

COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

January 28, 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. Let's go ahead and get started. If everybody could please stand, and we'll do the prayer and then the Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag.

(Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.

Appreciate everybody coming tonight. Let's go ahead and get started on the agenda here.

The agenda is before us. Is there any additions, deletions, or corrections to the agenda tonight? Okay. Hearing none, the chair moves that the agenda be accepted as unanimous consent.

Next is the minutes. Council has had the minutes of December 10th. And we've had a chance to take a look at it. Is there any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes, Council? Okay. Hearing none, the

1 chair moves that the minutes be accepted as  
2 unanimous consent. Okay.

3 Next would be the disbursements of  
4 January 21st and January 28th. You guys have,  
5 Council, has had a chance to take a look at it.  
6 Is there any additions, deletions, or  
7 corrections to the disbursements? Okay.  
8 Hearing none, the chair moves that the  
9 disbursements be accepted as unanimous consent.  
10 Okay.

11 Tonight's agenda, first up is a  
12 proclamation on Human Trafficking Month of  
13 January. Madam Secretary, could you go ahead  
14 and read the Proclamation, please.

15 SECRETARY: Proclamation, National Human  
16 Trafficking Awareness Month, January 2025.

17 Whereas, every year, nearly 25 million  
18 children, women, and men are trafficked and  
19 deprived of their freedom, human rights, and  
20 dignity. And according to the University of  
21 Maryland School of Social Work, there have been

1 over 1,000 reports of child sex trafficking  
2 screened by the Maryland Department of Social  
3 Services Child Protective Services screening  
4 unit since 2013.

5 And whereas, human trafficking is a  
6 serious problem on the Eastern Shore, whereby  
7 traffickers use violence, threats, deception,  
8 and other manipulative tactics to force and  
9 coerce both young people and adults to engage  
10 in commercial sex acts or to provide labor or  
11 services against their will.

12 And whereas, human trafficking is among  
13 the fastest growing industries in the world,  
14 second only to drug trafficking. And the State  
15 of Maryland has enacted comprehensive  
16 anti-human trafficking laws, with a focus on  
17 criminal prosecution and victim support.

18 And whereas, Talbot County recognizes the  
19 considerable moral and economic harm of human  
20 trafficking to our communities, our states, and  
21 the nation, and that by working to bring a

1 greater awareness to human trafficking within  
2 the midshore region of Maryland, we bring the  
3 victims hope of securing the natural-born  
4 freedoms all human beings should enjoy.

5 And whereas, Talbot County recognizes that  
6 increased public awareness and education within  
7 our organizations will provide more  
8 opportunities to recognize and aid in the fight  
9 against human trafficking.

10 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of  
11 Talbot County, do here declare the month of  
12 January Human Trafficking Awareness Month in  
13 Talbot County and urge all citizens to actively  
14 work toward the eradication of human  
15 trafficking.

16 Given under our hands in the great seal of  
17 Talbot County this 28th day of January in the  
18 year of our Lord, 2025.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: -Okay. Is there a motion?

20 MR. STEPP: So moved.

21 MR. LESHER: Second.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and  
2 second to go ahead and approve the  
3 proclamation. Madam Secretary, could you call  
4 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: Aye.

11 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

12 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

13 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

14 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I think Katie and  
16 Lauren, come on up. Welcome, guys. How are  
17 you?

18 MS. THEEKE: Thank you.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Good.

20 MS. WEBER: Good. How are you?

21 MS. THEEKE: Thank you all so much for

1 recognizing this. This is a really important  
2 issue.

3 My name is Katie, and I'm vice president  
4 of marketing and communications at For All  
5 Seasons.

6 And for anyone who doesn't know, For All  
7 Seasons is your community behavioral health and  
8 rape crisis center. We offer therapy,  
9 psychiatry, victim and crisis support, and  
10 education and outreach to the community  
11 regardless of one's ability to pay and  
12 regardless of one's language.

13 And we have seven offices across the  
14 midshore. We also have services through  
15 telehealth, and we serve the entire State of  
16 Maryland. We're very proud to be serving  
17 Talbot County.

18 We have a very important human trafficking  
19 prevention program that is led by our regional  
20 navigator, Susan Ahlstrom. And we really  
21 encourage everyone to learn more about the

1 program by visiting our website at  
2 forallseasonsinc.org.

3 We were designated as the regional  
4 navigator for the midshore by the Governor's  
5 Office. So what we really do is connect  
6 survivors and their families to all the  
7 important services that they need to help them  
8 in their time of need. And then we provide a  
9 lot of those services to them.

10 Human trafficking is a really serious  
11 issue. It's considered modern day slavery  
12 where individuals are exploited for labor or  
13 commercial sex through force, fraud, or  
14 threats.

15 And something that's very important to  
16 note is that anyone under the age of 18 who  
17 exchanges sex for something of value is  
18 considered a trafficking victim, regardless of  
19 whether there's any threats or coercion.

20 So an easy way to remember that is that a  
21 child cannot legally consent to commercial sex.

1           We know that human trafficking knows no  
2 boundaries and that it affects people of all  
3 different backgrounds, races, genders. We have  
4 seen several cases come through our doors. And  
5 it comes from Talbot County, it comes from  
6 neighboring counties.

7           So we really aim to be the connector to  
8 get those people the help that they need and to  
9 help build awareness out in the community so  
10 that people can start looking for the signs and  
11 indicators and reporting those things.

12           So I know Lauren has something to share on  
13 the case of reporting and how people will learn  
14 more about that.

15           MS. WEBER: Thank you, again, for having  
16 us.

17           You know, on my way over here, we're just  
18 a few blocks away, we're so proud to be  
19 headquartered here in Talbot County.

20           I was thinking about Katie and I sitting,  
21 not unlike tonight, in front of you all last

1 year at this time and us really sharing the  
2 message that it is happening and it's happening  
3 here.

4 That continues to be the case.

5 Katie pointed out that there's a  
6 complexity to human trafficking that it doesn't  
7 really know county boundaries. And one of the  
8 things that we're really proud to be able to  
9 say is as the State-designated regional  
10 navigator for the five midshore counties, when  
11 there is a multi-jurisdictional component to  
12 this crime, and it very much is a crime that's  
13 happening here, having an agency like ours that  
14 is able to cross those jurisdictions with a  
15 little bit more facility than some of our  
16 government agencies, it really helps you all  
17 with your constituents. Right?

18 When we can kind of cross bounds and don't  
19 have quite the same burden of proof that maybe  
20 our law enforcement partners have. So we're  
21 able to provide a backbone of communication and

1 coordination of care.

2 Something we didn't talk to you about last  
3 year and has really been a core part of our  
4 message over the last year has been the fact  
5 like why do regional navigators like For All  
6 Seasons exist within the State of Maryland.  
7 Part of it is because there was a law that was  
8 passed that mandates that any mandated  
9 reporter, so that's any profession that deals  
10 with children regularly as a part of their  
11 profession, must report suspected cases of  
12 human trafficking to a regional navigator like  
13 us, or to DSS and law enforcement and then they  
14 report to us.

15 One of the things we really dug in on this  
16 last year has been educating our partners that  
17 are mandated reporters about that duty, but  
18 also about the subtleties of how human  
19 trafficking shows up.

20 One of the things that took affect this  
21 October was an expansion of the definition of

1 human trafficking to include labor trafficking,  
2 which also is relevant to our kind of  
3 agriculture and our kind of aquaculture here in  
4 Talbot County. And so that's something that  
5 we're really trying to building out and be  
6 receptive to share that message out.

7 So with all of that in mind, in September  
8 I want to say, we released a three-hour course  
9 that's available to anyone for free online.  
10 It's for specifically mandated reporters. We  
11 have these, and we can leave them. But it  
12 really goes through in a comprehensive way what  
13 are the laws pertaining to human trafficking in  
14 the State of Maryland, what are the signs, the  
15 indicators, behavioral and otherwise, that can  
16 help you hone in on huh, my gut says  
17 something's happening here, maybe this is human  
18 trafficking, who is a mandated reporter, what  
19 are their duties to report to law enforcement,  
20 DSS in the case that a child is involved, and  
21 also For All Seasons within this jurisdiction.

