14 165:1 177:5 178:18 believed 16:14 16:20 26:13 bellevue 42:16 belonging 161:11 benefit 171:3 benefits 178:20 bent 152:20 best 29:11 54:20 55:8 56:3 61:21 76:21 131:10 bestow 31:13 38:1 43:19	better 27:7 29:20 164:14 177:13 beyond 55:7 171:19 174:7 bicycle 63:13 bid 130:8,13,15 131:11 136:8 138:6 139:12 141:9 bidder 130:6 130:11 bidding 138:12 bids 130:1,2,2 big 2:12 29:4 116:20 120:20 174:19 biggest 39:17 bike 64:2 bill 110:21 111:2,2,11 112:11 113:10 113:10 114:5,7 114:7 115:4 116:2,2 117:2 117:2,17 118:14,14 119:9,10,10 122:2,20,20 bills 110:20 bind 76:15 bishop 147:8 147:11
b			
back 6:1 11:8 14:21 16:18 19:1 48:7 52:9 67:8,15 68:15 76:8 78:13 97:7 98:21,21 100:6,17 101:4 102:7,10 104:2 132:3,10 133:14,18 140:20,21 144:8 158:8 163:17 169:13			

[bit - callahan]

Page 7

bit 5:2 32:20 45:5,6 48:10 51:13 80:4 134:3 black 42:9,13 171:3,6 blanks 125:16 128:13 bless 186:11 blocking 67:21 68:14 blueprint 126:14,15 board 64:5 83:17,20 85:2 87:3 90:1,7,14 90:15 91:19 94:18,20 95:1 95:2 96:4,12 96:16 97:16 100:11 124:13 124:15,16 128:19 130:9 170:19 board's 91:15 bond 56:9 61:4 61:10,13,18 126:1,6 bonds 119:18 119:20 120:3,4 120:4,6,15 books 59:13 born 169:4 170:12	borrow 119:12 123:1 borrowing 119:16 bound 148:4 boundaries 97:3 boundary 88:10 boy 56:6 157:5 boys 171:11 bozman 89:15 92:21 93:8 bradley 188:4 breaks 140:15 breath 79:2 breather 78:14 breathing 73:4 brennan 82:17 106:15 137:11 138:16 150:12 brian 5:3,7 27:4 96:2 136:3 brief 5:12 63:17 174:12 174:14,15,20 bring 48:11 111:20 121:16 149:20 160:5 181:8 184:10 bringing 134:19 161:17	broadband 77:8 broadly 166:7 brooklet 131:3 brooklets 131:5,14 133:7 brooks 131:3 brought 5:13 8:20 11:3 18:4 25:12 46:7 49:10 79:14 143:12 144:5 158:5,8 173:15 brown 45:4,7,7 45:10 46:19 47:1,7,12,19 48:1,3,8 49:1,5 49:8,14,21 50:2 170:19 bruce 84:11 164:4,5,5 brummel 46:3 bryce 84:8 91:4 91:10 96:21 budget 51:1,20 51:21 58:5 59:4 112:7 114:20 121:4 187:16 188:3 budgeted 57:14 138:7 budgeting 57:8 57:12 58:1,20 60:5 132:12	budgets 57:13 buffer 54:18 build 58:7 86:4 building 171:12 built 58:18 buried 180:5 business 6:7 129:7,14,21 130:5 158:10 buy 169:19
			c
			cain 128:8,18 133:21 135:20 calendar 131:7 call 17:10 32:7 38:16 44:13 53:3 57:18 62:14 65:9 73:8 81:11 88:19 94:4 104:19 110:8 115:7,19 116:6 116:7 117:21 118:17 123:14 124:20 127:13 135:7 136:19 141:13 144:13 146:1,8,11 182:17 188:12 callahan 1:14 2:3,9 3:6,13,15 4:1,8,16,19,21

[callahan - caused]

Page 8

5:3,7,16 9:16	82:1,15,20	122:6,8,9,18	180:13,20
9:20 10:1 15:5	83:1,8,11 84:2	123:13,15,16	181:13,16
20:7 22:5 26:5	84:5,10 85:1,5	124:4,19,21	182:10,16,19
27:2,5 29:15	85:9 87:13	125:1 126:20	182:20 183:8
30:2,5,10,14	88:3,12,16,20	127:3,11,14,15	183:13,21
30:17,19 31:21	88:21 89:9,20	128:3,17 133:2	184:6,9,21
32:3,5,9,10,19	90:2,6,19 91:2	134:6,12,16	185:12,14
33:11,15,18	91:6,9 92:5,16	135:4,6,9,10	186:4,13,16
36:2,12,20	94:1,5,6,19	135:19 136:5	187:8,11,20
38:9,13,17,18	95:1,8,10,13	136:15,18,21	188:8,11,14,15
39:6,9 40:2	96:20 98:6	137:1,19	189:3
41:8,17,21	101:10,14,16	138:14 140:7	called 179:3
44:6,8,11,14	101:21 102:2,6	141:12,15,16	calling 159:2
44:15 45:3,5,9	102:9,13,18	142:5,11,18,20	162:17
46:11 47:8	103:3,5,16,18	143:4,15,18,21	campaign 73:7
49:2,6,9,16,18	103:20 104:2,7	144:6,11,14	candidly 156:8
50:4,9,12,15	104:9,13,17,20	145:2,5,7,11	canning 28:9
51:6,8 52:5,18	104:21 105:9	145:14,16,18	28:10,13
53:1,4,5,14,17	106:9,11,19	146:1,3,7,10	capacity 7:9
54:3,9,11	107:8 108:4,16	146:14,17	8:2 19:16
56:17 60:1,20	109:6,15,18,21	147:7,10,13,20	20:12 126:11
62:4,7,13,16	110:7,9,10,19	148:2,7 149:16	capital 73:13
62:17 63:5,8	111:5,15 112:1	150:3,8,11,13	112:7
63:15,19 64:8	112:4,14,17,18	150:16,20	care 126:11,12
64:14,17,19	113:8,14,15,16	152:19,21	career 156:10
65:3,8,11,12	114:4,10,16,21	153:7 156:2	carefully 93:11
65:21 66:7,9	115:6,8,9,18	158:17,20	careo 147:4,4,5
67:5,9,12,16	115:21 116:5,7	160:12 163:19	caroline 129:8
68:1,4,7,10,16	116:8,9,18	164:1 166:19	129:15 131:1
68:20 69:2,6	117:5,15,20	166:20 167:3	carried 47:15
69:10,12 76:9	118:2,3,12,17	168:13 169:11	case 109:14
77:12 79:10	118:18,19	169:14 170:4	152:1
80:5,7,14,16	119:7 120:7,16	172:13 173:3,6	caused 13:9
81:6,9,12,13	121:11,18,21	176:11 178:6	14:5,8

[causing - closed]

Page 9

causing 14:10 cbl 105:21 celebrate 43:9 46:16 celebrates 74:19 celebration 47:21 census 71:17 center 125:13 129:12 131:4 132:7 178:12 centuries 42:8 century 6:10 certain 58:12 63:12 82:7 89:14 95:18 168:9 certainly 12:11 15:18 25:21 34:19 56:6 86:6 133:4 134:17 166:7 171:17 certificate 30:6 31:2,3,15 37:2 38:3 42:4 43:21 49:19 certify 84:15 190:3,5,8,10 certifying 92:1 chair 3:7,15 4:9 151:3 168:16 178:12	chaired 179:4 challenge 163:21 challenges 43:16 challenging 34:7 chambers 1:10 champion 47:13 chance 2:15 149:19 change 98:10 changed 151:9 152:17,18 153:12 165:9 changing 47:2 chapel 119:15 120:21 123:4 characteristics 152:10 charter 72:20 check 14:21 142:14 checked 67:13 69:7 chesapeake 41:18 50:7 137:15 child 180:5 childlne 131:3 children 33:14 126:11	children's 125:13 chipped 133:20 choice 131:10 chose 130:15 170:20 christina 106:7 christy 125:12 125:17 128:4 chuck 1:14 143:2 churches 75:1 179:11 cindy 170:6 circumstances 55:12 56:2 cisgender 178:21 citizen 63:12 64:4,16 72:19 169:4 citizens 74:20 75:20 76:13 city 190:2 civil 156:18 claiming 70:21 clarification 143:8 146:4 clarify 5:14 8:9 108:18 181:17 clarity 186:5 clarke 83:9,15 83:15 84:3,7 85:2,6 87:2	89:21 90:4,4,7 94:20 95:4 96:3,3 98:15 99:6,13 100:9 100:17 101:6 102:15,19 103:1,4,7,10 137:20,20 142:4 class 171:4 classes 34:20 37:14,17,20 classroom 31:8 35:16 39:16 126:13 classrooms 37:15 clay's 124:5 clear 21:13 28:8 29:5 60:17 186:15 clearing 29:17 client 20:2 107:6,20 108:6 clock 107:9,9 117:11 124:6 150:16 close 17:10 87:19 92:16 93:4 110:2 121:19,21 126:17 closed 187:17
--	---	--	--

[closely - community]

Page 10

closely 148:12	98:21 101:4	commanded	commission's
closer 5:18	102:7,9 103:5	75:5	87:8
closing 75:11	110:1 111:10	commemorat...	commitment
152:14 187:18	111:11,12,13	31:15 38:3	31:7 86:3
coalition	111:17 114:11	44:1	173:9 174:9
173:12	117:9,11	commence	176:7
coastal 140:6	120:12 121:13	139:18	committee
code 84:20	125:11,19	commend	63:14 64:3
108:5 109:10	128:8 134:9	168:4	65:3 124:13
120:1	135:2 137:12	comment 66:10	committees
collection	142:21 144:8	79:18 80:3,11	179:4
35:13	146:12 148:7	92:18 120:18	communicate
collective 51:10	148:18 160:14	142:13 144:19	27:7
162:6	163:17 167:3	146:5,21 147:9	communicated
college 34:20	168:14,15	148:3 158:16	179:10
41:18 50:7	170:1 176:11	184:13	communicati...
colors 10:14	178:6 180:14	comments	28:4 29:20
combination	comes 23:1	25:17 33:19	communities
50:18	56:3 60:15	60:21 62:4	42:11 43:5
combine 52:2	71:11 98:20	76:11 80:12	161:20 174:3
combining	154:21 155:14	81:4 88:1,3,16	175:21 176:8
108:1	163:15	90:19 94:2	community
come 4:12 6:5	comfortable	134:7 147:5	31:9 39:18
10:15,19 12:8	162:16	149:18 150:4	40:1 47:4
13:11 15:21	coming 2:11	152:5 156:7	71:16 79:15
18:21 30:7	7:8,10 13:17	160:18,20	86:7 121:5
34:21 36:3,17	19:17 24:2	168:2 178:14	129:9 130:10
39:14 41:8	26:2 29:8	180:18 181:6	139:7,21 152:1
45:17,19 48:6	78:19 82:18,20	186:1,9,14	152:2 157:20
48:7,20 49:19	100:5 102:5	commission	174:6 175:16
52:9 60:10	133:17 153:21	84:13 87:4	175:19 176:2,3
79:12 80:10	186:7 187:5	91:8,12,14	176:10 180:6
81:1 85:11,16	189:4	94:15 97:12	186:18
87:18 92:10,11		178:13 190:19	

[comp - construed]

Page 11

comp 19:11 company 55:21 130:17 compared 167:12 complete 51:16 completed 139:14 149:11 completely 141:2 completes 142:9 complex 52:1 component 140:13 components 140:17 comprehensive 8:18 9:5,12 14:14,17 17:1 17:5,11,20 82:6 84:17 86:14 87:10 89:13 92:2 95:17 98:2,9 98:11 computer 190:7 concentration 23:6 concepts 37:10 concerned 18:13 60:17 102:4	concerns 24:11 25:3,7 90:13 conclude 186:9 concluded 7:20 14:4,7,9 189:5 conclusions 174:19 conduct 51:10 confederate 171:11 confirm 7:8 conforming 108:1 conformity 108:2 congrats 127:5 congratulation... 34:5,15 35:18 36:2 40:5 41:14 47:9 48:12 49:2 50:3 151:6 congregate 128:11 130:6 130:11 131:13 131:14 congress 165:9 166:4 congresswo... 167:19 connect 9:8 15:15 20:13 29:12 43:14	connected 8:6 8:7 19:13,19 connecting 6:13 7:3 connection 8:11 10:10,11 12:13,18 13:1 13:9 14:16 16:10,12,15 17:8 18:19 19:7,14,15 20:11 21:18 22:7 28:21 166:10 168:6 connections 14:12 17:4 28:3 93:5 consciousness 152:8 consent 3:16 4:10 consequences 157:7 conservative 60:4 conservatively 57:14 consider 25:9 25:11 79:8 considerate 78:20 consideration 24:15 25:9 106:8 181:20	considered 8:15 9:11 22:7 23:11 55:2 123:7 considering 97:20 100:6 155:11 considers 55:11 consistency 10:13 56:16 consistent 8:17 84:16 87:9 92:1 98:2 consolidating 109:8 consolidation 120:2 constitution 66:20 67:4 69:16,20 72:21 constitutiona... 165:5 constructed 93:10 constructing 108:8 construction 21:7,15 93:3 119:14 123:3 137:14 138:12 139:10,13,18 construed 76:19
--	--	---	---

