

COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

March 25, 2025; 5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Lynn L. Mielke

Dave Stepp

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I want to welcome everybody. Appreciate you coming tonight. So let's go ahead and get started.

And if you don't mind standing, and we'll say the prayer, then the Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag.

(Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's go ahead and get started on the agenda. The agenda is before us. Is there any additions, deletions, or corrections to the agenda?

MR. STEPP: Mr. Council President, if I may.

MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

MR. STEPP: I'd like to insert an item on the agenda. If we can do a letter of support joining some of our neighboring counties in support for a letter to Congressman Harris for support for the Whitsitt Center.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay.

2 MR. LESHER: I'll second that.

3 I presume we'll put this under county
4 manager's report.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. There's 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 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Next is
17 the minutes. We've had a chance to take a look
18 at the minutes of February 25th. Is there any
19 additions, deletions, or corrections to the
20 minutes, Council? Okay. Hearing none, the
21 chair moves that the minutes be accepted as

1 unanimous consent.

2 Disbursements of March 18th and
3 March 25th. Is there any additions, deletions,
4 or corrections to the disbursements, Council?
5 Okay. Hearing none, the chair claims that the
6 disbursements be accepted as unanimous consent.
7 All right.

8 First up tonight is a presentation, audit.
9 Martha, you want to come on up. FY23 and 24
10 audit.

11 MS. SPARKS: All righty. There we go.
12 All right. That mouse is crazy.

13 Good evening, Council. Martha Sparks,
14 finance director for Talbot County. And I have
15 with us here our auditor, Christopher Lehman
16 from SB & Company.

17 MR. LEHMAN: Good evening, everyone.
18 Thanks for having me.

19 I was the engagement partner for this
20 year's, for FY2024's financial statement audit.
21 And what I'll do is I'll go through a brief

1 presentation that highlights the results of
2 that audit. If you have any questions, please
3 feel free to just let me know as we go through
4 this.

5 So this includes the scope of services
6 that we were engaged to perform. We were
7 engaged to perform an audit of the June 30,
8 2024, financial statements for the county.
9 It's also termed an ACFR, or annual
10 comprehensive financial report. That ACFR
11 includes, in addition to the financial
12 statement, an introductory section of the
13 financial statements as well as a statistical
14 section in the back. That entire document
15 makes it that term ACFR. That also does get
16 submitted for the Government Finance Officers
17 Association award program on an annual basis.

18 We also completed what's termed the
19 uniform guidance single audit. And that's a
20 required audit for any government entity that
21 expends more than \$750,000 per year of federal

1 funds.

2 We also complete a State-mandated audit of
3 911-related revenues and expenses.

4 In addition, upon completion of the audit,
5 the State requires a UFR, or a uniform
6 financial report, to be submitted to the State,
7 just taking the financial statement numbers and
8 putting it into a standard format for the State
9 to do analysis on the county's numbers.

10 And then lastly, related to the single
11 audit, we also prepared what's termed the data
12 collection form. That's required to be
13 submitted with the single audit to the federal
14 government. And that lets the federal
15 government know that the county has met its
16 requirements for the single audit.

17 The results of the audit are that we've
18 issued a clean or unmodified opinion on the
19 financial statements, and that would be the
20 best opinion we could give under professional
21 standards. And that says that the financial

1 statements are reasonably free of material
2 misstatement.

3 We did not discover any instances of
4 fraud. A financial statement audit, it is not
5 a forensic audit, but we are required to have a
6 healthy skepticism that fraud could be
7 perpetrated at any time.

8 We did note one material weakness in
9 internal controls, which stem from the 2023
10 audit and the timeliness of bank
11 reconciliations. Some of that did carry into
12 the 2024 period. And management is currently
13 implementing a three-part corrective action
14 plan. And once that corrective action plan is
15 completed, we would expect that finding to be
16 cleared.

17 We also received the full cooperation of
18 management. So any records that we requested,
19 we obtained adequate support for those items.
20 We got -- we received timely responses to any
21 of our questions.

1 And then from a single audit perspective,
2 we had no compliance findings to report in that
3 audit.

4 This slide here is just the picture of the
5 audit process that we go through. I won't go
6 through the details of every audit step here.
7 But really, the audit is designed to be similar
8 to a funnel, how we funnel out risk. And the
9 risk of the financial statements being
10 misstated is really what we're auditing for,
11 the correctness of the accounts and balances
12 going into the proper accounts.