1           And then when you take it, you get a nice  
2           little badge that you can put on LinkedIn or  
3           your email signature or whatnot to share that  
4           hey, you are informed about human trafficking.

5           Since we've launched that, and I want to  
6           say it was the end of September, early October,  
7           we've had over 120 people enroll in that course  
8           and had some really great feedback. So we just  
9           encourage anyone that's a mandated reporter or  
10          that is working alongside mandated reporters to  
11          know that that's a resource that's available.

12          MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.

13          MS. WEBER: And we'll leave some of these  
14          cards behind.

15          MR. CALLAHAN: Good. That's great.

16          So because of the viewers watching and if  
17          there's people watching and a little bit  
18          nervous on how to get a hold of you guys, can  
19          you tell us how to get a hold of you guys?

20          MS. WEBER: Absolutely.

21          MS. THEEKE: Sure. So our main phone

1           number is 410-822-1018. And we also have  
2           hotlines. And there are a lot of numbers.

3           MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

4           MS. THEEKE: But I will just say if you  
5           call that main number, you will reach For All  
6           Seasons day or night.

7           MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That will be great.  
8           And do you have a website or no?

9           MS. THEEKE: Forallseasonsinc.org. So if  
10          you just Google For All Seasons, we're going to  
11          come up.

12          MR. CALLAHAN: That's great, that's great.

13          MS. THEEKE: And you will find information  
14          on the home page about the human trafficking  
15          program. And all the resources that we've got  
16          on that page are very helpful.

17          MR. CALLAHAN: That's great, that's great.  
18          Okay.

19          Council, yup.

20          MS. HAYTHE: I just have one question.  
21          First and foremost, thank you for coming in

1           tonight to, you know, make the community aware  
2           that human trafficking does exist in Talbot  
3           County, for one.

4                     But number two, do you see that the  
5           numbers are declining at all for human  
6           trafficking here in Talbot County or are they  
7           increasing?

8                     MS. WEBER: I would say it's a little bit  
9           of a double-edged sword.

10                    A year ago we sat in front of you and said  
11           when we look at our rape crisis center data, a  
12           good fifth of what was coming in was having at  
13           least one indicator of human trafficking,  
14           because we screen everyone that comes in  
15           through our rape crisis center.

16                    That persists. But we're heartened  
17           because I think that that shift has really been  
18           affected by how many people are saying oh, I  
19           know about human trafficking, I know the signs.  
20           So we're getting a lot more referrals.

21                    So while we are naturally -- so I would

1 say the folks that are self referring, we're  
2 seeing a decline. But we're seeing a real  
3 rapid incline in folks coming to us and saying  
4 hey, I know more and now I've seen something  
5 and I'm hoping that you can help connect the  
6 dots.

7 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Great, great.

9 MS. MIELKE: Thanks for all you're doing.  
10 It's a very important issues these days.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Mr. Stepp.

12 MR. STEPP: It's a pleasure to do this  
13 again. So thank you all for bringing the  
14 awareness and thanks for being here again.

15 MS. WEBER: Thank you.

16 MR. LESHER: Thank you and the full team  
17 at For All Seasons for raising this awareness  
18 that we know that even one victim is too many.  
19 And appreciate all that you do, both on  
20 prevention, but also to envelope and care those  
21 who have been victims.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. So we got something  
2 for you, a proclamation. If you could come on  
3 up, that would be great.

4 MS. KILMON: I got you. All right.  
5 Ready? One, two, three. Very good, guys.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot. Appreciate  
7 it. Thank you.

8 MR. STEPP: Appreciate you.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup. Thank you.  
10 Okay.

11 Next on the agenda, it is introduction of  
12 a numbered resolution. Madam Secretary, could  
13 you go ahead and read that, please.

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

1 Maryland, at liber C.B.L. 212, folio 394, and  
2 to authorize the execution of a quitclaim deed  
3 to convey a 6,000 square foot portion of such  
4 paper street adjacent to 5419 Rude Avenue,  
5 Tilghman, Maryland, being all that portion of  
6 Rude Avenue between parcel one and parcel nine  
7 of Talbot County tax map 44, to the owners of  
8 such properties, Jorge A. Ramirez and Christina  
9 E. Rilke, for no monetary consideration.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Madam  
11 Secretary.

12 Mr. Thomas, you want to give us kind of an  
13 overview so people understand what we're trying  
14 to do here?

15 MR. THOMAS: Yes. So the county was  
16 contacted by Brendan Mullaney on behalf of  
17 Mr. and Mrs. Ramirez.

18 They own two lots that are bisected by a  
19 portion of Rude Avenue south of Eastern Avenue  
20 and Willy Roe Road.

21 Though this is plated on a plat from

1       1927, it's only partially established and has  
2       never been accepted by the county as a public  
3       road. The county -- it's not in the inventory.  
4       The county doesn't maintain it.

5               So they're asking that the county formally  
6       reject the offer of dedication by virtue of the  
7       plat and execute a quitclaim deed for that  
8       portion of the roadway. So it doesn't affect  
9       any -- it doesn't affect Eastern Avenue or any  
10      properties --

11             MR. CALLAHAN: I see.

12             MR. THOMAS: -- north of that. It's only  
13      the southern portion that their properties are  
14      bisected by.

15             MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

16             MR. THOMAS: And I believe Mr. Mullaney is  
17      here and may be able to provide a little bit  
18      more information.

19             MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir.

20             MR. THOMAS: If you would like him to do  
21      so.

1 MR. MULLANEY: Good evening.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.

3 MR. MULLANEY: Brendan Mullaney with  
4 McAllister, DeTar, Showalter & Walker. I  
5 represent the property owners, George and  
6 Christina Ramirez.

7 They own both of those lots. The  
8 waterfront lot is improved with a single-family  
9 residence and the other one is vacant.

10 What they want to do, they came to the  
11 county and said we'd like to put a swimming  
12 pool and some solar panels on the vacant lot  
13 that we own to serve our residence. They don't  
14 want to build a second house or keep the lot as  
15 a second buildable lot.

16 In order to do that, we have to  
17 consolidate the properties because, as I'm sure  
18 you all know, you can't have accessory  
19 structures on a lot without a principal  
20 dwelling under the county code.

21 So this would allow, if the Council

1 approves this, this would allow the lots to be  
2 consolidated. It would bring the properties  
3 further into conformance with Critical Area law  
4 and the county regulations and would allow the  
5 property owners to make reasonable use of the  
6 now vacant lot.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you. Okay. Well,  
8 that's good. Okay.

9 Yes, sir.

10 MR. LESHER: Can you tell us -- we have  
11 the old plat as part of the document. Which  
12 are the lots that belong to the applicants?

13 MR. MULLANEY: One and nine. They're the  
14 lots farthest to the, it's really the south,  
15 but the left I believe on that plat. So  
16 there's a short stub of Rude Avenue.

17 MR. LESHER: Yes.

18 MR. MULLANEY: That runs between those two  
19 lots.

20 MR. LESHER: Yeah.

21 MR. MULLANEY: And that's the area that

1 we're asking the Council to reject.

2 MR. LESHER: They own all of those lots  
3 south of that Eastern Avenue?

4 MR. MULLANEY: Correct. That's right.

5 MR. LESHER: So there aren't any lots that  
6 would be getting cut off by --

7 MR. MULLANEY: There are not. And there  
8 aren't any lots that utilize that platted right  
9 of way there between my clients? lots either.

10 MR. LESHER: And would this move  
11 necessarily remove lot lines or something like  
12 that or those will remain intact?