consultant 50:20 consulted 14:1 23:13 consulting 7:7 8:16 25:12,21 29:7 contained 190:9 contains 76:18 contaminants 23:19 24:2 contingency 134:10,11 135:2 continue 61:11 72:5 178:1,4 continued 43:1 contract 129:3 129:4,21 131:21 contractors 165:20 contradiction 101:18 contrary 71:5 contribute 161:8 contributions 31:16 38:4 40:21 43:10 convening 187:15	conversation 162:18 172:2 177:18 convey 106:2 convinced 93:16 cookes 156:5 cooperation 167:18 coppersmith 50:10,13,16 53:15 copperville 42:17 cordova 126:1 core 73:12 corey 128:14 128:14 153:2,8 153:10 corp 148:14 correct 18:3 25:16 26:20 29:1 49:3 52:12 61:6,14 61:20 62:2 64:21 80:18,18 85:8 114:21 141:7 143:14 143:15 163:18 171:8 corrections 3:3 3:11 4:5 9:1 14:17	corrective 19:3 correctly 101:4 corridor 92:21 93:6,9 corrigan 82:13 85:19 cost 131:16,18 132:7 134:1 costs 59:5 128:10 133:6 council 1:1,4 1:10,13 3:19 5:12 6:5 7:2,2 9:11 10:2 12:1 18:8 20:18 21:1,2,3 25:9 25:11 31:12 33:18 37:21 43:18 48:21 51:5,20 52:6 52:19 54:10 56:14,18 60:3 60:17 63:6 64:3 66:12 68:6 74:17,18 76:6 78:11,17 78:19 83:15,16 83:19,21 85:6 85:18 86:1,8 86:10 87:5 88:1,17 89:21 90:16,19 91:7 92:18 94:1 96:17,21 105:9	106:10 120:18 124:10 125:15 125:19 128:7 128:15,21 132:6,14 133:5 134:8,13,20 135:20 136:1,7 137:10,13 138:1,11,15 142:8 144:7 146:20 151:7 153:4 156:13 158:11,19 160:13,18 163:2,6 165:2 165:6 166:17 167:9,18 168:7 170:7 171:21 176:6,15,18 177:10 178:7 178:16 179:3 179:14 180:17 181:5,10 182:1 182:3 184:12 185:21 187:14 188:2 190:3 council's 134:14 136:14 181:18 187:12 councilman 79:1,7 143:11 154:18 167:8 168:4
---	---	---	---

[counsel - daily]

Page 13

counsel 12:4 56:9 190:4,9 190:10,11 counties 52:9 52:14 59:5 129:8 130:4 133:18 134:5 165:11,17 166:6 country 37:9 39:15 42:21 178:2,5 county 1:1,1 17:16,19 18:16 21:2 27:8 31:4 31:12,12,14,19 36:15 37:3,21 37:21 38:2,7 40:14 41:6 42:12 43:5,18 43:19,21 44:4 45:8 47:17 48:18,21 54:7 54:13,15 55:13 55:15,19 56:10 56:11 57:13,16 57:19 58:13,16 59:12 60:4 61:2 64:6 66:6 70:10,12,16 71:17 72:4,9 72:10,19,20 73:14 74:12,16 74:19 75:13,13	75:20 76:1 77:2,5,10 78:1 78:11 79:4,13 82:5 83:15,16 83:21 84:12,17 86:6,8,9,20 87:5,12 89:12 90:4,16 91:10 95:16 96:3,17 97:1,5 98:15 98:18 99:3,5 100:10 103:8 105:18,20 106:6 107:13 108:15 109:1,2 109:3,11,13 111:4 113:12 119:8,11,11,20 122:21,21 124:10 126:7 127:1 128:16 129:10,16 131:2,13 132:6 133:5 135:1 137:20 138:11 140:6 141:5 142:9 151:4 152:6,15 153:13,19 154:2 155:1,11 156:16 158:12 162:12 164:8 164:12,13,18 164:19 165:6	170:12,13,15 170:15,20 171:7 172:4,8 173:16,19 174:9 175:9 176:4,18 177:10,11 178:10,19 179:5,16 187:12 190:2,3 county's 56:1 71:19 87:10 108:3 couple 10:3 55:17 156:6 course 7:3 23:12 27:20 33:6 66:19 148:18 court 73:21 courts 166:13 cover 128:10 134:1 164:21 covered 72:14 139:2 141:5 covid 58:11 130:20 create 60:5 162:15 created 43:3 159:14 174:15 177:21 creating 161:6	creator 73:5 credit 61:13 creditworthin... 55:3 creed 72:16 creeps 140:20 cristy 125:10 125:11 critchlow 125:13 cross 145:3 183:16 185:8 crumbling 73:18 cultivate 161:21 cultural 42:9 culture 43:10 75:14 152:6 161:11 current 9:8 currently 73:17 107:17 108:7 155:3 customary 86:18 cutting 133:14
d			
d 160:16 161:9 161:14 163:11 daily 7:16 74:15			

dappert 176:13 176:14 data 51:14 71:17 date 20:15 101:4 144:18 dated 105:19 dave 1:18 67:5 183:19 davenport 55:21 56:9 day 31:19 38:7 43:17 44:4 55:15 74:17,17 154:9 176:19 190:13 deal 50:17,19 120:16,17,17 120:20 139:8 149:5 death 155:19 170:2 decades 6:9 december 6:1 17:19 18:1,16 85:4 decided 7:5 158:10 170:21 deciding 11:17 169:18 decision 11:18 25:16 101:19 134:18 161:16 163:10 168:20	169:7 decisions 72:15 declare 178:9 decline 105:13 dedicated 172:19 dedication 40:7 105:14 109:4 deed 106:1 109:12 deems 163:6 deeply 177:1 defeated 168:3 defer 147:5 152:4 definitely 114:14 dei 70:17,20 73:16 74:5,13 78:2 157:16 164:7 165:3,7 165:9,18 166:2 166:17 167:8 167:13 173:14 174:4,7,18 175:6,8 176:7 176:16 180:9 deia 166:2 delay 80:3 deletions 3:3,3 3:11 4:5 deliberate 165:14	delivered 130:7 130:12 131:16 136:10,11 delmarva 129:9 130:10 178:12 demand 168:8 democrat 49:15 demonstrate 47:16 dennis 156:3,4 156:4 department 136:2,6 138:16 154:4 departments 154:7 descendants 42:14 described 55:6 deserved 34:3 41:5 deservedly 75:17 design 51:9 139:6 designated 16:14 17:12 designed 187:7 despite 43:1 detail 6:3 details 51:4	detar 106:14 determine 22:15 23:4 26:2 determined 8:1 13:16 23:6 29:9,10 developed 103:15 development 66:5 77:7 88:14 93:13,17 dialogue 163:17 diane 1:21 190:2,16 dickens 147:8 147:11 dies 155:19 difference 12:5 29:4 47:3 131:19 differences 151:17 152:9 160:4 different 6:19 147:19 152:10 153:15 156:13 158:6,13 differing 75:3 difficult 52:16 dignity 152:16 159:19
---	--	---	---

dilemma 133:12 direct 23:16 165:6,17 directed 180:8 directly 174:5 director 45:11 54:13 129:13 directors 128:19 disabilities 156:19 disadvantages 157:19 disagree 160:6 disagreeable 160:7 disagreement 71:8 disappoint 20:2 disappointed 171:20 disbursements 3:18 4:6,9 discharge 6:16 7:7,10,17 13:6 13:10,16,21 15:9,11,12,16 26:1 29:8 discharging 16:4 disclosure 170:7	discover 43:14 discrepancy 17:17 discretion 165:12 discrimination 72:13 discuss 5:8 discussed 5:9 7:3 132:4 133:9 discussion 12:9 90:9 169:8 discussions 55:19 dismal 132:10 dismantle 161:10 display 42:19 displayed 74:15 disposal 29:14 disqualify 77:5 disrespect 71:9 176:5 distressed 177:17 distressing 177:5 district 119:15 123:4 diverse 71:1 161:17 164:16 177:11	diversity 47:16 48:17 66:5,6 72:3 78:9 151:5,10 152:3 152:7 153:16 153:17 154:3,5 154:13 155:3,7 155:14 156:20 159:3 161:1,4 161:18 162:1,5 162:10,19 164:13,18 165:11 168:20 176:16 177:12 177:13 dnr's 139:4 docking 46:8 document 73:4 documents 78:1,7 97:19 dog 149:21 doing 28:14 47:6 48:13 62:3 83:8 115:3 117:15 120:19 154:4 160:21 163:1 163:11,12 dollars 57:2 73:13 76:2 173:18 domestic 7:21 22:19 23:8	door 68:17,20 69:1,2 170:8 doors 153:21 171:13 double 78:8,12 126:10 doubt 40:18 douglass 43:7 dr 50:10,13,16 53:15 150:14 draft 24:13 25:7 drafting 18:10 drawings 21:15 drive 161:15 driveway 107:14 drop 167:13 drum 155:5 due 51:12 108:14 130:13 dumb 149:15 dump 167:8 dune 140:17,21 dutchman's 82:9 duty 159:11,12 dwelling 96:10 dynamic 157:2 161:21
			e
			e 106:8 147:8 160:16 161:9

[e - entered]

Page 16

161:14 163:11 earlier 143:10 168:2 172:18 early 42:9 earned 47:10 easement 15:10 15:17 east 82:8 eastern 172:20 175:15 176:3 easton 1:10 31:8,17 33:1 37:7 38:5 39:12 40:13 42:15 64:11 82:9 86:2,16 88:5,14 114:9 116:4 130:17 153:10 156:5 167:6 190:13 eat 130:8,15,16 130:20 131:6,9 echo 41:3 economic 75:19 132:9 157:7,19 173:15 economics 159:4 economy 159:6 159:8 edge 41:19,20 42:1,5,6 43:8 44:2 45:11	46:8 167:14 edition 163:5 edu 96:10 97:20 98:10,19 100:2,13 102:17 education 34:8 74:5 161:3 170:20 173:1 edus 8:4 98:18 99:3 100:6,11 101:7 102:5 103:3,4,9,11 103:14 edward 106:12 effect 8:13 29:10 119:16 effective 86:11 effectiveness 71:12 effects 7:13 effluent 22:15 24:12 effort 171:9 efforts 60:5 76:21 161:5 162:6 eight 95:13 either 77:8 103:20 154:19 elected 79:20 element 54:14 elementary 119:16 123:5	elevate 43:9 eleven 65:3 eligible 14:16 87:21 92:13 110:4 113:13 114:17 117:16 121:15 eliminate 165:3 ellison 147:15 147:16 148:1,8 148:9 149:17 150:5,10 email 174:13 emails 70:4 employee 70:21 72:9 79:13 190:11 employees 22:21 70:11,12 70:13,17 152:15 155:9 155:11 164:12 164:16,20 179:15 employer 72:5 72:6,11 74:13 empowered 161:7 emulsified 136:12 emulsion 136:8 enables 177:12 encompasses 164:7	ended 138:5 endure 75:21 energy 31:6 enforce 168:12 enforceable 77:20 engaged 55:20 engagement 186:18 engineer 7:7,16 8:16 14:2 22:18 23:13,14 24:9,16 25:12 25:21 29:7 83:16 90:5 96:4 137:20 engineering 138:5,5,13 139:11 english 33:7,10 37:13 39:15 enhance 161:15 enrich 162:6 enshrining 73:4 ensure 17:3 27:18 31:9 37:14 56:2 64:5 76:1 93:11 161:11 entered 7:5 8:3 10:9 190:9
--	---	---	---

entire 156:10 178:19	18:15 19:8	160:12 172:14	executive 73:19
entirely 141:4	erroneously	176:13 178:7	77:10,18 78:16
entirety 54:2	14:15 19:6	182:7 186:19	165:2,8 166:8
entitled 105:16	esol 37:8,13	event 48:5	166:10 174:21
entity 157:16	39:11	everybody 2:5	175:4
environment	especially 17:8	2:11,14,15,17	exempting
29:12 151:15	59:16 165:7	106:20 111:7	119:20
151:18,21	167:19	117:5,6 142:16	exercising
environmental	essential	186:2	66:21 69:16
84:19 98:4	134:21	everyday 43:2	existing 175:7
166:2 172:19	essentially	43:3	exists 108:21
173:9	107:14 140:10	everyone's	175:8
environments	140:11	81:4	expansion
161:6	establish 55:10	ex 179:10	119:15 123:4
equal 71:9	established	exact 20:15	126:2,15,16
72:10 155:10	42:11 64:2	126:5	expected 70:7
177:21	establishment	exactly 28:10	70:11
equality 155:15	44:1	101:6 114:16	expecting
equally 172:9	esteem 31:14	117:6 126:4	112:8
equation	38:2 43:20	examination	expects 152:15
109:12	estimated	190:5	expediting
equitable 71:1	138:7	example 46:14	138:19
161:11	ethic 43:10	71:15 77:6	expenditure
equity 72:3	evaluate 56:1	140:5	54:19
78:9 151:11	evening 5:1	excellent 121:2	expenditures
152:3,7 161:1	50:9,10 51:3,7	170:8	56:4 58:2 59:1
161:5,19 162:1	51:8 54:10,11	except 170:15	expenses 59:19
162:5,10,19	83:10 85:18	excited 126:17	experience
173:11 176:16	106:10,11	exclusion 176:5	45:18 130:14
equivalent	124:10,11	excuse 67:5	162:7
96:10	128:21 138:15	187:20,20	experiences
erroneous 10:6	142:10 150:19	execution	161:18
10:21 11:5	153:3 158:19	106:1	experiencing
	158:20 160:11		59:2 175:20

[expired - first]