13 And a large part of our testing is that
14 second phase there, testing the design and
15 operation of the internal controls. And in
16 looking at the controls, we also consider the
17 control environment. And there's five
18 interrelated components that we look at, three
19 listed here to the left. We consider the
20 overall control environment, management's risk
21 assessment process, the specific control

1 activities of the county, as well as the
2 information and communication and the
3 monitoring of those controls.

4 And then here are the key processes that
5 we evaluate looking at treasury function,
6 estimates within the financial statements,
7 financial reporting, expenditures, as well as
8 looking at payroll, revenue, fixed assets, and
9 lastly, the information technology as it
10 relates to the accounting system. And then
11 from a single audit perspective, as it relates
12 to grant compliance.

13 And we had noted, other than the item that
14 we mentioned previously about the bank
15 reconciliation issue, all these, all these
16 areas were both designed and operated
17 effectively for the period under audit.

18 Any questions so far? Okay.

19 This is probably a little hard to read,
20 but it is derived from the financial statements
21 that were issued. This comes out of the

1 management discussion and analysis section,
2 which prefaces the financial statements. And
3 that's where management discusses the balances
4 and the reasons for the changes.

5 And this is what's termed an entity wide
6 picture of the financial statements. This
7 includes not only all the fund level activity,
8 the general fund, the proprietary funds, but it
9 also includes capital assets, as well as
10 long-term liabilities.

11 So just at a high level here, if you look
12 at governmental activities, the net position of
13 the governmental activities increased from
14 about \$128 million in 2023 to an increase of
15 152 million in 2024. So that just shows the
16 financial condition has increased there, as
17 well as there is an increase in the business
18 type activities from 45 million up to
19 49 million. So there was an increase in those
20 activities as well.

21 And then here also taken from the

1 management discussion and analysis section,
2 it's just showing the year over year revenues
3 as well as the expenses for both the
4 governmental and business type activities.

5 So just all in, the governmental
6 activities had a positive change in net
7 position of roughly \$24 million for fiscal year
8 2024, while the business type activities had an
9 increase of roughly 4.2 million for fiscal year
10 2024.

11 Last few slides, I hit on a number of
12 these items as I went through the presentation.
13 So I won't go through these in detail.

14 But really if we had really any issues
15 getting through the audit, I'd be required to
16 bring that to your attention. If we had audit
17 adjustments, I'd be required to bring that to
18 your attention. We had no audit adjustments.
19 So that does speak to the quality of the
20 numbers that we are getting from an audit
21 perspective.

1 As I mentioned before, we had not
2 identified any fraud. Had we identified fraud,
3 I'd be required to bring that to your
4 attention. If we had disagreements with
5 management on any accounting matters, which we
6 had none, I'd be required to bring that to your
7 attention. So nothing additional that I would
8 need to bring to your attention through our
9 audit process.

10 And lastly, I'll open it up with
11 questions, but I do have my contact information
12 here. If there's any questions that you have
13 outside of audit season, we do work with Martha
14 and her team if there's questions outside of
15 audit season. We want to be helpful when it's
16 convenient for you all, and we don't want you
17 to feel like you have to wait for us to be on
18 site or for us to be ready for the audit for
19 you to ask questions.

20 So Martha is not shy to ask questions, and
21 that helps us provide better service that way

1 as well.

2 MS. SPARKS: We did seek Chris' review of
3 the reserve policies that Council recently
4 adopted in our administrative resolution. So
5 he was part of the process, the review team, to
6 look that over to make sure it was accurate.

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

9 MR. LESHER: No questions.

10 Just one is note of congratulations for
11 Martha because this is your report card and
12 your department's report card. And obviously
13 you're scoring, you're scoring very well. And
14 that gives us confidence, further confidence,
15 we have confidence, further confidence in the
16 capabilities and activities of your department.
17 So congratulations on that.

18 And a thank you also because what you
19 don't see in this presentation is that when we
20 got these binders with this audit information,
21 Martha also provided us with, with a memo that

1 guided us through to highlights. And I think,
2 at least for me as a non-finance person, it
3 really helped me get a deeper appreciation for
4 where the important numbers lie. And I want to
5 thank you publicly for your guidance on that.

6 MS. SPARKS: You're welcome. Thank you.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other?

8 MS. MIELKE: I second that emotion.

9 MR. STEPP: Awesome job all around. Thank
10 you.

11 MS. SPARKS: Thank you.

12 I would like to add that we've really
13 improved our accounting and reporting
14 processes, particularly related to our grants.
15 And we've made significant improvements in our
16 grant reporting. And that has been the result
17 of our grants clerk, Kaitlyn Fitzgerald, and
18 our assistant financial director, Kaitlyn
19 Foster-Clark. They have really streamlined the
20 processes.