13 MR. MULLANEY: It would allow them to  
14 consolidate through the county's plat process,  
15 consolidate the lots into one lot. So it would  
16 be one large lot of record.

17 MR. LESHER: All of those lots?

18 MR. MULLANEY: Correct.

19 MR. LESHER: On that side of Rude Avenue?

20 MR. MULLANEY: That they currently own,  
21 yeah.

1 MR. LESHER: Thank you.

2 MR. MULLANEY: Sure.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other questions,  
4 Council?

5 MS. MIELKE: No.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: So at this time, it will be  
7 a raise of our hands for introduction.

8 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

9 SECRETARY: This will be known as  
10 Resolution 369, and the public hearing will be  
11 on Tuesday, February 25th, at 5:30 p.m.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Next on  
13 the agenda is introduction of legislation.  
14 Madam Secretary, could you go ahead and read  
15 that into the record, please.

16 SECRETARY: A bill to authorize Talbot  
17 County, Maryland, the county, to borrow not  
18 more than \$26,900,000 in order to finance and  
19 refinance the acquisition, renovation, and/or  
20 construction of improvements to and expansion  
21 of the Chapel District Elementary School, and

1 to effect such borrowing by the issuance and  
2 sale of one or more series of its general  
3 obligation bonds, payable from ad valorem  
4 taxes, to be levied by the county. Exempting  
5 the bonds from the provisions of sections  
6 19-205 and 19-206 of the Local Government  
7 Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland,  
8 authorizing the consolidation of separate  
9 series of bonds into one or more bonds,  
10 authorizing the refunding of such bonds and  
11 relating generally to the issuance and sale of  
12 such bonds for such purposes.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Welcome.

14 MS. SPARKS: Good evening, Council.  
15 Martha Sparks, finance director for Talbot  
16 County.

17 Just to give you and the public a little  
18 background on this. In our FY25 budget  
19 session, in bill, budget year, in Bill 1574,  
20 the Council approved additional funding of  
21 \$26.9 million for the Chapel District project

1           that we have.

2                   And that, the funding source identified in  
3           that capital enabling legislation was long-term  
4           borrowing. And that's what this legislation  
5           seeks to give us approval to move forward with.

6                   MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. Any  
7           questions, Council?

8                   MS. MIELKE: No questions.

9                   MR. LESHER: Yeah.

10                  MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.

11                  MR. LESHER: The language in here, of  
12           course, is to borrow up to that amount. That  
13           is the maximum amount if we want to finance the  
14           full capital amount here?

15                  MS. SPARKS: Actually no. We, in the  
16           prior year, in bill I think it was 1538 in the  
17           FY24 budget, Council approved \$900,000 in local  
18           funds to start the project. And that was for I  
19           believe things like engineering, design, that  
20           sort of thing. It did carry over into the  
21           beginning of some of the construction.

1 But we started paying September I think it  
2 was. We have spent those \$900,000 in funds.  
3 And right now, we're prepaying until we can get  
4 the bond money when we go out to the bond  
5 market.

6 MR. LESHER: And I know you've been very  
7 sharp about engaging financial advice on --

8 MS. SPARKS: When to go out to bond  
9 market?

10 MR. LESHER: When to go to bond, how much  
11 to go to bond for, and looking at what should  
12 be the balance of local funds, county reserve  
13 funds versus funded --

14 MS. SPARKS: When we --

15 MR. LESHER: -- here.

16 Is this what the advice that you have for  
17 what we should be borrowing?

18 MS. SPARKS: Well, we moved forward --  
19 during the budget process when Council approved  
20 long-term borrowing for the school expansion  
21 and renovation, and we have a strategy

1 historically in Talbot County, from what I've  
2 seen, generally for school projects. We go out  
3 to bond for those.

4 Now, with the Easton Elementary, we did  
5 put down a significant investment in that.

6 So we've done something similar, not quite  
7 as large an amount. But, also, Chapel project  
8 is not costing us as much as the Easton  
9 Elementary project did.

10 So we have done a balance of that in this  
11 project already.

12 So we don't have any -- we have plans for  
13 that 26.9 million to go towards the remainder  
14 of the project.

15 You know, we could have, you know,  
16 additional -- it's because the interest rate  
17 market doesn't look like it's going to be  
18 coming down anytime soon. So that will not be  
19 to our advantage, but the other advantage that  
20 we have is we also may receive a bond premium,  
21 which is we receive more for our bond than we

1           planned, than the face value.

2           And that's, you know, I've talked to our  
3           financial advisors about that. That's putting  
4           the cart before the horse. We'll worry about  
5           that when we get there.

6           But so we do have -- I am in contact with  
7           Davenport, who is our financial advisors. They  
8           provided me a schedule. So we're also in  
9           contact with our bond council in all of this.

10          But as far as the balance between local  
11          funding, we've already set that in place with  
12          this bill and with the previous bill. And it  
13          is consistent with past practice in Talbot  
14          County.

15          MR. LESHER: And the impact fees that we  
16          collect for education, whenever anybody buys --  
17          builds a residential structure, they pay a  
18          portion of their impact fee for education.

19          That impact fee gets largely allocated  
20          toward the interest payments on these bonds or  
21          some small percentage --

1 MS. SPARKS: Yes. We can --

2 MR. LESHER: -- interest payments?

3 MS. SPARKS: We can use the development  
4 impact fee funds for debt payments on schools.

5 MR. LESHER: Right. Although, it's not  
6 more than a small fraction of that --

7 MS. SPARKS: It's small.

8 MR. LESHER: -- obligation.

9 MS. SPARKS: Actually, I think education  
10 is one of the larger ones.

11 MR. LESHER: Thank you.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Anybody else,  
13 Council?

14 MS. HAYTHE: No. Pete asked the question  
15 that I was going to ask.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Okay. Good. So all  
17 right.

18 At this time, show of hands for  
19 introduction.

20 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

1 MS. SPARKS: Thank you.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Good job,  
3 Martha.

4 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill  
5 Number 1583, and the public hearing will be on  
6 Tuesday, February 25th, at 5:30 p.m.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great. Okay.

8 Next is an update on Leeds Creek Bridge  
9 project. Mr. Clarke.

10 MR. CLARKE: Council, Ray Clarke, county  
11 engineer. I'm here with Mike Mertaugh,  
12 assistant county engineer.

13 MR. MERTAUGH: Mike Mertaugh. Good  
14 evening.

15 MR. CLARKE: I guess real quick. We'll  
16 just give you a brief past project summary.

17 We did have a public meeting back in  
18 August, on August 7, 2024.

19 Since that time, we've been working to  
20 meet with bridge, York Bridge Concepts, which  
21 is the firm that the citizens out in Tunis

1 Mills contacted and we're consulting with.

2 We then scheduled meetings with York  
3 Bridge Concepts. And then ultimately, we then  
4 scheduled a meeting with York Bridge engineer  
5 to meet with our engineer to discuss really the  
6 pilings.

7 And I think the big issue we're running  
8 into is with utilizing federal funding, the  
9 county is going to have -- there is a  
10 requirement within the specifications that  
11 you're not allowed to use a spliced timber  
12 pile. And that's been the kind of the issue,  
13 we've been going around and around, is that  
14 because we're not allowed to use this spliced  
15 timber pile, we're not able -- you know, and  
16 again, this is a requirement from SHA. We're  
17 not able to utilize the federal aid.

18 So we've presented that information to the  
19 citizens in a meeting last week I believe it  
20 was.

21 So we ultimately are having to go with a

1 timber -- I'm sorry. With a steel and concrete  
2 pile that we would then put a concrete cap on  
3 and then ultimately a timber deck with a timber  
4 surface is what we're proposing.