Page 18

expired 129:4 expires 190:19 explain 164:19 181:12 184:14 explained 68:13 explore 108:11 108:13,14 express 179:7 186:17 expressing 178:16 extend 93:1 136:7 extended 90:12 extending 93:12 extension 92:20 93:7,21 extent 166:1,21 exterior 126:9 extra 64:12 eyes 61:10	facing 133:12 fact 13:2 72:12 148:20 149:7,8 154:2 157:16 176:19 177:3 factors 55:2 factory 28:9 faculty 34:7 failure 72:2 fair 74:1 80:16 155:10 180:10 fairly 156:11 faith 73:8 102:11 fall 132:3,11 familiar 172:18 families 42:13 family 73:9 186:10 far 22:13 154:3 174:7 184:4 farther 170:10 fashion 76:15 112:11 fast 124:8 173:5 fault 19:5 favor 70:4,20 71:5 favorable 87:5 favored 61:15 fear 175:20 fears 74:6	february 1:7 3:18,19 4:3,3 31:19 38:7 42:7 44:4 51:13 75:12 84:14 91:21 174:13 federal 58:12 73:14,18 77:6 78:3 79:5 132:12 144:2 156:9 157:5,9 157:17 158:3 159:21 165:19 165:20,21 166:5 168:11 174:1 175:2,7 175:9,18,20 feel 144:7 162:16 feels 144:7 161:7 fees 20:12 feet 107:13 fellow 76:6 78:17 felt 23:14 177:20 field 162:2 fields 111:3 113:11 fiercely 76:3 fight 178:4	fighting 73:10 73:11 figure 27:15 filed 82:13 89:18 96:2 fill 91:7 125:16 128:12 134:8 137:17,17 140:21 filling 66:20 69:15 finally 137:11 170:1 finance 54:12 54:21 60:3 119:13 123:2 financial 54:15 55:18,21 56:13 59:12 75:17 find 24:9 28:1 43:15 96:12 129:20 133:11 154:18 finding 87:8 fine 6:2 11:20 169:16 finish 40:20 59:10 126:18 finished 97:9 firm 51:9 first 4:11 33:4 36:9 53:21 67:3 69:20 91:12 106:19
f			
f 1:14 faced 43:2 facets 174:10 facilitate 93:13 facilitating 93:17 facilities 51:11 facility 9:9 23:1			

124:13 145:7 145:10,12,14 146:19 147:2,3 149:5,6 163:13 169:21 172:16 174:21 177:2 fiscal 60:12 73:9,11 77:3 132:18 133:10 133:12 187:16 188:3 fish 139:5 fitch 61:3 fits 55:7 fitting 167:14 five 25:2 69:21 71:14,20 73:8 74:17 85:3,14 98:13 107:1,5 111:8 120:10 152:18 153:13 fix 11:10 114:15 flag 2:7 flexibility 64:4 floor 32:19 167:1 181:8 183:9 fluctuations 56:4 58:21 focused 11:6 folio 105:21 folks 71:8 72:21 79:11	180:10 follow 26:6 27:3,17 181:3 followed 56:12 56:16 following 35:11 52:17 86:18 148:11 food 129:3,4,7 129:13,14,16 129:17,21 130:5,14,18 131:6,21 foods 6:7,14,16 7:6,8,10,21 8:5 8:6,11,14 9:3,6 9:15 10:9 11:9 11:14,17,19,21 12:15 13:1,8 13:12,17,20 14:10 15:8,21 16:5 19:18 20:10,20 21:4 21:11,18 22:7 22:8 23:7,20 26:2,8 28:15 148:14 foods's 7:18 18:19 foot 106:2 force 8:10 15:18 16:1 21:8 93:3	forge 43:1 form 73:13 formal 55:10 55:13 56:13 61:16 formally 105:13 format 56:16 72:18 former 128:14 176:18 forward 27:6 58:19 79:4 109:16 128:8 139:3,9,19 140:4 143:12 149:12 152:6 forwarded 87:4 foster 161:10 fostering 162:8 fosters 151:16 fought 42:21 76:3 found 72:19 167:12 foundational 161:5 founded 42:7 founder 178:11 founding 42:13 178:2 four 25:2 47:20 47:21 48:1	84:20 90:17 92:4 96:18 98:5 182:3,5 182:11 frankly 175:17 176:1 frederick 43:7 freedom 67:1 69:17 73:9 169:17 freedoms 73:5 front 3:2,9 6:5 49:14 171:12 fruition 139:19 fs 73:8 full 121:10 134:20 170:7 fully 70:14 97:10 fund 50:17 51:1,17 52:12 54:7,14 55:15 57:6,7,9 60:6 168:8 fundamental 178:5 funded 166:2 173:21 funding 50:21 52:7,10 58:12 77:10 79:5 131:4 139:2 154:17 155:2 157:9,13,17
---	--	---	--

[funding - good]

Page 20

158:3 163:9,14 163:15 174:4 funds 52:2 60:13 62:1 127:1 128:9 134:10 141:4,5 141:5 further 20:6 48:10 61:9 93:7 99:4 143:13 165:16 187:10 190:5,8 190:10 furthermore 175:6 future 9:7 17:14 27:11 28:6 29:21 56:5 61:13 99:20 108:10 140:5 fy26 132:1 133:16	generally 120:5 generosity 132:5 gentleman 168:14 george 105:17 getting 15:8 40:19 93:4 139:16 gfoa 55:1,5 give 2:15 5:12 15:10 20:15 41:9 63:17 85:12,14 123:10 144:6 146:7 170:2,2 given 31:18 38:6 44:3 66:21 69:16 147:6 gives 109:12 giving 64:3 glad 48:6 116:19 glass 68:21 glorifies 74:18 gnb 22:18 go 2:3,5,9 6:2 14:20 30:11,14 30:19 31:1 32:6 33:12,12 36:18,21 38:14 49:16 58:6 60:1 61:17	63:9 66:9,15 77:14,15 81:2 81:5,10 85:10 87:17,19 91:2 92:7,16 98:8 99:16 100:17 107:4,4 110:2 111:5 112:5,5 120:8 121:11 121:11,12 126:10 130:21 131:5 142:14 145:7 149:12 169:13 180:16 181:6 183:18 184:10,16 187:9 goals 177:7 god 66:21 69:16 73:6 74:18 159:12 186:11 goes 99:9 174:7 going 2:19 5:11 6:2 7:13 13:18 13:19 19:2 20:20 21:10,18 23:20 26:8 27:6 30:12 34:21 51:1 52:1 67:12 69:10 78:17 79:1 88:6 102:12 114:10	116:20 117:8 120:8 121:19 132:11 133:10 133:16 143:12 144:4 146:7,8 146:11 147:5 147:16 148:18 149:11 150:18 154:6,12 155:2 155:7 157:4,17 169:13 174:5 179:18 181:1 185:2,7,20 186:9 good 5:1,17 9:20 10:1 29:15 30:3,9 30:10,10 39:6 47:15 50:9,10 50:13,15,15 51:7,8 54:10 54:11 63:5 64:8 83:9,9,10 83:11 85:18 106:10,11 107:3,4 111:14 111:15,16,16 111:16 117:13 119:8 124:4,10 128:3,21 133:2 133:3 134:6 135:19 138:15 142:5,5,11 150:18,19
g			
gallon 136:10 136:11 game 180:10 gap 18:14 gather 79:3 gathering 51:14 general 54:6 119:18 174:15			

[good - hause]

Page 21

153:3 157:4 158:19,20 159:7 160:11 160:12 172:14 176:13 178:7 goodness 35:7 goofy 35:13 government 54:21 58:13 67:2 69:18 73:15,19 78:3 78:7 120:1 159:21 161:3 166:5 168:11 169:9 174:1 175:3,10 government's 55:11 governments 55:10 governor's 178:13 grab 130:21 131:5 graduated 170:13 graduating 46:3 graduation 39:18 40:15,17 grand 70:16 grandfather 48:15	grant 74:8 141:4,5 173:18 173:21 granted 17:5 97:21 grantees 165:21 grants 77:6,7 139:1 166:2 grasses 140:17 grateful 34:9 gratifying 45:15 gratitude 31:14 38:2 43:20 132:5 186:18 great 9:16,17 30:2 31:18 33:11,15 34:1 34:1 36:12 38:6 40:2,3,3 44:3 46:11,12 46:17 48:4,12 49:7 50:4 56:17 64:17 72:4,5 75:13 78:18 98:6 116:18 126:20 139:7 142:15 143:16 149:4 150:9 greatly 40:7 green 137:15	greenlee 124:16 greeted 176:4 grew 171:2 grievances 67:2 69:19 grieve 172:3 grieved 171:20 gross 178:8 groups 152:11 guess 95:7 96:14,15 103:14 153:5 guessing 74:8 guidance 55:8 60:17 guiding 174:16 guy 121:7 guys 2:21 36:9 49:3 50:12 53:14 83:8,12 92:5 98:7 102:1 142:5,14 h hand 143:3,6 167:21 177:19 190:13 handbook 72:9 handled 46:9 hands 31:18 38:6 44:3 happen 93:14 93:18,19 99:11	102:12 157:5 185:7 186:3 happened 9:1 58:8,9 149:7 179:11 happening 175:18 happens 58:1,9 126:5 162:20 169:21 179:6 happy 167:17 174:12 harassment 72:14 hard 35:21 60:16 70:14 76:16 hardest 72:6 hardships 43:2 hardwired 99:2 harm's 179:18 harmful 171:18 harriet 43:7 harrison 105:18 harrisonia 105:17 harvard 74:2 hate 180:7 hateful 71:2 hause 96:2
---	--	--	--

[haythe - hiring]

Page 22

haythe 1:16 3:12,14,21 4:7 20:8,17 21:1 21:12,20 22:3 27:3,6,10,13 27:17 28:6 30:1,3,12,18 32:2,17,18 33:16 34:15,18 35:4,9,14,18 35:20 36:6,19 38:12 39:4,5 40:5 41:20 44:10 45:1,2 47:20 48:2,4,9 49:17 50:8 52:21 53:12,13 62:5,9,12 63:3 63:4 65:2,7,19 65:20 66:8 68:8,11 77:13 77:15 78:8 80:6,9,15,17 80:21 81:7,20 81:21 83:2,5 88:2 89:7,8 94:13,14,17 95:2,6,9 99:12 100:4,14 101:17,19 102:1,4,8,11 103:17,19 104:1,3,12 105:7,8 110:17	110:18 113:4,5 114:2,3 115:16 115:17 116:16 116:17 118:10 118:11 119:5,6 122:5,16,17 123:12 124:2,3 124:17 125:8,9 127:4,8 128:1 128:2 135:17 135:18 137:8,9 141:10 142:2,3 142:16,19 144:1,16 145:1 145:4 146:13 146:15 147:9 155:16 167:19 180:19,21 182:12,14 183:6,7,17 184:2,14,20 185:21 186:5 188:9 189:1,2 haythe's 182:4 he'll 128:12 healthy 60:6 130:18 hear 45:17 57:6 70:11 80:2 81:4 147:9 160:17 167:21 heard 70:2,16 88:4 91:12,20	97:13 114:20 149:6 160:19 163:9 168:2,18 hearing 3:6 4:8 82:3 85:10,16 87:20 91:1 92:8,17 97:18 106:21 110:2 111:6 114:11 114:13,20 117:9 120:9 121:20 122:1 129:1 154:11 156:1 heartfelt 186:19 heartsick 171:20 heck 33:20 held 187:13 188:4 help 31:9 35:1 37:14 39:13,15 51:2,4 56:1 57:12 59:6 82:16 126:18 132:15 139:11 helped 34:19 88:9 helping 50:20 138:19 helps 54:16 henn 56:10	herb 128:7 133:4,8 heritage 43:14 48:17 152:9 herring 155:5 heterosexual 178:21 hey 67:5 83:8 90:2 143:2 hi 54:10 hicks 46:4 high 31:8,17 33:1,3,21 37:7 38:5 39:12 40:13,15 57:17 114:9 116:4 117:4 118:16 156:11 171:1 higher 161:2 highest 130:11 highly 61:15 hill 42:15 hillyard 30:9 30:16 31:4 32:21 33:1,13 33:17 34:4,12 34:17 35:3,7 35:12,15,19 36:1,5,11 hire 138:4 hired 164:17 hiring 164:15 164:16 168:8
--	--	--	---

[historic - indiscernable]

Page 23

historic 47:16 historically 57:13 history 42:9,18 46:15 48:17 75:14 170:16 172:5,8 hit 163:13 hold 67:8,9 68:18 69:3 133:9,15 183:13 holding 2:18 hollering 2:17 hollis 131:3 home 57:19 130:7,12 131:16 172:4 186:10 honestly 18:18 180:7 honor 147:1 hook 25:16 hookup 20:9 20:18,19 21:3 28:3 hope 20:1 93:4 155:18 156:5 157:21 160:3 hopefully 133:17 140:5 hot 30:18 houlihan 1:21 190:2,16	hours 173:18 house 77:9 housing 86:4 88:8 huge 116:19 121:5 huh 95:7 103:18 143:4 humbly 132:14 hunch 74:11 hundred 131:15 hundreds 173:17 hunt 149:21 hyperbolic 169:20 i ian 169:3 idea 6:13 7:3 77:3 158:4 ideas 71:3 identified 135:1 identify 90:10 ideology 71:4 illegal 16:10,12 16:13 17:4 175:1 illustration 12:2 immediate 82:12 89:17	95:21 immediately 16:21 17:20 86:11 impact 76:20 impacts 54:17 59:3 impede 175:10 implementati... 61:8 implemented 179:21 implementing 71:20 173:20 implications 168:19 177:1 important 48:16 87:7 134:21 139:20 139:20 151:12 161:4 173:13 176:6 177:19 importantly 75:4 improve 161:16 164:11 177:14 improvement 111:3 117:3 118:15 improvements 113:11 119:14 123:3	inaccessible 162:4 inception 149:6 included 87:8 140:15 includes 173:2 including 42:15 158:2 174:14 inclusion 72:3 78:10 151:11 152:4,7 156:21 161:1,5,19 162:1,6,11,19 inclusive 71:2 162:9 income 57:15 58:17 59:17,18 incorrect 12:10 increase 98:13 99:1,4 131:19 132:1,8 increased 98:17 131:18 increases 180:1 180:1 increasing 152:8,11 incredibly 152:5 indicated 131:9 indicating 13:8 indiscernable 34:14
--	---	--	--