21 But the other important part are our

1 departments. I can't tell you how important
2 their part is and us having these successful
3 records and reports. And they've been -- Micah
4 and the airport, the FAA grants are quite
5 something to wrangle. And I just can't say
6 enough about the good working relationship we
7 have with our departments. And they're a big
8 part of this as well.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. And I want to say
10 thanks, too, Martha. You, Kaitlyn, and your
11 whole team made it really easy for us. And
12 you've done a lot of work for us in this year's
13 budget and last year's budget, especially this
14 year.

15 You really stepped it up and really helped
16 us work through and cut our time down a lot.
17 So you've absorbed a lot of the time for us.
18 And you've got the facts in front of us. And
19 you've done a really, really good job this year
20 with the whole budget format that you've done
21 this year.

1 And I want to commend the county manager,
2 too, that you've done a great job and your
3 staff, too.

4 MR. STAMP: Thank you.

5 MS. SPARKS: Thank you, President
6 Callahan.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate it.

8 MS. SPARKS: Thank you.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I guess we don't
10 have to vote on anything?

11 MS. MORRIS: No.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: We're good. Okay. We're
13 good.

14 MS. SPARKS: Thank you so much.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Okay.

16 Next, Madam Secretary, introduction of an
17 administrative resolution.

18 SECRETARY: Do you want me to read the
19 title or --

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. The title is fine.
21 The title is fine.

1 SECRETARY: Administrative resolution.
2 Pick up resolution for the Maryland State
3 retirement and pension system of Talbot County,
4 Maryland.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

6 MS. PARDIEU: Good evening. The Law
7 Enforcement --

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, Donna. Could you pull
9 your mic down a little bit so we can hear you
10 and introduce yourself, please?

11 MS. PARDIEU: Donna Pardieu, director of
12 administrative services.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.

14 MS. PARDIEU: Thank you. The Law
15 Enforcement Officers Pension System provides
16 enhanced retirement, disability, and survivor
17 benefits to participants and their families.

18 There are 26 EMTs who will be eligible to
19 participate in this system.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Stamp.

21 MR. STAMP: Council, this is an exciting

1 night. This is a project that this Council got
2 behind to invest in our premiere public safety
3 employees. This kind of caps off the ability
4 to put our Department of Emergency Services
5 medical staff into the State public safety
6 pension.

7 And I know they're excited about it. And
8 it's certainly going to aid in the retention of
9 really quality individuals and help us recruit
10 the same. So thank you.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yup. Go ahead.

12 MR. LESHER: I know that this, this change
13 of the rollover of this pension system is
14 something that we see as a key tool for
15 recruitment and retention in our public safety.
16 And I'm thrilled that we're at the point where
17 we can take this step forward for our
18 correctional officers and for some of our
19 emergency services workers.

20 This is really important in being able to
21 do for them in their recruitment and retention,

1 what we've already done for the Sheriff's
2 deputies.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

4 MR. STEPP: Long time coming. Thank you.

5 MS. MIELKE: Good job.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: That's a good job. Thanks.
7 Okay. All right. So we want to go ahead
8 and make a motion?

9 MR. STEPP: So moved.

10 MR. LESHER: Do you need a show of hands
11 to introduce first?

12 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm sorry.

13 MR. STEPP: Administrative resolution. We
14 don't need one for administrative resolutions.

15 MR. LESHER: We introduce it.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: No. We can vote on it.

17 MR. STAMP: You introduce and then vote.

18 MR. STEPP: Oh, okay.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yeah. Okay. .
20 Introduce.

21 MR. LESHER: So introduced by Council.

1 SECRETARY: Okay.

2 MR. LESHER: Now I think you can just call
3 the roll. You don't need a motion.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,
5 could you call the roll.

6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

8 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

9 MR. STEPP: Aye.

10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

11 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

12 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

13 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right.

15 Next, Madam Secretary.

16 SECRETARY: Administrative resolution
17 authorizing a transfer of emergency medical
18 technicians employed by Talbot County,
19 Maryland, to the Law Enforcement Officers
20 Pension System.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay?

1 MR. STAMP: Did we just do that one.

2 SECRETARY: Not really.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Are you going -- go ahead.

4 MS. PARDIEU: I think that may have
5 been --

6 MR. LESHER: This is another step in the
7 same goal.

8 MS. PARDIEU: Correct, correct.

9 MR. LESHER: So we want a show of hands to
10 introduce?

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

12 MR. STEPP: Any comment beforehand?

13 MR. CALLAHAN: I was waiting for Clay.

14 Okay. Clay, you want to comment on this?

15 MR. STAMP: This just seals the last vote.
16 This makes sure we put the EMTs into the LEOPS
17 program.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Good.