5 We can show you some pictures on that.

6 The other thing I would just note, too, is  
7 that we are currently in our second year of  
8 inspections. The Tunis Mills Bridge is  
9 actually having to be inspected on an annual  
10 basis. It is structurally deficient. And so  
11 we -- that inspection was done back in  
12 December. And we are anticipating the report  
13 from that inspection hopefully soon. So  
14 hopefully within the next couple of weeks.

15 That being said, I think we have some  
16 information and I also was advised we have a  
17 video to show you.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: That would be great.

19 MR. CLARKE: You want us to show the video  
20 first?

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.

1 MS. MORRIS: That may not be on, Ray.

2 MR. CLARKE: Okay. It says on.

3 (Video playing.)

4 MR. CLARKE: We have that and then...

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Ray, could you kind of walk  
6 us through what we're looking at?

7 Some people might not understand what  
8 we're -- are you filming this?

9 MR. CLARKE: We were not. We did not. We  
10 received this.

11 What you're looking at is actually the  
12 timber deck.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

14 MR. CLARKE: That the bridge ultimately  
15 you have let's say a timber deck for the  
16 bridge.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Light.

18 MR. CLARKE: That timber deck is actually  
19 the surface.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.

21 MR. CLARKE: That travel surface.

1 And then you have beams underneath that.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Correct.

3 MR. CLARKE: And what happens typically  
4 when you're nailing those boards in, because  
5 you've nailed so many boards in over time, the  
6 wood underneath it is getting damaged. So  
7 you're not able to really get a good fit of a  
8 nail or whatnot.

9 And I think there has been many issues I  
10 think with the boards popping up. You know,  
11 the nails will pop up on you as well. And  
12 there's been a lot of problems with that.

13 At the same time, the wood that we're  
14 securing is not the best wood. I'll say it's  
15 not a hard wood, per se. It's more of a softer  
16 wood, which ultimately degrades quicker.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

18 MR. CLARKE: That being said, we did meet  
19 with York Bridge Concepts. And one of the  
20 things we tried to show here is this is  
21 actually let's say kind of a laminated deck

1 with a wood railing.

2 The surface here is pretty much -- let's  
3 say can be -- we think it's a timber surface.  
4 It's hard to tell. But it can be a timber  
5 and/or a wood or an asphalt surface, depending  
6 upon what we want to do.

7 I think to I guess work with the citizens,  
8 what we've been proposing to do is actually a  
9 timber wearing surface using a hardwood that  
10 will actually last longer than what we  
11 typically are seeing with the current Tunis  
12 Mills Bridge.

13 That being said, the one thing, as we  
14 talked with York, this here is basically  
15 concrete piles on a concrete cap.

16 More than likely, what's going to happen  
17 with our proposed bridge design is that  
18 concrete cap will probably be tucked back in  
19 under the bridge a little more. So you won't  
20 see it as much. And we can use a stamping of  
21 that concrete to make it look a little like

1 wood, as well as we can use a coloring. We can  
2 color the concrete.

3 The other thing that I would note here is  
4 this is actually going to be a steel pile with  
5 basically concrete, reinforced concrete poured  
6 into that steel pile. So what's going to end  
7 up happening over time is you're going to get  
8 that steel pile now to corrode. You can also  
9 paint that, but then it could be a maintenance  
10 headache having to paint that pile over and  
11 over and over again.

12 So what we're anticipating here is that  
13 you probably, with our bridge, you probably  
14 won't see this that much. It's going to have  
15 more spans than are shown here. So the key is  
16 I think for our bridge, it's a little longer  
17 and we're going to have a lot more spans  
18 involved. But I don't think it's going to be  
19 something that's going to be really easy to  
20 see, unless you're --

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Excuse me. When you say

1           our bridge, what are you --

2                   MR. CLARKE: I'm talking about the Tunis  
3           Mills Bridge. I'm sorry. The Tunis Mills  
4           Bridge.

5                   MR. CALLAHAN: Now?

6                   MR. CLARKE: In the future.

7                   MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, okay. So what we're  
8           looking at is not what we're getting?

9                   MR. CLARKE: That's -- well, we would get  
10          the top part, we would get the top part --

11                  MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I'm trying to  
12          understand here for everybody. We're getting  
13          the top, but we're --

14                  MR. CLARKE: We would get this, but it  
15          would still kind of be like what they're  
16          showing here. But they used concrete piles on  
17          a concrete cap.

18                  MR. CALLAHAN: I see. Okay.

19                  MR. CLARKE: So we would probably have a  
20          similar strategy here using a laminated deck  
21          with a timber deck and a timber rail.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

2 MR. CLARKE: And then I can show you on  
3 the next slide. This here kind of shows you  
4 kind of an aerial shot of kind of a similar  
5 bridge where it's got the timber wearing  
6 surface with the timber safety rails.

7 And then ultimately, this is -- we believe  
8 this bridge also it's a hardwood. We don't  
9 know if they've stained this or not. So it's  
10 not recommended to stain this. But, you know,  
11 this kind of looks -- the wood here, it will  
12 kind of fade and tan up a little bit. And we  
13 have a photo for that as well.

14 But this kind of gives you a good idea  
15 what the railings might look like. So, you  
16 know, we would be utilizing a similar timber  
17 rail concept here as part of our bridge.

18 MR. MERTAUGH: It also kind of shows how  
19 it hides the piers under it.

20 MR. CLARKE: I'm sorry about that.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: So in relation to the

1 height of this thing, because I remember us  
2 talking about it was going to be two-foot  
3 higher.

4 MR. CLARKE: I believe it's roughly close  
5 to three feet, if I'm not mistaken. I have to  
6 verify.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: The new one is going to be  
8 roughly three foot higher?

9 MR. CLARKE: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

11 MR. CLARKE: And then again, this is kind  
12 of looking at it right on the bridge. And then  
13 this is the timber deck surface with the  
14 ridges.

15 The other thing we've tried to explain to  
16 the citizens as well, with the Tunis Mills  
17 Bridge, or Leeds Creek Bridge, the boards are  
18 actually perpendicular to traffic flow.

19 So what we've talked with with York  
20 Bridges, and they highly recommend, that  
21 they're perpendicular with traffic flow.

1           And we also explained to the citizens,  
2           too, in talking with York, you don't want to  
3           hear a clickety clack. That means you got a  
4           problem.

5           And so the key is that, you know, even if  
6           we went with a new timber deck, you're not  
7           going to hear any sound. You know you have a  
8           problem if you're hearing a clickety clack  
9           going over that bridge.

10          So one of the things I think what we're  
11          here to advise the Council of is that the big  
12          disadvantage we have is that if we don't get  
13          the federal aid, we're probably going to need  
14          to request the Council for additional funding  
15          for the project, local funding, because we're  
16          not going to be able to get any federal aid for  
17          this.

18          So this could be a three or \$4 million ask  
19          from the Council to put additional  
20          appropriations into the budget.

21          I do know in talking with the citizens

1 last week, and we're okay with that if the  
2 Council is amenable, they asked us to request  
3 that you not make a decision, that we get back  
4 together with them.

5 And that was kind of where we're at.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Okay. That's fine.

7 MR. CLARKE: I think we do need to make a  
8 decision pretty quick, though, I really say.

9 We do have to work with the property  
10 owners to secure the right of way and then move  
11 forward hopefully to get everything finalized  
12 and out for bid for construction.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: So just a couple of things.

14 So can we review, because I haven't  
15 really -- I knew this was going to be on the  
16 agenda and everything, but the last time we  
17 talked about it, we were at a work session with  
18 the other bridge.

19 So the other bridge that was proposed,  
20 that's gone now?

21 MR. CLARKE: The bridge that we've

1 designed is really the bridge we're proposing  
2 to do.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: The last one a year ago?

4 MR. CLARKE: Yes, yes, yes.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

6 MR. CLARKE: What we tried to do is break  
7 up the bridge into let's say five components.

8 The first component really was the piles,  
9 which they wanted timber piles. Then the cap,  
10 which is they wanted a timber cap.