[indiscernible - job]

Page 24

indiscernible 39:12,19 63:15 66:8 75:10 142:19 146:9 159:12 169:5	102:2 148:16 148:17 149:1,5 150:6 160:19 163:8,16,18,21	intent 108:10 interest 29:11 64:10,16 109:13 112:10 115:3	issue 12:12 79:13 125:15 164:20 170:10 171:7 175:4
individual 72:15 78:20 111:8 151:13 152:12 161:6	informations 96:11	interested 190:12	issues 8:8 10:13 12:21 43:16
individuals 58:16 72:7 159:6,9 162:7 162:16	informed 129:12	interesting 14:11 140:14	item 84:1 134:11 136:1 181:3 184:15
industries 136:8	infrastructure 137:16	interior 117:4	items 167:11
industry 23:17 28:17	ingredients 130:19	interrogated 190:4	j
infill 17:9 88:8	inheritage 139:4	introduce 153:7,9 169:1	j 105:17
inflationary 75:19	initial 91:15	introduction 53:19	ja 46:4
influence 43:12	initially 97:12	inventory 109:3	james 150:14
influent 8:1 23:8	initiative 126:1 126:6	invested 173:17	january 3:10 6:13 7:1 8:16 9:13 17:21 73:20 83:17 90:7 91:13 96:5 97:13 166:3
influx 58:11	initiatives 161:9 162:2 163:11 173:14 176:17	investing 57:4	jeremy 30:8 31:4 32:19,21 35:9,20 36:3
inform 154:5 154:11	innovation 161:15	investment 56:15	jesus 75:5
information 21:13 79:3 91:17,21 96:6 96:13,14 97:15	inside 39:16	invitation 179:9	jim 152:20 164:4,5
	inspire 43:13	invite 128:7	jim's 152:21
	installing 108:11	involved 121:1	job 34:13 39:21 41:5 46:17 49:7,13 59:15 59:19 63:5
	integrate 170:21	ironic 167:12	
	intends 108:6	island 105:18	
	intense 59:2	issuance 119:17 120:5	
	intensions 153:19	issuances 61:13	

[job - legal]

Page 25

78:18 120:20 124:4 126:8 128:3 135:19 142:6 179:8 joining 157:5 jones 178:7,8 jorge 106:7 judged 159:17 july 66:4 129:12 june 45:13 66:4 132:2 136:9 jurisdiction 165:6,17 jurisdictions 64:11 justice 166:3 173:9	126:7 key 54:14 99:13 kiara 46:3 killed 155:20 kilmon 36:8 41:10 50:1 kind 5:12 6:6 18:9,20 28:7 35:12 70:13 140:18 156:11 158:6 174:16 king 169:19 kirby 28:10 knew 60:7 131:2 148:18 know 4:17 11:3 11:15 19:21 22:13 25:13 28:2,10 29:7 34:7 35:5 36:6 40:13 47:11 49:11 61:1 76:1 80:1 99:10 100:2,10 103:13 111:12 111:13,13 117:6,12 128:15 132:19 142:17 146:13 146:15 148:9 149:9,13,13,17 149:19 150:20 154:9,19	157:16 159:4,5 167:10 168:10 171:4 173:6 184:4 knowing 15:4 known 55:1 75:14,16 130:17 knows 56:20 konner 36:9 l l 1:17 l.e. 158:21 lab 7:18 23:2 26:1 label 164:7 lack 77:9 180:6 ladies 46:1 laid 177:9 181:19 lakeside 11:7 15:16,19 16:3 21:8 land 42:10 105:20 107:13 108:15,19 109:5 landscape 173:19 181:12 lane 82:9 138:4 138:8,12 language 10:14 33:7 37:9,17	39:14 71:2 157:17 largely 86:3 larger 64:11 lasting 43:3 lateral 21:10 laudable 164:11 177:7 law 11:13,20 74:8,9 156:11 157:5 165:9,10 190:4 lawful 166:15 laws 175:7 179:19 lawyers 74:8,9 leadership 127:6 learn 37:9,16 learned 70:6,7 70:19 71:10 96:8 172:7 learners 33:7,9 33:10 learning 45:18 leave 2:19 165:11 led 15:16 left 87:15 92:9 126:4 legacy 43:4 legal 12:4 74:4 77:19 78:15 79:6 156:15
k			
karen 51:3 kay 45:7 keasha 1:16 4:4 40:4 keep 46:17 69:10 70:17 83:12,13 111:19 121:3 keeping 121:2 kelly 150:12,14 kent 129:8,16 133:19,21 kevin 89:19 111:12 120:19			

157:12 158:1	65:4,15,16	156:3 158:18	light 10:15
168:19 169:10	76:12 81:16,17	160:9 164:3	12:9 18:15
174:14 175:3,9	88:4,13 89:3,4	166:20 169:1	49:10 96:15
legality 166:14	90:21 91:4	182:15 183:2,3	lighting 114:9
legislation	92:19 94:9,10	186:17 187:10	116:4
66:13	94:16 98:8	187:12 188:1	lights 114:12
legislative	99:2 103:8	188:18,19	117:4,5,10
126:1,6	104:5,16 105:3	lesser 129:17	118:13,16
legislature 59:3	105:4 110:13	letter 6:1 13:3	119:7
lengthy 147:17	110:14 112:6	13:7 17:19	liked 155:19
leonard 158:18	112:21 113:1,6	75:12 125:14	limited 18:9
158:21	113:13,19,20	125:21 127:2,9	line 40:20
lesher 1:15	114:19 115:1	127:12 147:17	126:18 134:11
10:3,5,20 12:1	115:12,13,20	147:20 173:10	139:17 175:7
12:7,16 13:2,6	116:6,12,13	173:12 174:12	list 28:2 142:15
13:13,18 14:4	117:17 118:6,7	letters 18:11	142:21 143:1
14:7,11 15:1,4	119:1,2 120:14	70:4 178:15	145:17,18,19
15:6,14 16:3,9	121:19 122:2	letting 74:13	146:11,16,19
17:3,15 18:1	122:12,13	level 7:11 99:5	147:3,7,12,15
18:12 19:5,10	123:6,9,11,19	156:11 162:2	164:3
19:21 20:6	123:20 124:18	175:18,20	listed 187:17
26:6,17 27:1	125:4,5 127:10	levels 58:17	listening
28:20 29:2	127:18,19	levied 119:19	162:20
32:13,14 34:5	134:8,14,17	lgbtq 178:13	litigation 74:7
38:21 39:1	135:13,14	179:19,19	little 32:20
40:13 41:13	136:17 137:4,5	180:6	35:4 36:3
44:9,18,19	140:9 141:3,8	liaison 134:14	39:15 45:5,6
46:20 47:2	141:19,20	liber 105:21	48:10 51:13
52:7,15,20	145:9,20	liberty 170:2	64:12 80:3
53:8,9 61:1,7	146:20 147:8	lies 161:14	134:2
61:17,21 62:8	147:11,14	life 31:11	live 164:13
62:10,20,21	148:3 150:12	159:15 178:19	lived 42:10,20
63:16,21 64:9	150:14 152:20	lifetime 170:17	178:19
64:15,18 65:1	153:2 154:19		

lives 42:20 43:3 159:17 175:15 175:16 179:13 180:4 living 73:3 140:10,12 llc 82:14 85:20 136:8 lobbyist 156:9 local 120:1 130:17 locally 76:2 130:19 located 82:8 89:15 95:19 101:9 logical 86:19 88:13 long 18:14 28:12,18 46:21 67:19,20 68:13 103:2 122:19 151:8 186:8 longer 133:1 146:6 151:12 151:15 177:6 look 3:19 4:16 4:18 17:11 20:3 48:9 71:14 79:16 90:11 100:18 157:11,12 160:3 171:14 171:15,18	175:21 looked 12:12 16:18 24:5 looking 12:14 17:8 59:13,16 73:21 99:19 176:1 looks 126:9 lopez 168:18 169:3,4,12,16 lord 31:20 38:8 44:5 159:14 lose 155:2,7 157:8,17 losing 157:13 loss 179:8 losses 179:8 lot 29:17 33:13 58:9 59:5 60:8 60:16 64:9 70:6 79:11,14 90:13 148:17 149:1,12 154:8 160:19 168:18 179:15 189:3 lots 90:11 107:15 louder 71:11 love 35:11 39:20 75:8 79:17 80:1 114:11 149:19 170:15 172:4	loved 42:21 low 75:16 130:13,14 lower 49:11 lowest 61:18 130:5 lucky 41:5 lyn 46:4 lyndsey 4:11 4:13,14 5:7,11 5:19 20:8,9 lynn 1:17 77:13 104:12	made 11:18 14:13,17 29:6 55:9 84:14 96:17 163:10 186:14 magnitude 7:11 main 8:10 15:19 16:1 21:8 93:3 maintaining 54:19 175:6 majority 182:14 184:17 make 2:13 16:13 17:12 61:11,21 64:12 81:2,4 84:6 101:19 106:19 108:2 127:8 143:17 153:20 155:10 164:17 174:8 181:7 186:2 making 25:15 47:3 138:10 161:16 man 179:1 manage 56:3 management 61:3 137:14 138:12 173:21 manager 55:20 56:10 124:11
		m	
		m&r 51:19 ma'am 146:10 madam 31:1,21 32:7 36:20 38:9,15 42:2 44:6,12 53:2 53:20 62:14 63:8 65:9 81:9 82:2 88:18 94:3 95:11 104:19 110:7 110:21 112:4 112:15 114:5 115:7,18 117:21 122:7 123:13 124:20 127:12 135:7 136:19 141:13 182:17 188:12	

[manager - method]

Page 28

128:16 131:4 135:2 142:9 151:4 154:2 155:1 managing 60:18 mandate 156:20 165:10 165:15 manner 37:5 190:7 map 10:6,15 11:13,19 12:3 12:5 14:14 19:8 82:10 89:16 90:10 95:20 105:16 106:6 mapping 10:13 maps 8:12,21 10:21 11:4 12:10,14 18:15 19:3,12,18 20:3 86:15,21 march 184:20 184:21 187:13 188:1 190:13 marginalized 174:2 176:8 mark 171:6 marsh 140:19 140:20,21 martha 54:12 56:19	maryland 1:1 1:10 42:7 54:8 82:9 84:19 89:16 95:20 105:19,21 106:4 119:11 120:2 122:21 126:14 127:6 148:10 163:9 165:10 174:15 190:1,2 massive 172:3 master 51:11 52:3 material 37:16 materials 21:6 math 33:6,9 37:13 mathematical 71:10 mathematically 72:1 matter 66:18 70:10 106:16 159:10 163:3 180:9 190:7 matthew 75:5 mcallister 106:14 mckennon 56:9 md 190:13 mde 8:10 13:3 13:7 23:18 24:1	meadow 140:13 meal 130:6,7,9 meals 128:11 130:6,7,12,12 130:20 131:12 131:13,14,16 131:17,18 132:17,21 133:1 mean 21:1 24:17,19 27:13 27:18 28:13,15 28:18,19 33:20 41:4 46:14 48:4 56:19 79:11,19 102:1 160:1,6 176:3 meaning 187:1 means 56:21 61:17 166:12 174:7 190:7 measures 24:7 media 35:6,10 meeting 1:4 2:16 83:13 91:13 97:13 100:8 132:16 143:13 167:11 181:21 182:9 183:18,19 184:1,3,7,9,11 184:15,19 187:13,18,21	188:2,4,4,7 189:5 meets 18:8 megan 172:15 member 66:12 78:18,21 94:20 95:2 160:18 170:7 179:14 180:5 members 1:13 65:3 74:17 76:6 79:14 151:7 152:2 172:1 173:11 176:9 178:7 182:3 memorializes 72:10 153:18 men 171:3,3 177:20 mentioned 55:17 167:20 174:11,20 mentor 34:1 mere 20:3 165:7 message 177:5 179:16 met 47:20 72:7 83:18 84:13 90:1,8 96:4 132:3 method 29:20
---	--	--	---

[methods - move]