19 Any other questions? Okay. All right.

20 Raise our hands.

21 MR. LESHER: Sponsored by Council.

1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

3 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

4 MR. STEPP: Aye.

5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

6 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

7 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

8 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

10 SECRETARY: And lastly, we have
11 administrative resolution authorizing a
12 transfer of local Detention Center officers of
13 Talbot County to the Correctional Officers
14 Pension System.

15 MS. PARDIEU: The Correctional Officers
16 Retirement System also provides enhanced
17 retirement, disability, and survivor benefits
18 to participants and their families.

19 There are 40, approximately 40 corrections
20 officers who will be eligible to participate.

21 And if I may, I'd like to thank County

1 Council, the county manager, and the assistant
2 county manager for all of their support
3 throughout this process. It's been a long one,
4 but very much worth it for our employees.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

6 MR. STAMP: And I agree with Donna. This
7 is a long time coming. This has been an
8 interesting road.

9 Just as a reminder, three years ago,
10 Council requested that our local delegation
11 introduce a bill in Annapolis, which was
12 enabling legislation to allow for the
13 correctional officers to enter the Correctional
14 Officers Retirement program, CORS.

15 And at that point, the bill passed. So
16 the legislation was in place. And then that
17 triggered a one-year waiting period. And the
18 one-year waiting period has lapsed, and now
19 they're eligible once you pass this resolution.

20 So a long time coming. Dedicated
21 employees with our Corrections Department. And

1 they're looking forward to your action this
2 evening.

3 And it will help us significantly with
4 regard to retention of quality individuals and
5 recruitment of others.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job, Mr. Stamp.
7 Okay.

8 Raise our hands.

9 MR. LESHER: Sponsored by Council.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

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 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job.

20 MS. PARDIEU: Thank you.

21 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Okay.

2 Next on the agenda, Madam Secretary. It's
3 a discussion on General Assembly legislation.

4 SECRETARY: This is Senate Bill 931 and
5 House Bill 1036, Renewable Energy Certainty
6 Act, public utilities, generating stations,
7 generation and siting, opposition.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

9 MR. LESHER: Well, I'll speak to this one.

10 This is -- the State is certainly looking
11 to reach its renewable energy goals by siting
12 solar energy generating, utility scale
13 generating solar facilities. And they're
14 particularly looking to Eastern Shore farmland
15 to be able to do that.

16 And some of that is happening. We've seen
17 evidence of that happening up along Route 50,
18 along Route 404. There's more coming up in
19 Cordova, up in the Chapel District part of the
20 county.

21 This county, this Council passed

1 legislation a couple of years ago to guide how
2 that is to be done, that we want to make sure
3 that our best farmland is reserved for growing
4 food and that perhaps the more marginal land
5 can be turned into solar generating.

6 This State legislation, however, would,
7 would trample over that local legislation and
8 over our local zoning and preempt, preempt
9 local zoning laws in the placement of these,
10 which, which counties have joined together.
11 And aside from being a bad precedent, this is
12 really not something that can be easily
13 reversed.

14 Local decision-making should play a role.
15 Yes, State encouragement for this. But local
16 decision-making properly should play a role in
17 this.

18 And we are joining with other counties.
19 Maryland Association of Counties, MACo, has
20 been lobbying against it. And I think it well
21 and proper that Talbot County should lend our

1 voice in opposition to this legislation.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other?

3 MS. MIELKE: I just want to make one
4 comment.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup.

6 MS. MIELKE: I would recommend -- I agree
7 with Mr. Leshner.

8 I would recommend the book Confessions of
9 a Greenpeace Dropout. And there's a section in
10 there that talks about the effectiveness of
11 solar and is very critical of it.

12 So you take somebody who was on the
13 vanguard of environmental protection turning on
14 something, I think that the position we're
15 taking is consistent with some of the changes
16 in views.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Stepp, you good?

18 MR. STEPP: Yeah. I see it as typical
19 State overreach. And they need to listen to
20 the counties and where we stand on it.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right.

1 MR. LESHER: I will move to issue the
2 letter of opposition.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is there a second?

4 MS. MIELKE: Second.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
6 second.

7 MR. STEPP: Is that a motion and second
8 for both, both letters?

9 MR. LESHER: For both letters.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

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 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the
20 agenda --

21 MR. LESHER: So to be clear, that was in

1 opposition to Senate Bill 931 as well as --

2 MS. MIELKE: House Bill.

3 MR. LESHER: House Bill 1036. They're
4 linked.

5 MR. STEPP: Cross filed.

6 MR. LESHER: Cross filed legislation.
7 Same pieces of legislation.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda,
9 Clay's stuff.