11 We cannot go with timber piles and we  
12 probably cannot go with the timber cap.

13 So now, those two components, we have to  
14 go with the original design.

15 The laminated deck was actually what we  
16 proposed all along. So that's what they want,  
17 and we proposed that all along.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: I see.

19 MR. CLARKE: I think what we were  
20 proposing with the wearing surface was asphalt.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.

1           MR. CLARKE: So at that point, we are  
2 saying look, we'll go ahead and go with the  
3 timber. We're fine with going with the  
4 hardwood timber. We've incorporated that into  
5 our budget kind of concept.

6           And then the other component was actually  
7 the height of the --

8           MR. CALLAHAN: Right.

9           MR. CLARKE: -- of the safety railing.

10          MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

11          MR. CLARKE: I think we were proposing 42  
12 inches. We are bringing that back down to 36  
13 inches.

14          MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

15          MR. CLARKE: So that's basically --

16          MR. STEPP: Is the 36 compliant with  
17 Maryland, State of Maryland?

18          MR. CLARKE: I think with the bridge  
19 speed, it's not that fast.

20          And I think one of the discussions we had  
21 with the Public Works Advisory Board was that

1       your deck has to be three feet. Because it  
2       will be people walking across it, we just felt  
3       like three feet is the best, would be the  
4       safest thing to do.

5               MR. STEPP: So Ray, in the piece that you  
6       have here on the current proposed design with  
7       federal aid, we'd still be at a million and a  
8       half, but that would basically be a concrete  
9       pilings, concrete cap, and everything north of  
10      that is going to be all wood?

11             MR. CLARKE: All timber, yes.

12             MR. STEPP: Including the surface?

13             MR. CLARKE: Yes.

14             MR. STEPP: Okay.

15             MR. CLARKE: And we currently have about  
16      \$1.73 million available in what --

17             MR. STEPP: So no asphalt and still have  
18      the swim platform there and everything to  
19      access --

20             MR. CLARKE: That will be -- yeah.

21             We don't call it a swim platform. It's

1 actually called a loading platform.

2 MR. STEPP: Touch , Ray.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

4 MR. CLARKE: Yeah. SHA would not approve  
5 a swimming platform.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: All right.

7 MS. MIELKE: What is the difference in  
8 cost between doing the asphalt roadway versus  
9 the wood roadway?

10 MR. CLARKE: I kind of estimated that if  
11 we have to pay for it, I'm looking at roughly,  
12 if the county had to pay for the timer, it's  
13 about \$250,000 is a rough estimate.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: The difference between the  
15 two?

16 MR. CLARKE: The difference between the  
17 two, yeah. At this --

18 MS. MIELKE: 250 more, is that what you're  
19 saying?

20 MR. CLARKE: Yes. At this point. Because  
21 there's going to be a little more labor

1 involved in it. You know -- it's just a little  
2 bit difference.

3 MS. MIELKE: And what is the comparative  
4 life expectancies of the different...

5 MR. CLARKE: I would say that the timber  
6 wearing surface will probably -- we've been  
7 told it can be up to, what, about 30 years, if  
8 I'm not mistaken.

9 MR. MERTAUGH: Right.

10 MR. CLARKE: So it's going to be about  
11 equivalent to asphalt.

12 I would say the disadvantage will be the  
13 replacement. Asphalt is going to be a lot  
14 easier to mill off and just put a new surface  
15 on. So the replacement cost will probably be  
16 more with a timber deck than -- I'm sorry.  
17 Timber wearing surface because you're going to  
18 have to pull those boards off and put new  
19 boards down.

20 MS. MIELKE: And just for the record, that  
21 first video was the existing bridge in its

1 current condition?

2 MR. LESHAR: Right.

3 MR. CLARKE: That's correct.

4 MS. MIELKE: Which sort of displays that  
5 this needs to be done sooner rather than later.

6 MR. CLARKE: We agree.

7 MR. LESHAR: And Ray, with the current  
8 proposed design with federal aid, the federal  
9 aid is paying for a portion of the timber  
10 components, including the deck surface?

11 MR. CLARKE: Yes. They've also agreed to  
12 pay for this analysis that we're working on  
13 with the consultants and whatnot to do this  
14 timber versus concrete and steel piling. Yes.

15 MR. MERTAUGH: We have to pay for the  
16 timber wearing surface.

17 MR. CLARKE: At this point, yeah. We're  
18 assuming we have to pay for the timber wearing  
19 surface, that is correct.

20 MR. LESHAR: Yup.

21 MR. CLARKE: We'll do our best to try and

1 get that in, but we're assuming we have to pay  
2 for that.

3 MR. LESHER: Sure.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: And the consensus of the  
5 community is this concept?

6 MR. CLARKE: Again, they've been focused  
7 very hard on that timber piles and timber --

8 SPEAKER: Not everybody, not everybody.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

10 MR. CLARKE: But I would say the  
11 components that are coming to us are really  
12 pushing hard for the timber and timber. And  
13 we've tried to explain to them that we don't  
14 get the federal aid if we go timber piles.

15 So I think, you know, there is a major --  
16 not a -- there is a component of the citizens  
17 out there that would like a full timber bridge.

18 MS. HAYTHE: So Ray, just one question.  
19 So the cost to the county to do the -- and have  
20 80 percent federal aid based on this proposal  
21 that you gave us with the concrete piles with

1 timber wearing surface is 1.5 for the county?

2 MR. CLARKE: Right now, the total cost  
3 let's say of the bridge would be about  
4 \$6.5 million.

5 MS. HAYTHE: Right.

6 MR. CLARKE: With the federal aid, the  
7 cost to the county would be 1.5.

8 MS. HAYTHE: 1.5?

9 MR. CLARKE: Yes.

10 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. With the 80 percent?

11 MR. CLARKE: Yes.

12 MS. HAYTHE: Of federal aid. Okay. Thank  
13 you.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

15 MR. LESHER: You're looking for an  
16 approval to move ahead with this proposal  
17 tonight?

18 MR. CLARKE: Maybe contingent upon meeting  
19 with the citizens. Okay. No.

20 MR. LESHER: Well, I appreciate what  
21 you've done in the citizen outreach.

1 I was not at the most recent public  
2 meeting. I was at the one back in August. I  
3 certainly heard the public feedback there.

4 I appreciate the homework that you've done  
5 to investigate the alternatives as requested  
6 and appreciate that we really can't sacrifice  
7 the federal aid, that we really -- the  
8 economics of this project dictate that we  
9 absolutely need to go with the recommended  
10 steel concrete pilings and concrete cap.  
11 You've made a compelling case for that.

12 I'll move that we move forward with this  
13 project without further delay.

14 MR. CLARKE: Okay. Thank you.

15 MR. LESHER: I'll move that authorization.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: You're making a motion?

17 MR. LESHER: I'm moving that we approve  
18 this as proposed.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Proposed like this  
20 or proposed not like this?

21 MR. LESHER: As proposed in the current

1 proposed design with steel concrete piles with  
2 timber wearing surface and 80 percent federal  
3 aid.

4 MS. HAYTHE: Second.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and  
6 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the  
7 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: There you go.

19 MR. CLARKE: Thank you.

20 MR. LESHER: And we'll just hope that any  
21 suspension of federal grant aid for

1 transportation projects is very short lived.

2 MR. CLARKE: We will let you know.

3 MR. LESHER: And this project can move  
4 forward as promptly as possible.

5 MS. HAYTHE: Well, that's just been  
6 blocked since we've been sitting here. Judge  
7 just blocked that ruling. So hopefully we're  
8 in good shape. Thank you, all.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys. Good job.  
10 Thank you.

11 You guys are getting a new bridge soon,  
12 within 17 years.

13 SPEAKER: Nineteen.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm sorry. Okay. Got you.  
15 Okay.

16 SPEAKER: Some citizens haven't been part  
17 of the loop, too. I'll put it that way.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, thanks for all your  
19 patience. I really appreciate it. Okay.