Page 29

methods 57:1	114:1 115:14	misguided	moody's 61:4
metrics 151:5	115:15 116:14	160:19	moore 136:4
mic 5:18	116:15 117:19	misreading	moot 155:4
michael's	118:8,9 119:3	77:8	moral 169:9
42:16 117:10	119:4 122:4,14	misses 128:15	moran 69:7
michaels 117:4	122:15 123:8	mission 43:8	morrell 125:10
118:16 131:15	123:21 124:1	misstatement	125:12,18
164:6	125:6,7 127:20	26:13	127:7 128:5
michelle	127:21 135:15	mistaken	motion 32:1,5
176:14	135:16 137:6,7	179:17	38:10,13 44:11
middle 46:6	141:21 142:1	mitigate 54:16	53:1 62:7,9,13
130:8	181:9 183:4,5	mitigation	65:8 80:18
mielke 1:17	186:14 188:20	58:21	81:2,7,10 83:6
22:4,6,14	188:21	mixup 84:9	84:15,20 90:16
23:18 24:10,17	military 165:19	modernization	92:3 97:14
24:19 25:3,14	million 126:3	77:7	98:1,4 112:6
25:18 26:4	139:3	monetary	112:14 114:18
29:4 32:4,15	millions 73:12	106:8	115:6 117:20
32:16 34:13	mills 89:19	money 58:4	122:6 124:17
39:2,3 40:10	90:8	159:18,19	124:19 127:3,4
44:20,21 47:9	mind 160:1	166:11 173:15	127:8,11 135:6
47:13 50:3	minds 19:2	monies 166:5	136:15,18
53:10,11 62:6	mine 33:16	monitoring	141:12 163:6
63:1,2,7 65:6	152:13 178:14	7:17	181:7,15 182:5
65:17,18 77:14	minority 78:9	month 18:8	182:15,16
77:16 80:8	78:12	154:9	188:6,11
81:18,19 83:3	minute 175:13	monthly 7:16	motions 184:16
89:5,6 94:11	181:11	months 5:10	motivated
94:12 100:15	minutes 3:9,11	7:15 23:4 25:1	73:16
101:3,8,13,18	3:16 85:12,14	25:2 62:3	move 52:20
102:20 104:8	106:21 107:1,5	173:8	62:8 65:4 79:4
105:5,6 110:15	111:8,8 120:9	monument	88:9 104:5
110:16 112:13	120:10 150:17	171:7,11	109:16 112:11
113:2,3,21			112:15 115:3

[move - o'clock]

Page 30

117:17 122:2 123:6 135:3 139:3 141:8 143:13 152:6 168:16 171:7 171:11 moved 38:11 44:7 136:16 188:9 moves 3:7,15 4:9 moving 58:19 64:20 112:10 115:1 139:9,17 139:19 140:3 mullaney 106:15 multiple 174:14 municipal 54:16 97:2 99:14,15 municipalities 58:10 174:16 municipality 27:20 97:6 museum 42:5,6 42:19 43:9 44:2 45:12,18 48:10 101:9 167:14 musical 43:11 muster 88:6	n n 1:16 name 32:21 45:7 75:15 106:12 147:3 153:9 158:21 169:3 170:6 172:14 176:13 named 190:3 narrow 164:11 nation 43:6 national 72:17 139:5 nationally 76:3 natives 43:6 natural 75:14 173:19 naturally 140:21 navigate 37:8 nay 81:17,19 94:10,12 near 101:11 neavitt 92:21 93:9 necessary 14:3 23:14 24:9 144:3 163:7 neck 89:15 necks 93:8 need 2:15 6:18 37:19 50:18 52:9 60:14	90:11 103:17 103:19,20 104:16 112:6 114:14,18 121:13 124:8 149:13 157:20 162:14 177:20 needed 15:10 60:7 86:7 96:6 129:20 139:10 needs 37:6 46:9 117:5 139:14 144:8 negative 76:16 76:20 neighbor 75:8 170:8,9 nervous 125:19 network 45:16 never 169:17 new 28:20 33:7 37:8,9 74:9 88:14 107:8,9 117:11 126:8 129:20 131:21 133:11 155:10 newly 45:10 163:5 newsletters 148:21 149:4 nice 36:6 107:10 night 2:12 30:3 186:8	nine 106:5 non 108:1 172:19 nonprofits 174:16 nope 187:11 normal 184:16 normally 58:13 notary 190:2 190:17 noted 188:7 notes 190:6 notify 99:10 notorial 190:13 november 10:16,21 18:7 18:15 105:19 number 33:2 40:20 82:3,4 89:11 95:15 98:14,17 99:1 105:12 110:21 111:2 113:10 114:7 116:2 117:2 118:14 119:10 122:20 131:17 133:9 138:21 numbers 133:16 o o'clock 187:14 187:15 188:2
---	--	---	---

[objected - opportunities]

Page 31

objected 164:20	okay 2:3,9,19 3:1,6,8,15 4:8	104:10,13,14 105:9,10 106:9	185:13 186:16 187:8 188:11
objection 123:9 123:11,12	4:10 5:7 10:1,4 15:5 21:20	108:4 109:6,18 110:1,7,19	189:3 old 42:8 95:19
objectionable 76:20	26:4,5 27:2,5 29:15 30:5,20	111:5,16,18 112:14 113:14	101:12 126:12 171:2
objectives 88:7	30:21 32:3,5 32:19,21 33:18	114:4,10,16 115:6,18 116:5	once 18:8 99:8 142:20 154:3
obligation 119:18	36:12,13,20 38:13 39:6	116:21 117:16 117:20 118:12	one's 122:18 open 52:5
obligations 71:3 132:16	41:17 42:1 44:8,11 45:3,9	118:17 119:8 120:7,13	75:12 85:10 91:3 92:8
obstacles 43:1	50:4 51:6 52:5 52:5,18 53:1	121:13 122:18 124:4,5 125:12	106:20 111:6 114:10 117:8
obviously 79:12,14,17 139:10	53:14,17,18 54:5,9 56:17	127:3,11 128:3 133:2 134:12	120:8 138:5 148:3 167:1
october 18:7 20:14 132:1,2 139:16	60:20 62:4,7 62:13 63:5,8	134:12,13 135:4,6,19	187:15 188:5 opened 145:6
offer 105:13,14 109:4	63:15,19 64:8 65:8,21 66:7	136:5,15,18 137:19 138:14	146:20 opening 85:15
offering 140:2	67:11,13,19 68:16 69:10,12	140:7 141:12 142:5,11,12	operate 158:13 181:2
office 14:21 17:10 138:2	76:9 77:12 78:13 80:5	143:16 144:10 145:1,5,7,15	operation 23:1 operational
officers 54:21	81:9 82:1,1,15 83:1 85:1,5,9	145:16 146:2,3 146:14,18	22:21 73:13 132:6
oh 11:8 30:16 30:17 35:7 41:21 67:7	87:16,18 88:16 88:18 89:20	147:7,10,13 148:2 150:8,11	opinion 16:11 24:18 156:17
69:11 84:3 91:6 95:6,13 107:6 127:7	90:19 91:2 92:5,7,10,12	150:13 167:3 170:5 178:6	opinions 66:18 75:3 79:19
128:14 145:15 150:10 169:3 173:4	94:1,2 95:6,8 95:10,10 96:20	180:13 182:10 182:16 183:8,8	opportunities 6:20 55:6
	98:6 100:14 101:3 104:7,9	183:13,15 184:9,12	161:12 162:3 162:15

opportunity 15:15 72:11 145:21 146:6 151:1 156:7 158:15 160:14 176:15 oppose 78:7 optimization 55:7 optimizes 151:18 options 6:20 130:18 orban 170:6 orbin 170:6 order 60:11 73:20 77:10,18 78:16 86:20 103:13 119:12 123:1 145:10 158:7 163:4 165:8 166:9,10 174:21 175:4 181:2 orders 165:2 165:17 ordinance 24:14 25:8 organic 130:18 organization 54:16 55:4 85:13 111:9 120:11 162:8 177:6	organizational 161:16 organizations 75:2 107:2 161:19 origin 72:17 original 185:6 originally 25:15 100:20 originating 23:20 outcome 190:12 outline 139:13 outreach 173:1 outside 5:1 39:16 50:8 68:17,20 69:1 69:2 146:16 160:17 outstanding 34:10 overestimating 59:19 overlooked 43:12 overstepping 175:10 overview 63:18 own 6:17 27:19 37:16,19 42:12 107:11 149:3 owned 107:19 109:1,2	owner 17:1 85:19 86:4 106:13 owners 106:6 107:11 owns 107:7 oxford 42:6,15 46:7 148:9 167:14 oyster 140:15 p p.m. 1:7 187:14 187:15 188:2 189:5 paca 47:11 pack 121:9,10 128:14,18 133:3 134:4 135:21 153:2,3 153:9,10 page 49:14 72:10 paid 20:11 171:16 palmer 158:18 158:19,21 159:1 panels 108:12 paper 16:17 18:6 105:14 106:3 108:20 109:7	papers 149:20 par 37:14 paragraph 75:12 parameters 13:10,17 parcel 89:16 95:20 97:21 98:20 99:19,21 100:12 106:5,5 107:18,18,21 108:12 parcels 82:10 97:4 107:12,15 pardon 68:9 145:13 paris 6:7,14,16 7:6,8,10,18,21 8:5,6,11,14 9:2 9:6,15 10:9 11:9,14,17,18 11:21 12:15 13:1,8,11,17 13:20 14:10 15:8,21 16:5 18:19 19:18 20:10,20 21:4 21:11,17 22:7 22:8 23:7,20 26:2,7 28:15 148:13 parks 46:2 167:5,5
--	---	---	--

[part - plant]

Page 33

part 51:20 52:4 75:21 80:12 109:2 170:16 172:5 182:2 participate 126:14 particular 93:19 172:5 particularly 37:7 64:10 87:7 parties 29:21 190:11,11 parts 139:17 pass 98:1 passageway 46:6 passed 84:20 88:5 90:17 92:3 97:13 98:4 167:9 168:7 176:17 176:20 passes 182:5 passing 171:13 passion 31:7 past 6:6 39:13 60:7 98:16 121:9 129:4 142:20 143:1 pastor 159:10 patience 37:6 patrick 66:8 82:15 106:16	144:16 181:12 patriotism 43:11 pause 78:12 79:2 pauses 132:13 pay 58:12 61:18 payable 119:19 pedestrian 63:13 64:3 peers 41:4 people 42:20 43:3,14 45:16 49:11 50:5 57:18 80:10 90:3 132:21 133:11 153:15 159:20 167:21 168:9 175:19 176:7 179:18 180:10 people's 179:13 180:3 perceived 178:21 percent 71:17 71:19,21 180:3 percentage 57:18 perfect 36:10 41:11 perfectly 45:20 167:15	performance 161:17 period 155:18 periods 23:4 permissible 77:21 permit 6:17 8:10 21:7 person 70:3 107:1 109:21 personal 43:15 159:5 personally 40:19 73:7 175:14 178:14 190:3 persons 153:21 perspective 178:17 perspectives 161:8 pete 1:15 petition 67:1 69:18 phase 139:10 phenomenal 41:5 46:17 49:12 59:14 120:20 phone 70:3 162:17 pick 153:11 picked 33:6	picking 162:17 pictorial 42:18 picture 132:9 pipe 15:9,11,12 15:16 16:4 place 47:4 60:13,13 70:18 71:13 72:2 88:13,15 100:5 139:15 151:21 155:3,8,12 177:3,12 190:4 placed 46:10 159:17 places 93:12 plan 8:18 9:6,8 9:12 14:14,18 17:2,6,11,21 19:11 51:11 52:3,4 82:6 84:17 87:10 89:13 92:2 95:17 98:2,12 98:12 99:20,21 100:3,5 103:13 planning 52:1 84:11,13 87:4 87:7 91:8,11 91:12,13 94:14 97:1,12 137:12 138:2,17 plant 6:15 7:5 7:12,14,19 14:13 21:9
---	---	--	--

[plant - procedures]

Page 34

22:10,15,17 23:21 24:2 25:5,16 29:13 planted 140:13 140:17 planting 173:20 plat 105:16 108:21 109:4 plate 154:8 plated 108:7 play 79:6 played 78:15 playing 162:2 please 5:14 31:2 37:1 42:3 53:21 67:6 111:1 112:16 172:10 180:4 183:15 pledge 2:6,8 plus 178:13 point 10:17 85:9 96:10 99:11,19 126:4 139:9 155:4 157:12 158:10 points 158:2 policies 61:9,16 70:15,18,20,21 71:6,21 policy 54:7,20 55:10,14,16 56:8,12,13,14	56:15 60:12 76:14 166:8 179:14 polite 71:7 political 71:4 73:1 politically 73:16 politicized 74:13 pool 108:11 popped 28:16 population 71:18 portion 105:15 106:2,4 portray 42:19 position 45:10 45:15 60:12 positions 172:1 positive 31:16 38:4 possible 28:2 61:18,21 146:6 posting 35:6 postponement 147:6 posts 35:9 potential 74:7 100:2 101:18 potentially 166:1 potter 160:9,10 160:11,13	163:20 164:1,2 practical 168:19 practice 54:20 55:8,16 74:9 practices 72:14 173:21 prayer 2:6,8 predecessor 131:2 predict 157:4 prepared 66:13 90:10 presence 190:9 present 38:14 43:17 52:13 147:14 163:18 presented 32:7 77:19 presently 108:14 president 50:11 63:21 73:19 76:8 77:18 121:9 128:15,18 134:9 146:20 165:1,5,16 181:10 pressed 76:17 pressures 59:2 75:20 presume 15:6 61:8	pretreatment 13:20 pretty 148:12 prevents 109:8 previous 130:14 previously 129:6 162:4 pride 178:12 principle 72:11 178:2 printed 190:6 prioritizing 161:18 priority 82:12 89:17 96:1 private 126:15 privilege 74:9 178:20 privileges 179:2 privy 156:15 proactively 28:2 probably 149:13 problem 84:5 84:10 90:6 99:8 146:17,17 169:14 procedure 181:7,18 procedures 158:7 181:4
---	--	--	---

[proceed - public]

Page 35

proceed 182:6	166:3	89:14 93:16,19	98:20 138:8
proceeding	prohibited	95:18 97:2,9	152:2 156:16
185:11	108:7,8	100:16 101:8	provides 54:18
proceedings	project 46:6	105:17 106:7	providing
2:1	47:15 51:16	106:13 107:11	18:10 34:11
process 6:19	93:1,4 126:2,3	109:9	88:8
51:10 52:16	137:16 138:1	proposal 87:9	provisions
77:20 78:15	139:2,12,18	138:9 167:8,12	63:12 119:21
79:6,19 86:14	140:3,4,9	propose 79:1	prudent 61:2
99:3,17 100:5	141:6	101:5	public 5:14
103:17,19	projected	proposed 66:12	31:4 34:8
109:17 112:9	57:15,21	83:6 164:9	35:21 36:15
134:18 138:20	projects 52:11	179:20,20	37:3 40:14
139:6	140:6	proposing	69:5 79:18
processed 25:4	pronouns	183:20	80:2,11,12
25:5	178:8	protecting	82:2 83:17
processes	proper 46:7	73:12	85:10,15 86:16
132:12	60:13	protection	87:3,20 90:1
proclaimed	properly 46:10	172:20	90:13,21 91:14
169:19	60:18	protocol 67:20	91:18 92:8,17
proclamation	properties 9:2	68:1,4 69:4	94:17 95:2
34:3	11:7 14:15	proud 61:2	96:4,16 97:16
produced 23:6	82:7 92:21	120:19,21	100:10 106:21
130:19	109:9	170:14 176:19	109:5 110:2
product 74:14	property 6:14	proudly 178:9	111:4,6 113:12
profit 172:19	6:21 7:4 8:5,6	proven 13:11	114:11 117:8
program	8:14,17 9:3,7,8	13:13	120:8 121:20
128:11 130:21	15:9,11,17,19	provide 6:21	122:1 126:7,15
131:5,8 139:5	16:2,5,17,19	8:4 15:10 93:5	137:12 142:13
programming	16:21 17:9	93:5 132:17	144:19 145:3
173:14	21:11 26:8,9	133:1 145:20	146:5,21 148:3
programs	28:8,12 29:12	157:21 162:3	157:21 161:2
156:10,19	85:19 86:2,4	provided 24:18	164:14 177:13
164:8 165:3	86:12,16 88:11	55:8 91:18	177:14 188:5

[public - rebid]

Page 36

<p>190:2,17 pull 25:21 pulling 154:20 purpose 57:11 161:9 purposes 120:6 pursuant 82:12 89:18 96:1 push 80:4,4 pushed 59:4 put 7:2 38:15 67:17 78:14 99:20 103:21 144:8 154:15 159:15 162:14 179:18 183:17 putting 155:17</p>	<p>144:16 150:2 185:3 questioning 149:11 questions 10:2 20:6,7 22:4 51:5 52:18 56:18 60:21 106:17 134:13 quick 175:12 quickly 71:14 quitclaim 106:1 109:12 quite 4:16 40:19 61:1 138:3 175:17 176:1 180:7 quote 74:6 151:13,14,16 151:17,18 152:5,13,14,16 quoting 151:10</p>	<p>rather 29:13 50:14 rating 55:2 61:3,4,10,15 rationale 15:14 134:18,19 169:6 ray 82:18,20 83:15 84:2 90:2,4 96:3 137:11,20 138:18 140:1 147:3 reaches 13:21 read 30:12 31:2 34:2 36:21 42:2 53:21 54:1,3 63:9 66:1,14 111:1 113:6,8 115:20,21 118:12 150:8 reader 111:21 112:1,5,12,16 115:4 117:16 117:18 121:16 121:17 122:3,7 reading 19:8 114:5 123:7 ready 41:11 93:21 94:3 reaffirm 178:1 reaffirmed 173:8</p>	<p>reaffirming 174:9 reaffirms 176:7 real 47:3 74:14 82:7 89:14 95:18 124:6 162:18 reality 180:8 realization 18:14 realize 150:6 realized 16:18 really 10:15 11:3 20:16 45:12 48:9 49:9,10,10 57:6,8 121:4,4 128:17 139:17 150:19 151:1 159:9 166:12 reappointment 124:15 reason 15:7,7 58:14 78:6 162:13 166:13 reasonings 130:16 reasons 87:11 156:13 rebecca 147:15 148:9 rebid 129:2</p>
<p>q</p>	<p>r</p>		
<p>quaker 89:15 qualifications 72:16 qualified 77:1 126:13 qualify 40:16 quality 129:13 129:17 130:14 151:18 quarters 134:2 queen 45:8 queer 175:15 question 15:13 27:3 94:14 98:8 143:9,20</p>	<p>race 72:16 radar 10:19 rainy 55:15 raise 126:5 raised 169:4 170:12 ramirez 106:7 ran 73:7 rates 40:15 61:19 180:2</p>		

[recall - repealed]

Page 37

recall 86:1	75:17 177:10	refinance	relatively
receding 11:16	recognizing	119:13 123:2	140:4
receive 4:20	177:12	reflect 161:20	relevant 84:18
103:12	recommend	refunding	92:2 98:3
received 97:14	83:21	120:4	reliance 57:17
102:15 130:1	recommenda...	regard 72:16	reliant 19:18
173:10	87:8 91:20	regarding	relied 10:5
receives 73:14	96:17	63:12 66:4	religious 43:11
receiving 96:13	recommenda...	79:3,5 154:5	rely 20:2
132:21 174:4	55:9 87:5	154:17 158:2,6	remain 93:20
recent 16:16	recommended	168:19	remainder
40:17 75:21	129:19	regardless	132:18 181:21
77:9 88:9	recommending	161:12	remaining
recently 8:20	85:6 90:16	regards 159:2	100:21
23:10 24:19	reconvene	regina 147:12	remap 82:7
25:14 84:13	188:7	region 43:5	89:14 95:18
reclassify 82:7	record 15:2	regular 51:21	remarkably
89:14 95:18	21:17 31:2	184:17	40:15
recognition	36:21 42:3	regularization	remember
30:6,13 31:3,6	56:20 80:13,14	88:10	169:20
31:15 34:6	80:15	regularly	reminder
36:14 37:2,5	recorded	148:21	150:16
37:11 38:3	105:19 190:6	reiterate 6:6	reminding 70:9
41:9 42:4	records 38:15	126:21 173:12	remove 168:20
43:21 48:20	105:20	rejection 176:5	renew 6:18
59:11	recruit 76:17	related 9:2	129:20
recognitions	red 155:4	13:4 96:15	renovation
50:5	redress 67:2	128:10 174:4	119:14 123:3
recognize	69:18	190:11	reopen 168:1
26:15,19 27:19	reduce 140:15	relates 163:1	reopened 163:6
78:5 86:6	referenced	relating 120:5	repeal 70:5
167:13	158:2	relationship	165:13
recognized	referring	170:9	repealed
34:10 54:21	108:20		164:10

[repealing - results]

Page 38

repealing 66:3 70:14 71:6 76:14,18 repeat 74:19 replacement 114:8 116:3 117:3 118:15 report 18:16 77:4 124:11 128:16 142:9 154:3,11 reported 1:20 87:2 151:4 reports 7:17,17 represent 34:6 57:1 107:11 representatives 9:14 63:13 represented 64:7 76:2 representing 85:13 request 18:19 29:6 50:17 51:2 87:1 99:6 99:12 125:15 126:6 128:9 132:15 134:9 134:11 136:13 138:10 requested 63:21 70:17 97:17,19 98:17	requesting 51:17 100:11 124:15 125:14 125:21 137:13 require 24:7 52:13 98:12 156:20 165:2 required 79:4 127:1 129:2 141:6 requirement 74:6 requirements 54:19 78:2 requires 168:7 181:3 requiring 13:19,19 reserve 54:7,20 55:7,10 61:9 reserves 55:14 55:20 56:2 57:5,6,7,8,11 58:7,17,18,19 59:6 reside 42:14 resident 153:10 156:5 164:5 178:10 residential 107:19 residents 76:1 151:19 179:16	resilience 54:15 resiliency 140:6 resilient 42:20 137:15 161:21 resolution 10:7 54:6 62:11 63:11,20 64:2 65:5 66:2 76:7 77:17 79:9 82:3,4,5 83:18 84:16 85:16,21 87:12 89:10,11 89:12 90:17 92:8,20 93:10 95:11,12,15,16 96:18 97:8 103:21 104:5 105:11,12,13 124:14 143:11 156:12 157:9 158:5,8 160:15 181:8,19 resolutions 53:20 66:3 71:13 72:1 164:8 165:7,13 166:14,16,18 167:9,16 168:7 178:4 resolve 166:13 resources 162:3	respect 2:17 151:16 152:11 152:16 158:4 159:13 180:7 183:14 respected 161:7 respectful 2:14 71:7 153:20 respectfully 76:5 respecting 183:14 respectively 66:6 82:11 response 167:7 responsibilities 37:12 responsibility 73:9,11 responsible 40:19 rest 97:8 restart 69:13 131:5 restarted 131:8 restoration 172:20 173:1 restrict 76:15 result 164:11 165:15 results 23:3,3 71:10
---	---	--	---

[retain - saying]

Page 39

retain 76:17,21 141:1 166:17 178:3 retaining 70:20 77:4 176:16 revenue 54:17 revenues 56:4 57:15,15,21 59:1 reverberated 43:4 review 7:7 26:1 83:18 96:5 99:5,14 reviewed 7:16 8:17 19:12 23:2,3 29:8 56:8 90:8 reviewing 6:19 97:18 reviews 99:15 revise 9:5 revised 163:5 reward 39:17 rfp 51:10 rich 42:8 46:15 richard 160:9,9 right 4:2 27:16 30:16 35:9 36:5,6,8 41:10 42:13 47:4,21 50:1 59:3,11 59:13 64:14 65:21 66:21	67:1 68:17,20 68:21 69:6,9 69:17,17 79:15 86:14 87:17 88:12 89:9 91:2 92:11,12 95:6,10 100:1 107:21 111:15 117:7 120:16 133:13 140:7 145:2 146:18 148:7,8 150:17 153:11 155:6 163:1 169:9,10 171:12 180:15 183:19 184:6 184:11 186:4,9 rights 73:4 156:18 169:19 rilke 106:8 rise 13:9,16 risk 56:3 58:21 74:7 77:11 rivers 24:10,13 25:19 172:17 173:17 rivers's 25:17 road 89:15 95:19 101:12 roads 109:2,3 136:2,3,6 robert 124:16 181:2	robert's 158:7 163:4 robin 150:15 rock 49:17 role 73:7 room 33:14 48:2 64:13 66:20 69:15 171:21 188:5 rosario 37:3 roughly 101:2 route 82:8 routine 50:14 rude 105:15 106:3,5 ruled 130:13 rules 158:6,7 158:14 163:4 181:2,4,7,18 182:2 185:5 ruling 74:1 run 16:1 130:21 running 124:6 runs 16:4 rural 77:7 101:9 rusty 35:4 ryan 4:12 5:1,6 5:15,17,19,19 6:12 10:4,8 11:2 12:6,8,19 13:5,7,15 14:1 14:6,9,19 15:3	15:13,18 16:7 16:11 17:7,18 18:3,18 19:9 19:12 20:5,11 20:19 21:5,14 22:2,13,18 24:1,13,18,20 25:2,6,17,19 26:11,19 29:5 29:19 30:4
			s
			s 8:14 9:7 11:14 12:15 14:15 16:14,19 17:5 17:12 20:21 26:8,14 82:11 82:12 89:17 95:21 s.t. 105:17 sacrificial 140:19 sale 119:17 120:5 169:18 samples 22:19 23:16 25:21 sampling 13:15 sarah 46:1 sat 160:17 save 56:21 savings 58:3 savior 159:14 saying 25:8 29:3 49:3

[saying - see]

Page 40

102:13 155:8 185:16 says 155:1,6 159:10 180:9 scared 175:16 scheirer 106:10 106:12,12 107:6,10 108:5 109:20 schmidt 4:14 4:18,20 5:5 6:10 9:19,21 11:11 16:6,8 22:11 25:1 27:9,12,16 28:5,7 29:1,3 school 31:8,9 31:10,17 33:1 33:3,21 37:7 38:5 40:14 114:9 116:4,21 117:4,10 118:16 119:16 120:21 123:5 171:1 schools 31:4 35:21 36:15 37:3 40:11,14 58:10 73:20 75:1 111:4 113:12 126:8 157:14 161:2 170:14,21	science 37:17 172:21 script 169:12 169:13 seal 31:18 38:6 44:3 190:13 seat 30:18 36:18 seats 153:16 second 30:11 32:4,6 38:12 38:14 44:9,10 44:12 52:21 53:2 62:12,14 65:6,7,9 81:6,7 81:10 84:1 104:8,9 112:13 112:15 115:5,7 117:19,21 122:4,5,6 123:10 124:18 124:19 127:10 127:12 135:5,7 136:17,19 141:10,11,13 171:6 175:2 181:9 182:4,15 182:17 188:10 188:12 seconded 84:15 104:11 secretary 31:1 31:3,21 32:7,9 32:11,13,15,17	36:20 37:2 38:9,16,17,19 38:21 39:2,4 42:2,4 44:6,12 44:14,16,18,20 45:1 53:2,4,6,8 53:10,12,20 54:1,5 62:14 62:16,18,20 63:1,3,9,11 65:9,11,13,15 65:17,19 66:2 81:9,12,14,16 81:18,20 82:2 82:4 88:18,20 89:1,3,5,7,11 92:15 94:4,5,7 94:9,11,13 95:11,12,15 104:11,19,20 105:1,3,5,7,12 110:6,7,9,11 110:13,15,17 110:21 111:2 111:20 112:3,4 112:15,17,19 112:21 113:2,4 113:10,15,17 113:19,21 114:2,6,7 115:7,8,10,12 115:14,16,18 116:2,8,10,12 116:14,16	117:2,21 118:2 118:4,6,8,10 118:14,18,20 119:1,3,5,10 121:16 122:7,8 122:10,12,14 122:16,20 123:13,15,17 123:19,21 124:2,20,21 125:2,4,6,8 127:12,14,16 127:18,20 128:1 135:7,9 135:11,13,15 135:17 136:19 136:21 137:2,4 137:6,8 141:13 141:15,17,19 141:21 142:2 182:17,19,21 183:2,4,6 188:12,14,16 188:18,20 189:1 section 72:19 74:4 163:5 sections 119:21 secured 131:4 see 27:18 39:17 39:21 47:15 52:5 74:16,21 78:6 109:15 121:7,8,9
---	--	---	--