20 Next on the agenda is Jess' stuff.

21 MS. MORRIS: There you go.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go.

2 MS. MORRIS: Good evening.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Stamp is laying back in  
4 the sun I think somewhere. You know what I  
5 mean? Good for him.

6 MS. MORRIS: Enjoying himself.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Good for him. Yup.

8 MS. MORRIS: Yeah. We have a few board  
9 and committee appointments tonight.

10 Under Board of Appeals, I'm requesting the  
11 reappointment of Jeff Adelman, Louis Dorsey,  
12 and Keith Prettyman.

13 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve.

14 MR. LESHER: Second.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and  
16 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the  
17 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 MS. MORRIS: For the Emergency Services  
8 Advisory Board, I'm requesting the  
9 reappointment of Debbie Timms from Shore  
10 Regional Health, Tim Cannon representing the  
11 Cordova district, Steve Mroczek from the Talbot  
12 Fire and Rescue Association, and Steve Elliott  
13 from the Sheriff's Office.

14 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve request.

15 MR. STEPP: Second.

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

19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

21 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

1 MR. STEPP: Aye.

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 MS. MORRIS: Great. And I'd like to bring  
9 Ray Clarke up for the request to submit  
10 applications for grant and loan funding through  
11 the Maryland Water Quality Infrastructure  
12 Finance Program and USDA Rural Development for  
13 several projects.

14 MR. CLARKE: Thank you, Council. Again,  
15 we have four projects I think we're looking at,  
16 or five projects. I'm sorry.

17 One is the Region V wastewater treatment  
18 plant. This would be to upgrade that treatment  
19 plant with ENR standards, which would be  
20 3 milligrams per liter or less of total  
21 nitrogen and .3 milligrams per liter of total

1       phosphorus, along with doing improvements to  
2       the sewer collection system, similar to what we  
3       did in St. Michael's, as well as working with  
4       Rural Development to go ahead and upgrade our  
5       pump stations on Tilghman Island.

6               We have I believe it's five pump stations.  
7       So we would upgrade those and standardize to  
8       kind of one ten horsepower pump station.

9               And we're looking at doing the same thing  
10       as part of our Unionville and Tunis Mills  
11       Copperville pump stations.

12              So this would be something that we'd have  
13       redundancy. We would be able to move equipment  
14       from one station to the next if we had a  
15       problem.

16              So we're looking at roughly going to about  
17       \$10 million. I think one we were looking at  
18       probably going -- I'm thinking we probably  
19       should go for the 10 million per the MDE  
20       application and probably \$12 million for the  
21       Rural Development application.

1           And then the other project we have is the  
2           Region II wastewater treatment plant pump  
3           stations one and two. We originally designed  
4           pump stations one and two in the Town of  
5           St. Michaels with a flow sewer pump. That  
6           pump is no longer being I guess manufactured.  
7           So we can't get parts for that.

8           So we're seeking funding through both MDE  
9           and Rural Development to go ahead and upgrade  
10          those pumps. And then buy two spare pumps.  
11          Again, going redundancy.

12          Both those stations would be utilizing a  
13          100-gallon per minute pump, which is what we  
14          have today. And so if we ever needed to  
15          replace a pump, they're interchangeable. So  
16          that was the other project for about  
17          \$2 million.

18          And then we have a \$2 million Unionville  
19          and Royal Oak pump station. That's the pump  
20          stations we were talking about where we're  
21          looking at standardizing to the ten horsepower

1 pumps so that if we need to do something, we  
2 have to replace pumps, we have the ability to  
3 do that.

4 At the same time, we're looking also to  
5 provide a, let's say a hardened maintenance  
6 building so that in the event we have an  
7 emergency, wet weather emergency or any type of  
8 emergency, we can preposition equipment and/or  
9 we can utilize that site for contractors to  
10 stage out of.

11 That's one of the problems we're running  
12 into I think throughout the county is we don't  
13 have staging areas for contractors when there's  
14 an issue.

15 And then the other project we have is the  
16 Region II Martingham vacuum sewer system  
17 improvements. This would be looking at trying  
18 to improve the vacuum system for Martingham.  
19 And again, this is about a \$2 million project.  
20 We're looking at seeking funds both through MDE  
21 and USDA.

1           And then the other one was the Claiborne  
2           water system. This one is, I think  
3           unfortunately for us, is probably a project we  
4           should go to Rural Development and not really  
5           focus on MDE at this point in time.

6           So ultimately, just seeking the Council's  
7           approval to move forward with the preparation  
8           of those applications and submission. The  
9           deadline for the MDE applications is Friday.  
10          So just let you know.

11          MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Council, any  
12          questions?

13          MS. HAYTHE: No. I don't have any  
14          questions.

15          Motion to approve the request.

16          MR. LESHER: Second.

17          MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and  
18          second for the request. Madam Secretary, could  
19          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. CLARKE: Thank you.

10 MS. MORRIS: Great. And lastly, we have a  
11 request from Public Works to recommend the  
12 award of Bid Number 24-22, Talbot County,  
13 Maryland, sanitary district septic tank  
14 effluent pump system installation and  
15 connection. This is a rebid of Bid Number  
16 2310.

17 We received three bids for this project,  
18 only one of which was deemed to be responsive.

19 And I'll turn it over to Ray.

20 MR. CLARKE: Yes. Apologize on that. I  
21 forgot about this one.

1 But this is the -- we had to go rebid  
2 this. Schumer, Incorporated, who is currently  
3 doing work within these -- for Resolution 235  
4 as well as 250, was the only responsive bidder.

5 I mean we did as much as we could to try  
6 and build up as many local firms to bid on this  
7 project. We even tried to get bonding  
8 assistance for them. And we were surprised  
9 that we really didn't -- we had eight  
10 contractors attend the pre-bid, but then we were  
11 surprised to only get three bids. And  
12 unfortunately, two of the bids were  
13 non-responsive.

14 So this is, again, I think the key is  
15 we're looking at awarding all of the contracts.  
16 Basically we have contract A through G. A, B,  
17 C, D, E, F, G.

18 The total amount would be \$5,900,291.

19 This would be funded through the Bay  
20 Restoration program for wastewater treatment  
21 plants. Yeah, wastewater treatment plants,

1 wastewater fund. And we would also be working  
2 to try and get the Orenco -- I'm sorry. Yeah.  
3 The Orenco STEP unit would be funded by SRF  
4 funding.

5 So this is, again, this is to install all  
6 of the septic systems, about 300 of them, that  
7 were included in Resolution 235.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions,  
9 Council?

10 MS. HAYTHE: No questions.

11 MR. LESHER: Well, thank you for your due  
12 diligence on this. And sorry for the  
13 frustration of having to rebid this project.  
14 But thank you for all your efforts to try to  
15 make this project as affordable as possible for  
16 those repairs.

17 With all that, I'll move approval.

18 MR. STEPP: 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. CALLAHAN: Okay.

11 MR. CLARKE: Thank you.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ray. Good job,  
13 you and Mike.

14 MS. MORRIS: Thank you. That's the end of  
15 the report.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job. Okay.  
17 All right.

18 Next on the agenda is public comment.  
19 Anybody? Yes, sir, come on up.

20 MR. BAILEY: Hello, everyone.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, good evening.

1 MR. BAILEY: Good evening, Council  
2 President Callahan and all the Council members.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, Terence. Would you  
4 mind, so people can hear what you're saying.  
5 And could you introduce yourself, please?  
6 Thank you.

7 MR. BAILEY: My name is Terrance Bailey,  
8 fifth generation nephew of Frederick Douglass,  
9 and president and founder of the Bailey-Groce  
10 Family Foundation.

11 We -- I'm here to talk about, as in the  
12 packet I just gave you, our proposal to create  
13 an African American Cultural Center and an  
14 African American Historical Society in Talbot  
15 County.

16 This proposal that I gave you is -- it  
17 talks about the event next month with Frederick  
18 Douglass, the 207th birthday celebration, which  
19 we're also having the parade that's being led  
20 by the 54th Massachusetts. And that goes to  
21 benefit -- all the events we do for the

1 birthday celebration, pretty much everything we  
2 do that's a fundraiser is to support an African  
3 American Cultural Center.

4 The building would be named after Grace  
5 Brooks in The Hill community. So it would be  
6 the Grace Brooks Building. And as detailed in  
7 the blurb in the back of the proposal, the  
8 Grace Brooks Building and the Frederick  
9 Douglass Society of African American Affairs,  
10 History, and Culture will serve as headquarters  
11 for efforts to protect and uplift over 600 at  
12 risk -- I'm sorry. Over 100 at risk  
13 historically black communities across the US,  
14 which face threats from gentrification,  
15 immigration, through partnerships with cities  
16 connected to Frederick Douglass, such as  
17 Washington, D.C.; Rochester, New York;  
18 Baltimore, Maryland; Bedford, Massachusetts.

19 We'll create a tourist attraction -- a  
20 tourist exchange program that brings African  
21 American history to life. The cultural center

1 will own a charter bus for this purpose.

2 The Grace Brooks Building will become an  
3 international destination for those seeking to  
4 understand African American experience,  
5 particularly the history of the Eastern Shore  
6 of Maryland.

7 Let's see. On the back, on the very back  
8 of the page, it says at the Frederick Douglass  
9 Society of African American Affairs, History  
10 and Culture, we are dedicated to preserving,  
11 celebrating, educating others about the African  
12 American history and culture, with special  
13 focus on the historic Hill community and  
14 beyond.

15 The only -- when we first started this  
16 project, the goal was to purchase the Perdue  
17 property because it was a nice big piece of  
18 property and we can put the building, which the  
19 rendering is in the packet, which was done by  
20 Michael Rosato. But we wanted to put it there.  
21 That didn't appear to work out.

1           So the only, the only property that's left  
2           that could house the cultural center and the  
3           African American Historical Society would be  
4           the Health Department property. There's no  
5           other place within the community. To preserve  
6           the community, you have to be in the community.

7           So we would like the Council to consider  
8           the African American Cultural Center being  
9           built on that location.

10          If not, then we're going to be pretty much  
11          forced out of our neighborhood. That's the  
12          last ditch effort to preserve The Hill, the  
13          history.

14          MR. CALLAHAN: Right.

15          MR. BAILEY: Next month at the event at  
16          the VIP for Uncle Frederick's birthday  
17          celebration, we'll be doing a contract signing  
18          with the Schinolt family, who own the house  
19          across the street from the Buffalo Soldier  
20          House. They've agreed to do a long-term lease  
21          where we can renovate the property back to

1 period. They can be a part of The Hill tour.

2 So there will actually be a place in The  
3 Hill that you can go in the house and you can  
4 actually see how the people lived in the late  
5 1700s, early 1800s.

6 That house was actually sold to their  
7 great-great-grandmother by a Quaker family.  
8 And it's been in their family ever since.

9 We also have another property under  
10 contract in Denton on Meeting House Road on the  
11 Choptank to create a Anna Murray Douglass  
12 visitor center.

13 So we're kind of moving kind of fast.  
14 We're trying to get all this history somewhere  
15 which this history can be housed.

16 Like this cultural center, real quick,  
17 would be three stories. The first story would  
18 be the culture center and the museum or  
19 whatnot. The second story would be a lecture  
20 hall community space or whatnot to break  
21 history and have events and what have you. And

1 the third floor would be the offices.

2 This statue here was done by Mr. Richard  
3 Blake out of Lancaster, PA. This is a statue  
4 that we had, a model. This would be in the  
5 atrium in the lobby, or a variation of it.

6 So I mean I personally believe that the  
7 history here should be preserved. Like the  
8 Eastern Shore has produced more African  
9 American leaders who have shaped the destiny of  
10 this country than any other place in the  
11 country. We have more leaders just from this  
12 area. And I think Talbot County should be the  
13 leader in that history and it should be the  
14 capital of that history for the Eastern Shore.

15 And The Hill is the place to do it because  
16 it's the oldest one. Then you got Tremain and  
17 everybody else.

18 Just like the birthday celebration for  
19 Uncle Frederick next month, this should be a  
20 national thing. There should be no hotels  
21 available that week of this birthday

1 celebration.

2 I think we're dropping the ball by not  
3 taking advantage of it, and we need an African  
4 American Historical Society.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Well, we really  
6 appreciate you coming tonight and making us  
7 aware of considerations.

8 Any questions on this?

9 MS. HAYTHE: No. Just -- go ahead, Pete.

10 MR. LESHER: Yup. Just no questions. A  
11 lot to digest here.

12 But thank you for all the work that you  
13 are doing in this community and for the vision  
14 that you bring for this.

15 MR. BAILEY: Thanks.

16 MS. MIELKE: I'd just like to say I like  
17 the concept. You have a rendering in your  
18 handout.

19 Is that what is being proposed, because I  
20 don't see how that fits in with the  
21 neighborhood?

1 MR. BAILEY: That rendering, that was done  
2 by Michael Rosato. That was when we were  
3 trying to -- when the Perdue property was  
4 available.

5 The goal was to keep the silos and then to  
6 have artists come in and paint the silos, you  
7 know, put artwork on the silos or what have  
8 you.

9 And to be honest, we couldn't even get a  
10 conversation with Perdue.

11 MS. MIELKE: But you are proposing to not  
12 repurpose the Health Department but to do a  
13 completely new building?

14 MR. BAILEY: Completely -- to my  
15 understanding, it's the property that's  
16 historic, not the building.

17 MS. MIELKE: Okay. All right.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

19 MS. HAYTHE: The building would have to be  
20 torn down.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Yeah. Right.

1 MS. HAYTHE: Definitely.

2 Just one comment. Certainly thank you for  
3 coming in to share this with us. This is a  
4 great start.

5 But second, my daughter was taking her  
6 nursing exam in Salisbury. And one of the  
7 gentlemen there saw that she was from Talbot  
8 County and said are you familiar with The Hill.  
9 And she was like yeah, a little bit. And he  
10 says well, do you know that that was the oldest  
11 free African American, you know, community.

12 So a lot of people that, you know, are  
13 familiar with The Hill. It's across the  
14 Eastern Shore, because she went to Salisbury.  
15 So I found that that was quite interesting that  
16 he brought that up to her.

17 MR. BAILEY: That being said, we have a  
18 lot of support from outside of the community  
19 for this project.

20 Like, the Timbuctoo Historical Society in  
21 New Jersey. They want to be a part of it. The

1 family of Malcolm X supports the project,  
2 Dr. Ilyasah Shabazz. Then you got the Harriet  
3 Tubman family, who we were all neighbors in The  
4 Hill. Then you have the family of Reverend Nat  
5 Turner. They want to actually partner with the  
6 county because they actually own the farm where  
7 all that historic stuff happened in Southampton  
8 County.

9 And then there's the opportunities for  
10 tourism between Talbot and Rochester, New York,  
11 where we've been working on this trying to put  
12 something together where if we send a bus from  
13 here to Rochester, they will host and they  
14 would take everybody all around to all the  
15 sights and whatnot, Uncle Frederick's burial  
16 site, the property where he lived, and all the  
17 relevant stuff and then to Auburn.

18 And then we do the same thing here. They  
19 send people here, and then we put them on the  
20 Talbot County tour. And, you know, which is  
21 kind of a little bit -- a lot of Talbot and a

1 little bit of Caroline, but I think it's...