[see - sic]

Page 41

126:9 133:11 142:14 144:2,3 148:12 154:16 159:12 160:4 162:21 167:17 172:11 seeing 49:12 60:10 seek 51:1 159:12 seeking 136:7 136:14 seemed 167:10 seen 155:20 165:14 178:20 179:6 180:1 selected 51:9 self 169:19 send 76:16 148:21 174:12 177:2 sends 177:4 senior 129:12 131:4 132:7 seniors 129:15 129:18 132:17 sent 130:2 149:4 150:6 178:15 sentence 69:14 sentences 55:17 separate 120:3 129:6	september 129:5 190:19 septic 6:17 sequence 18:13 series 55:5 119:18 120:3 serve 72:7 86:16,20 124:16 140:5 140:18 161:20 164:14 178:11 178:12 179:3,9 served 9:9 129:16,18 131:12 serves 107:13 service 20:16 34:9,10 97:21 139:5 177:13 177:15 services 107:15 129:9 130:10 137:14 138:6,8 151:19 152:2 serving 21:10 35:21 session 187:15 187:16,17 188:3 set 27:13 144:17 158:13 190:4 setting 46:7	seven 39:13 64:21 84:17 92:2 98:3 several 5:10 56:15 62:3 124:11 sewage 29:14 sewer 6:21 8:18 9:6,12 14:14,18 17:1 17:6,11,21 19:11 22:9 29:2 82:6 86:15,17 89:13 90:12 93:2,12 95:17 97:21 98:9,11,12 sex 72:17 shades 10:14 shafer 111:14 126:7 shakes 144:2 shame 183:10 183:10,11,11 183:12 185:4 shameful 172:9 172:9 share 156:7 shared 28:4 sharing 66:17 187:6 sharp 20:1 sharper 20:3	shelton 56:10 shocked 107:8 shore 24:10,13 25:17,19 49:11 49:11 128:8,19 129:2,11 132:16,19 134:15 172:17 172:20 173:17 175:16 176:3 shoreline 140:10,12,16 short 64:20 shortfalls 54:17 shortly 8:7 18:4 117:14 show 176:9 showalter 106:14 showcase 42:8 showed 11:14 14:15 21:9 showing 8:11 8:13 21:7 105:16 shown 12:2 82:9 89:16 95:20 105:15 shows 12:2 71:17 sic 139:4 167:19
--	--	---	--

[side - spirit]

Page 42

side 82:8 88:11	172:1	68:3 69:5	69:1,4,7 75:7
sign 67:6,9,17	situation 132:4	83:19 90:5	75:10 114:15
68:18 142:17	148:11	91:3,5,6,9 95:7	143:8,16,19
145:11,14	six 7:15	95:14 104:17	144:1,10,13
signage 46:7,10	size 55:7	104:17 107:6	145:13,15
signals 76:16	100:15	122:18,19	146:2,4,9
signature	skeptical 93:20	143:9 169:3,10	153:12 183:10
190:15	slow 124:8	172:11 173:4	183:11,12
signed 145:10	155:19 173:3	sought 86:9	184:19 185:1,2
146:5 147:1	slowly 11:15	sounds 29:15	185:3,4,5,7,9
166:21 167:2	140:20	46:11,12	185:13,15,18
significance	small 57:17	142:11 149:15	185:19 186:12
161:14	107:12	172:17	187:2,3
signs 2:19 68:5	smart 157:6	south 82:8	speaking 85:20
68:7,10	smith 51:3,7,9	spanish 33:5,9	148:15 172:16
similar 90:11	52:12 53:16	33:9 34:20	special 30:20
simple 71:8	85:18,19 87:13	35:1 41:15,16	30:20
177:16	snuck 121:8	sparks 54:10	specific 18:10
simply 28:20	social 35:6,10	54:12,12 57:3	23:11 55:11
52:9 64:12	society 162:9	57:5 59:21	181:3
112:8 164:17	sock 35:13	61:6,14,20	specifically
single 98:10	socks 35:5,8,11	62:2 63:6	21:17 174:2
106:21 120:10	35:16	speak 45:16	speculation
sir 85:16 99:7	solar 108:12	56:20 59:7	11:4
102:19 107:3	solutions 129:7	71:11 80:11	speech 67:1
145:18 146:10	129:14,21	128:12 140:19	69:17
167:3 168:13	130:5	142:17 143:6	speed 121:3
168:15 170:4	somebody 83:6	147:16,18	spend 58:4,14
sit 30:11,15,16	143:5 168:16	159:2 160:15	spent 156:8
67:6	sophomore	176:15	160:21
site 9:10 29:14	171:1	speaker 41:15	spew 71:2
86:5 126:2,8	sorry 4:1,4	41:19 67:7,11	spirit 27:21
sitting 12:1	22:11 41:21	67:13,19 68:3	167:15
78:8,11 171:10	52:15 59:17	68:6,9,12,19	

[spoke - stood]

Page 43

spoke 70:13 141:3 153:12 154:18	standards 23:8 23:11 24:4,6 84:18 92:3 98:3	states 33:8 166:6 174:14 175:4 179:21	81:14,15 89:1 89:2 94:7,8 105:1,2 110:11 110:12 112:19 112:20 113:17 113:18 115:5 115:10,11 116:10,11 118:4,5,20,21 122:10,11 123:10,17,18 125:2,3 127:16 127:17 135:5 135:11,12 136:16 137:2,3 141:11,17,18 143:2,5,11 148:5 154:18 157:15 160:18 168:4 170:7 179:14 182:21 183:1 184:4,8 185:5,10,16,20 187:4 188:10 188:16,17
spoken 41:15 41:16 154:21	standing 48:2 61:10 136:2	status 82:12 89:18 96:1	
sprout 130:8 130:15,16,20 131:6,10	star 49:14,17	statutes 78:3	
square 106:2 107:13	start 153:5 172:16	stay 107:3	
sr 159:1	started 2:4,10 2:21 11:16 28:10 33:4 51:14 131:21	stays 155:18	
st 42:16 117:4 117:10 118:16 131:15 164:6	state 21:17 43:6 51:12 59:2 79:18 132:12 157:1 161:3 163:9,12 163:15 165:10 174:1 175:7 177:20 190:1,2	steady 157:1	
staff 36:15 37:4 40:6 60:16 129:13 151:6	statement 66:6 66:14 76:14,18 77:4 78:4 151:11 152:4 153:17 154:15 155:3,8 159:3 160:16 162:13 162:15 168:21 174:8 187:18	steele 36:17 37:3 39:8,11 40:9,12 41:1,7 41:12,16	
staffing 50:19		stenographic 190:6	
stake 79:18		stenographic... 190:6	
stamp 5:18 60:1,2 117:13 124:8 125:10 126:21 128:4,7 132:3 136:1,6 137:10 140:8 142:8 145:6,17 181:10,15		step 60:11 78:13 86:13 112:9 172:3 175:13	
stand 2:5 67:14 67:16,17 68:15 68:17 69:8 154:1 155:13		stepp 1:18 3:5 32:11,12 33:20 38:11,19,20 41:3 44:7,16 44:17 46:13,14 53:6,7 56:19 57:4 59:9 62:18,19 64:20 65:13,14 66:11 69:11,13 75:8 75:11 76:10 79:2,8,11 80:13,21 81:1	
standard 24:8 129:15	statements 26:7 55:18 73:16 78:1 177:8,9,16		stepp's 167:8 steps 17:3 steve 167:5 stewardship 75:18 stipulations 190:8 stood 67:7

[stop - tabled]

Page 44

stop 74:13 180:11 stories 45:17 46:20 48:14,16 storm 59:7 173:20 straight 61:7 street 105:15 106:3 108:20 109:7 strength 8:1 60:11 strengthen 61:9 strengths 43:15 strickoff 150:15,18,21 strip 107:12 108:14 strong 60:6 strongly 129:19 structure 107:19 structures 108:9 students 31:7 31:16 34:11,19 35:10 37:7,8 37:13,14,15,18 38:4 39:13,18 40:7,16 74:1 studies 22:14	study 10:10 52:1 stuff 5:9,13 124:5 subdividable 93:15 subdivide 99:9 subdivision 99:21 100:3 101:5 103:13 105:16 submit 9:15 17:1 103:1 147:20 submitted 6:1 9:4 10:18 17:19 21:6 24:13,15 25:7 26:16,20 succeeding 39:21 success 31:10 162:7 successful 39:20 57:18 58:15 suffer 179:8,8 179:9 suggested 144:1 suggesting 168:1 suicide 180:2	super 182:14 superintendent 136:3 superman 35:8 supplied 129:14 130:20 supply 130:3 support 36:15 37:4 40:6 85:20 90:15 93:21 121:10 125:14,21 126:18 127:2,5 127:9,9,12 128:20 135:1 140:3 156:16 175:21 supported 158:1 177:6 supporting 132:6 supportive 70:14 supreme 73:21 sure 2:13 15:3 16:2 17:12 25:6,19 27:9 28:5 33:16 41:8 49:13,18 50:6 81:4 84:6 106:19 114:14 116:21 143:6 143:17 153:15 153:20 155:10	159:7 171:9 174:8 186:2 surprised 77:16 148:12 157:18 susan 67:13 68:12 69:7 suspend 181:4 181:7 182:2 suspending 74:5 sworn 69:21 syracuse 46:2 system 6:17 13:21 27:14 29:2 114:9 116:4 systemic 161:10
t			
table 78:14 80:7,8,9,18 81:3,7,11 91:16 97:14 101:21 104:6 104:10 144:8 160:5 167:20 168:5 181:19 182:6 185:9 tabled 104:14 144:14,17,20 158:9 184:5			

tabling 91:15 155:16	106:6 111:4 113:12 119:11	taught 33:1,4 33:13 34:18	88:7 93:18 136:7,10
take 5:6 20:3 23:16 78:12,14 79:2,16 88:15 133:10 139:15 145:9 150:4 158:11 169:11 169:14 175:12 175:13 177:4 181:11 182:6	122:21 126:7 129:10,18 131:1,13 132:5 132:7,17 133:5 152:14 153:13 153:19 155:11 162:12 163:14 170:12,13,14 170:15,20 172:4,8 173:11 173:15,19 176:3 177:11 178:10 190:3	tax 57:15 58:17 76:2 82:10 89:16 95:20 106:6 taxes 75:16 119:19 taxpayer 57:1 taxpayers 62:1 teach 33:8,8 teacher 30:6 31:5 34:1,16 team 46:4 59:15 60:3 138:19 139:11 140:2,2	157:13 165:18 terrified 175:17 tested 23:2 testifies 120:14 tests 7:18 26:1 text 12:5 19:10 20:4 thank 2:11 4:4 5:20 15:1 22:3 26:4 27:1 29:19 30:1 31:21 33:21 34:3,4,12,17 35:19 36:1,11 38:9 39:8 40:9 40:10,12,21 41:1,1,6,7,12 44:6 45:4 46:18,19 47:6 47:7,18,19 48:14,19 49:1 49:8,21 50:2 52:16 53:14,15 53:16 59:10,20 59:21 60:3,3 60:19,20 63:6 63:7 64:18 66:16 76:4,9 76:12 83:14 87:12,13,14 92:5 96:21
taken 3:19 181:20	talbot 1:1 21:2 31:4,12,14,19 36:14 37:3,21 38:2,7 40:14 41:6 42:12 43:5,19,20 44:4 48:18 54:7,13 55:13 57:13,16,19 61:2 66:5 70:10 71:17,18 72:4,9,10,19 72:20 73:14 74:12,15,16,19 75:13,20 76:1 78:11 82:5 84:12,17 89:12 91:10 95:16 97:1 105:18,20	talbot's 170:16 172:5 talk 85:12 87:15,18 92:10 110:1 111:10 114:12 117:9 120:12 121:14 124:8 145:3 148:5 173:5 175:13 183:16 185:8 talked 26:7 talking 28:8 179:12 180:3 tapped 15:12 tarleton 138:15 138:16 140:11 141:7 142:7	
		teeth 162:14 tell 32:20 45:5 48:16 58:16 90:2 132:20 133:19 149:10 157:15 170:17 172:6 telling 48:14 68:2,5 111:7 tells 158:13 ten 51:11 52:3 98:13 term 136:9 terminology 57:9,10 terms 57:7 61:12 72:2	

[thank - today]

Page 46

98:6 100:14	180:19 187:4	122:2,7	37:16,19 45:14
105:9 109:18	things 11:15	thomas 63:17	48:19 51:14
109:20 122:1	58:12 59:16	63:20 80:20	74:12 79:9
125:11,18	96:8 97:15	82:18,21	81:3 85:15
126:20 127:7	124:12 133:8	106:16 108:18	87:19 88:1,18
128:4,5,5,5,21	140:14 179:11	109:7,16	92:7 93:21
135:20,21	180:16	144:20 181:17	94:2 96:11
137:10 138:18	think 11:8 15:1	182:13	98:1 118:13
140:1 142:4,7	33:14 60:15	thoughts 66:18	120:7 124:7
142:8,10	82:18 85:3	187:6	134:20 138:3
143:17 144:11	86:6 88:4	thousands	141:1 144:7,15
144:11 150:9	90:12 92:13	173:18	146:8 148:20
150:10,21	99:13,18 100:9	three 46:1 50:1	149:10 151:4,7
152:18,19	101:10,17	85:12 106:21	155:18,21
155:21 156:1,2	103:19 104:3	111:7 120:9	160:8 169:11
156:4,6 158:15	106:14 110:4	126:12 129:3	169:15 172:11
158:17 160:8	114:17 117:13	130:2,4 134:2	174:17 180:11
160:13 163:19	133:8 134:20	150:17 174:19	190:4
164:1,2 166:18	148:16,20	tie 36:7	timeline 139:13
166:19 168:13	149:12 151:12	tilghman	139:15
170:2,4 172:11	152:21 155:4	105:18 106:4	timely 112:11
172:13 173:6	157:7 161:3	137:15	times 138:21
176:10,14	163:13 168:2	tilled 42:10	152:16 156:6
178:5 180:12	168:11 169:20	time 6:16 8:10	tina 178:8
180:13 186:7	171:6 180:4	8:19 10:21	tireless 31:6
186:11,12	183:19 184:2	11:6,8,12	title 54:2,4
187:1,2,3,5,5,7	186:14	12:14,17 13:1	113:6,9 115:20
thanks 29:17	thinking 18:21	14:3,13,16	115:21 157:13
34:13 140:2	22:11 102:3	16:20 17:13	157:13
189:3	third 111:20	19:7,14,20	today 26:10
thing 35:15	112:1,5,12,15	20:2,13 21:19	27:15 34:8
74:10 132:20	114:17 115:4	22:19 23:15	35:7,17 50:14
144:2 154:17	117:16,17	26:14 28:12	76:7 156:14
163:1 177:3	121:16,17,18	31:7 35:10	

[today's - tuesday]

Page 47

today's 43:13	touch 24:10	transcends	75:4 152:15
together 27:21	toughest 40:16	151:21	155:9
28:1 78:19	toward 88:9	transcribed	treated 7:12
99:20 161:17	152:6	190:6	22:16
token 31:13	towards 176:2	transcript 2:1	treatment 6:15
38:1 43:20	town 5:20 6:4,8	transcription	7:4,12,19,20
told 67:7 69:8	6:8,12 8:2,3,8	190:7	14:13 21:9
tolerant 71:1	10:5 14:2,21	transgendered	22:17 29:13
tom 156:3,4	15:19 16:1,9	178:18	treats 154:14
tomatoes 28:13	16:13 17:7,10	translate 37:18	trees 173:20
tonight 2:12,14	18:20 19:6	translator	tremendous
4:11 5:8 30:20	21:3,8,16	37:12	132:15
30:21 66:17	22:17 23:10,15	transparency	tried 5:3,4,4
101:20 124:9	24:4 25:15	186:6	trippe 82:13
143:13 148:13	26:3 27:8 29:5	transpiring	85:20
155:20 160:14	29:10,11 86:2	162:20	troubled 177:1
163:2,16 167:7	86:5,10,15,19	trappe 5:8,20	true 74:14
176:15,21	88:6,11 96:7,9	6:4,8,9,12 7:2	190:7
178:14 180:17	97:3,8,10 99:9	7:9 8:15 9:2,11	truly 179:7
182:8 184:12	99:16 100:13	13:21 14:12	186:20,20,21
186:7,15	101:1 102:16	15:8,20 16:1	trump 77:18
tonight's 2:10	102:20 103:9	17:7 18:8	165:16
took 22:19	103:10	21:16 22:9	trump's 73:19
171:8	town's 7:15	23:4,9,10	165:1
tool 57:12	8:16 9:9 22:18	25:11 29:6	truth 162:10
58:20 73:3	23:13,14 24:8	95:19,19 96:7	try 5:14 27:10
177:14	24:14,16 25:20	96:9 97:3,11	28:1 117:11,14
tools 73:1	29:7 88:10	101:12 148:11	trying 5:5 59:4
topic 147:18,19	towns 99:14	trappe's 6:14	96:12 121:3
148:4,19	traditions	7:4,6,12,14	133:9 175:10
tossing 159:19	43:11	8:20 21:9 25:8	tubman 43:7
total 70:16	training 66:5	29:13	tuesday 187:13
71:18 131:18	77:5 177:13	treat 19:17	188:1
		23:5,9 26:3	

[turn - utilized]

Page 48

turn 5:11 84:7 turned 20:16 157:3 turnout 186:20 turns 167:17 tutor 37:12,18 tv 49:12 twice 26:7 two 3:21 7:9 34:18 50:1 71:12 73:17 74:10 107:12 108:1 129:3,6 129:6 164:8 176:16 178:15 type 27:14 74:16,21 75:2 75:5 168:9 typical 7:21 23:7 typically 57:21 98:15	unanticipated 54:17 128:10 unaware 20:18 uncertainties 60:9 under 31:18 38:6 44:3 57:14,21 93:2 98:9 109:10 124:13 138:6 158:7,13 164:20 181:17 185:5,21 underestimat... 59:17,18 underpinning 169:6 underserved 174:2 underspent 52:11 understand 12:3 27:19 29:1 74:10 101:3 149:16 154:1 155:12 155:16 161:4 understanding 11:11 12:13 37:6 77:9 99:18 107:17 130:3 131:1 151:16 156:10 180:21	understands 12:4 106:20 understood 18:12 186:3 undervalued 43:13 unexpected 54:18 unfamiliar 37:9 unfortunately 70:19 132:9 unimproved 107:18,21 108:11,21 unionville 42:17 unique 56:1 140:4 161:8 178:17 uniqueness 152:12 unit 96:10 united 33:8 units 99:1 unity 74:14,16 74:21 75:2,5 78:19 universities 73:21 university 46:2 unprecedented 174:17	unprogrammed 9:3 11:9 16:17 20:21 26:8,10 26:15,18 82:11 89:17 95:21 untold 46:20 update 86:14 86:21 upheld 67:3 69:19 uphold 70:1 upper 128:8,19 129:2,11 132:16,19 134:15 upside 157:3 urge 166:17 178:3 urging 76:13 use 22:8 51:17 52:12 55:14 57:1 58:20 60:13 62:1 109:5,10 used 55:15 148:21 user 23:17 users 23:12 using 37:16 57:11 130:18 131:6 utilized 56:3
u			
ultimately 7:5 7:20 10:10 15:7 90:9,15 139:19 162:5 169:8,18 unanimous 3:8 3:16 4:10 unanimously 86:10 87:4 176:17,20			

v	views 178:16	143:10 144:5,9	108:16 111:10
valorem	villages 42:16	144:13,18	111:12,13
119:19	violation 13:3	163:2 168:1	117:9 121:21
valuable	14:5,8,10	182:3,7,18	127:5 132:20
177:14	156:18 168:10	184:17,18	133:19 143:6
value 151:15	violations	188:13	145:9 147:9
159:6,8,9,15	12:17,20 74:7	voted 83:20	148:6 149:13
159:16,20	visionary 152:5	98:1 143:12	155:9 162:11
160:4,4 173:15	visit 144:3	votes 90:17	173:12 174:8
178:1	voice 43:15	96:19 182:5	175:12 181:6
valued 151:13	79:21	w	181:11 183:21
161:7 176:9	voices 161:17	w 8:14 11:14	186:17 187:9
values 152:10	volatile 57:16	17:12 82:10,11	wanted 6:5 8:9
173:7 178:5	volatility 57:20	95:21	48:11 83:2,5
various 7:16	volitional	wage 179:8	84:5 91:16
8:21 154:7	165:14	wait 79:5 90:21	138:18 140:1
vehicle 149:18	volunteer 75:2	144:2 166:13	143:16 186:2
vendor 129:8,9	vote 32:8 38:16	182:9	wants 85:11
129:20 130:3	44:13 53:3	waiver 86:9	142:17 146:12
131:6	62:15 65:10	walker 106:14	washing 141:2
vendors 129:7	76:5 80:4,9	want 2:11,13	washington
ventures 82:14	81:11 83:2,7	2:17 35:5	156:9
85:20	85:2 87:21	36:17,21 39:9	wastewater
verse 75:6	88:19 92:3,13	54:1 63:16	6:14 7:4,12,19
versus 74:1	94:3,4 95:7	64:12 66:9	8:1 14:12
170:19	98:5 104:16,19	67:18 69:3	19:17 21:9
vetted 56:8	110:4,8 112:3	75:21 76:12	22:16,20,21
vice 63:21	113:13 114:17	77:14 79:16	23:8,11 24:3
128:18	115:7,19 116:1	80:3,13 81:2	24:14 29:13
view 67:21	116:7 118:1,17	82:15 87:15,17	water 8:18 9:5
68:14 88:14	121:15 123:14	91:7 92:9	9:9,12 14:14
157:12	124:20 127:13	100:4 102:2	14:18 17:1,6
	135:8 136:20	106:19,20	17:11,21 19:11
	141:14 143:10		22:9 42:10

[water - yeah]

Page 50

82:6 86:15,16 89:13 93:1,12 95:17 97:20 98:9,11,12 173:20 water's 41:19 41:20,21 42:5 42:6 43:8 44:1 45:11 46:8 167:14 waterman 48:15 waterways 172:21 wave 140:15 way 4:15 21:21 27:7 28:1 68:12 74:14 133:12 179:18 190:11 wboc 49:4 we've 3:9 6:6 51:3,9,14 52:7 57:20 58:18 61:1 62:13 64:9 81:10 82:2,3 93:2 98:16,18,19,21 114:13 124:5 144:14 weaponized 73:3 wearing 35:17	weary 76:13 weather 59:6 website 68:6 69:5 126:10 wednesday 84:14 week 49:4 74:3 weeks 66:19 weigh 60:2 welcome 39:7 45:3,20 54:9 106:9 117:11 128:13 welcoming 37:5 went 11:8 16:18 96:18 100:7 116:20 133:21 169:12 western 49:11 whatnot 132:13 wheels 128:11 white 77:9 172:14,15 173:4,7 178:21 whitesell 147:12 wide 164:7 wildlife 139:4,5 wired 98:11 withdraw 78:6 185:6,9,16	witness 190:13 woman 175:15 178:18 women 171:4 wonderful 170:9 wonderfully 177:11 words 39:10 71:11 149:1 151:20 152:13 152:14 164:9 164:10 166:4 186:19,21 work 29:19 35:21 43:10 46:17 48:12 59:14 60:16 66:21 69:16 99:15 117:15 133:5 138:3,11 139:14 151:15 151:21 153:16 155:12 161:1 187:7,16 188:3 worked 16:21 42:10 139:7 workforce 71:19 73:17 77:1 154:14 161:21 162:12 working 9:14 27:21 28:1 46:5,9 70:14	72:6,7 106:15 138:2,4 156:9 workplaces 75:1 works 79:20 83:17 87:3 90:1,13 91:14 91:18 94:17 95:3 96:4,16 97:16 100:10 137:12 world 157:2 162:21 worship 42:15 worshiped 42:11 worth 15:4 159:18,19 wrap 180:16 write 51:11 147:17 written 55:14 wrong 163:21 wrote 76:13 150:9
			y
			yank 166:7 yanked 166:11 yeah 4:1 6:10 22:2,5,12 24:20 29:3,5 30:14,17 33:17 35:12,14 39:9

[yeah - zoning]

Page 51

49:6 59:9	60:7 70:2	zoned 96:15
63:17 64:19	71:14,20 75:21	97:5
65:2,4 66:11	114:13 129:3	zoning 84:12
66:11 69:11	151:3 152:18	86:9,11 91:11
82:18 83:3	153:13 156:8	97:1 108:5
91:9,9,9 92:19	160:21 170:19	109:10 137:13
94:19 101:14	171:5,9,9	138:17
101:16 104:1,3	177:19	
113:8 117:15	yelling 2:18	
121:21 133:3	yelton 83:10	
142:18,18	84:9,11,11	
143:21 145:2	85:8 87:2 91:5	
145:11,16	91:7,10,10	
150:20 152:21	95:5 96:21	
180:20 181:13	97:1 100:19	
184:2,3,3,8	101:11,15	
185:12	young 43:13	
year 9:13 13:3	171:3,3	
30:7 31:5,20	yup 5:16 36:17	
33:2 34:16	47:8 49:2,2	
36:16 37:4	63:8 82:21	
38:8 40:6 44:5	95:14 104:13	
47:20 51:11	112:2 113:14	
52:3 58:2	117:6 121:18	
73:15 86:3	134:16 143:18	
126:12 131:7	146:12 186:13	
131:12 132:18	187:8 188:8	
134:2 154:3	z	
171:1 179:20	zach 85:18	
187:16 188:3	zero 70:16	
years 28:9 33:5	84:21 85:3	
39:13 47:21	92:4 98:5	
48:1 55:16		
56:5,15 58:11		