2 MR. CALLAHAN: It's great.

3 MR. BAILEY: It's a good thing.

4 MS. HAYTHE: What's your budget?

5 MR. BAILEY: As far as the building or as  
6 far as everything?

7 MS. HAYTHE: What's the cost to do the  
8 project?

9 MR. BAILEY: The cost of doing the project  
10 right now, I don't, I don't know what it's  
11 going to cost to build that building because  
12 there'd be things we have to talk about.

13 Like I personally, I'd rather do a  
14 long-term lease agreement versus trying to buy  
15 it. Because buying it, that money should go  
16 towards building the building. We can get more  
17 building if we ain't got to buy the land. The  
18 county keeps ownership is my personal opinion.

19 I'd rather that money go towards  
20 state-of-the-art stuff, setting it apart,  
21 making it that much better.

1           So it would have to be a partnership  
2           between us and the county or whatnot to get  
3           that hammered out because I mean this is our  
4           first discussion.

5           MS. HAYTHE: So just a little bit of  
6           comment for the project. I would highly  
7           recommend that the first step be a feasibility  
8           study. Step one in any type of development  
9           project like this, you want to get a  
10          feasibility study to see if it's even feasible.

11          And then second, work with your budget.  
12          See if there needs to be an environmental one  
13          or two done on the property, things of that  
14          nature.

15          So just a little bit of...

16          MR. BAILEY: I just wanted to come in  
17          first and say something before I go, before we  
18          go trying to raise \$50,000 for a feasibility  
19          study and then come in here and you say no way.  
20          And we're a nonprofit. We're out 50 grand.

21          MS. HAYTHE: Well, the feasibility study,

1       you should be able to get a grant for that.  
2       And I can certainly talk to you a little bit  
3       more about that if you want more information  
4       about that.

5               MR. CALLAHAN: That's good, that's good.

6               Mr. Stepp, good?

7               MR. STEPP: I'm good. Thanks.

8               MR. CALLAHAN: All right. We really  
9       appreciate you coming in.

10              MR. BAILEY: All right.

11              MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you now.  
12       Okay. All right.

13              Anybody else would like to come up here  
14       and say a few words? Okay. Yes, yes. Come on  
15       up. Yup.

16              MS. KILMON: Sarah Kilmon, communication  
17       coordinator for the county. I apologize for  
18       not making it on the agenda today.

19              But I did just want to let the public know  
20       that the submission portal for the Talbot  
21       citizen and service awards, as well as this

1 year's poster contest for Talbot Day is open  
2 and on our website. You can go to  
3 talbotcountymd.gov/talbotday. And you'll find  
4 links to both of those portals.

5 I will say the poster contest theme this  
6 year is Talbot through time, to reflect our  
7 Talbot 250 initiatives that are going around.

8 So I would love to see posters that  
9 represent our history in Talbot County.

10 And I'm really excited. We'll see how it  
11 goes.

12 Applications and entries are open until  
13 April 1st. So that gives everyone two months  
14 to do, to either submit someone for the Talbot  
15 citizen and service awards or do some art,  
16 create a poster and submit that poster to our  
17 contest.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds great.

19 Any questions?

20 Thank you. Good job, Sarah.

21 MS. MORRIS: Sarah, do you want to do a

1           little pitch about Talbot 250 and just announce  
2           that opening as well?

3           MS. KILMON: So we also held our first  
4           interest meeting for Talbot 250 last week. It  
5           was very successful. We had 45, roughly,  
6           people attend.

7           And we also had Michelle from the State  
8           level of the Maryland 250 provide some  
9           additional context, which was very exciting to  
10          have her there. She lives in our county. So  
11          she was also excited to see that our commission  
12          is officially up and running and in the  
13          progress.

14          So what I will say is that while the  
15          Talbot 250, I personally have been working on  
16          it for about a year, the commission is really  
17          the people that are going to make a difference  
18          on what our celebration looks like over the  
19          next two years.

20          And so the commission application is  
21          currently open. We're accepting applications

1       until the end of February. At that point, we  
2       really need to get it kicked off and let's go.

3               So if you are interested in applying, that  
4       application is also available on our website.

5               And if you'd like more information about  
6       Talbots 250, you can go to talbot250.org. And  
7       you'll find stories about Talbot County, about  
8       people, about places. And it's pretty  
9       exciting. I'd recommend you go check it out.

10              MR. LESHER: Thank you for all your work  
11       in organizing that information meeting. That  
12       was -- I got in there late, but I was really  
13       impressed by what I saw and particularly by the  
14       citizen interest in this. Thank you.

15              MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Sarah.  
16       Appreciate it. Okay.

17              Anybody else like to come up? Okay.

18              Next on the agenda would be the Council  
19       comments. Mr. Stepp.

20              MR. STEPP: I'll keep it short tonight.  
21       I'm good.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You're good.

2 Mr. Leshner.

3 MR. LESHNER: Two items.

4 In follow up to the complaints the county  
5 received regarding the Town of Trappe and Paris  
6 Foods, the town, with Paris Foods' approval,  
7 has submitted an application to amend the  
8 comprehensive water and sewer plan.

9 The application will be considered by the  
10 County Council for introduction on March 11,  
11 2025. Lyndsey Ryan, attorney for the Town of  
12 Trappe, is planning on attending the County  
13 Council's February 11th meeting to address the  
14 allegations set forth in the complaints and  
15 answer any questions from Council regarding the  
16 same.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

18 MR. LESHNER: My other item. Amid the  
19 chaos spilling out of Washington, your local  
20 government here in Talbot County continues to  
21 deliver the services that our citizens count

1 on.

2 Roads are maintained, 911 calls are  
3 answered, and emergency services dispatched.  
4 Libraries and parks and recreation facilities  
5 are open and clean, schools and the airport are  
6 open when snow permits, building permits are  
7 issued.

8 In all of these ways and more, your county  
9 government continues to serve the public with  
10 quiet competence.

11 Thanks to all the staff for making that  
12 happen.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

14 MS. MIELKE: Here-here, Mr. Leshner. Join  
15 you in that.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay.

17 MS. HAYTHE: Oh, my turn.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Your turn.

19 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. I just want to remind  
20 everyone that Saturday is the first day of  
21 Black History Month. And the Water's Edge

1 Museum in Oxford is having a celebration on  
2 Saturday, February the 1st, from one to 3 p.m.  
3 So if you haven't had an opportunity to visit  
4 that museum, which I haven't, I'll be going  
5 down there on Saturday just to visit.

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

7 And I just, I have a little bit of sad  
8 news. Our family here, the Gannon family,  
9 unfortunately, one of the brothers, Glen,  
10 passed away a few days ago. So he's -- it  
11 was -- I didn't know if you knew that or not.

12 MR. LESHER: I didn't, no.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. I didn't know if you  
14 knew that or not. So I just wanted to let the  
15 public know and give a prayer out for the  
16 Gannon family because they're a very, very big  
17 part of this community.

18 And I did have the pleasure of seeing Glen  
19 a few weeks ago at the dinner.

20 MR. LESHER: Right.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: He was there. So, you

1 know, we at least got to say hello to him and  
2 stuff.

3 But let's say a prayer for him. And it  
4 was unexpected. So we'll just leave it at  
5 that.

6 He was pretty young. I mean I think he  
7 was maybe mid 60s, you know, something in that  
8 range. Yeah. So when you see the family, just  
9 give your regards. Okay. Yup.

10 MR. LESHER: The County Council's next  
11 meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11th,  
12 beginning at 5 o'clock p.m. The Council will  
13 be convening in open session at 3:30 p.m. and  
14 then adjourning into closed session, as listed  
15 on the statement for closing that meeting.

16 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn  
17 this meeting and reconvene?

18 MS. MIELKE: So moved.

19 MS. HAYTHE: So moved.

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.   Thanks a lot,  
13           everybody.   Appreciate it.

14                   (Meeting concluded at:   6:10 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 Notarial Seal this 3rd day of February, 2025, at Ea:



Diane Houlihan  
Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2025

[&amp; - actually]

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