10 MR. STAMP: So county manager report,
11 you're going to get tired of hearing from me
12 tonight. It's kind of lengthy. So bear with
13 me.

14 So first we'll talk about board and
15 committee appointments.

16 The first would be requesting Council's
17 consideration to appoint Mr. Joseph Nordike to
18 the Board of Electrical Examiners.

19 MR. STEPP: So moved.

20 MR. LESHER: Second.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and

1 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
2 vote.

3 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

5 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

6 MR. STEPP: Aye.

7 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

8 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

9 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

10 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

11 MR. STAMP: The next is referring to the
12 Talbot 250 Commission, which has been enacted
13 by the County Council recently by a resolution.

14 I'm proposing a number of names for
15 appointment to this commission for your
16 consideration.

17 The first is Mr. Charlie Powers,
18 representing Tilghman; Ms. Cindy Orban,
19 representing Easton; Ms. Emma Poole,
20 representing the Talbot County Free Library;
21 Ja'Lyn Hicks, representing Oxford; Jerry

1 Seiler, representing Daughters of American
2 Revolution; Jill Ferris, Chesapeake Bay
3 Maritime Museum; Ms. Joan Levy, Talbot Arts;
4 Mary Eileen Russell, unincorporated area of the
5 county; Richard Skinner, St. Michaels;
6 Dr. Sharon Pepukayi, Talbot County Public
7 Schools; Stacey Radcliffe, Easton; Wesley
8 Haygood.

9 And administrative positions would be Pete
10 Leshner, Council liaison; Sarah Kilmon, county;
11 and Kristen Goller, who works with Cassandra
12 with Economic Development and Tourism.

13 Requesting Council consideration for
14 approval of these individuals.

15 Oh, I'm sorry. And one addition. Jaelon
16 Moaney as well.

17 MR. LESHNER: I move for the appointments.

18 MS. MIELKE: Second.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,
20 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 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.

9 First thing I have is an announcement.

10 Then I'll go into a number of our items.

11 Talbot County Property Tax Assessment
12 Appeals Board. There are three vacancies, one
13 full member and two alternate members. The
14 county is seeking individuals to serve on this
15 County Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board.

16 Should you be interested in serving,
17 additional information can be found on the
18 county website or by calling the county
19 manager's office at 410-770-8010.

20 So that's an announcement. Anyone that
21 wants to volunteer or put your name in, please

1 do.

2 The next item I have is --

3 MR. LESHER: Mr. Stamp, can I reinforce
4 that?

5 MR. STAMP: Sure, please.

6 MR. LESHER: This Property Tax Appeals
7 Assessment Board, you've all received or many
8 of you have received your reassessments this
9 year.

10 People have a right to challenge that.
11 And we need to have a board in place to do
12 that.

13 And so we're looking -- and all we need,
14 all we need is reasonable people. There's no
15 special expertise required for this. You know
16 how much your house is worth, you know how much
17 your neighbor's house recently sold for, you
18 just need a reasonable person on this board to
19 be able to assess appeals for the fairness of
20 this process.

21 Help us out, step out.

1 MR. STAMP: Thank you. That was good.

2 The next item we have is we have Captain
3 Tom and Judy Bixler here this evening. And
4 they brought James Andrew along, the new owner
5 of the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry.

6 So as you read in your agenda packet --
7 they would like to come forward maybe,
8 Mr. Council President. As you read in your
9 agenda packet, the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry has
10 recently been sold.

11 And we are seeking County Council approval
12 to assign the lease to Jetty Light, LLC.

13 And Tom and Judy and Patrick can certainly
14 weigh in on this action.

15 Welcome.

16 MS. BIXLER: Thanks, Clay.

17 We really want to thank the Council for
18 all of your many years of support for us.

19 This is bittersweet in its own way. We're
20 very excited. We're proud to introduce Jim
21 Andrews to you. He's very more than qualified

1 to take over for us.

2 And for us, it's a passage of our legacy.
3 And we will continue to continue with the ferry
4 in its iconic state. And that's what we're
5 really excited about.

6 So we're very happy to have him here, and
7 we're looking for you to reassign the lease
8 over to Bellevue so that he can continue to run
9 the ferry.

10 We're not leaving town. You're still
11 going to be able to pick on us. We are just
12 going to help out on occasion. We just don't
13 want it 24/7 anymore and it's time for us to
14 spend time with our family and to be retired,
15 if that's possible. I'm not sure Tom can do
16 that.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: I bet you they're going to
18 travel a little bit.

19 MS. BIXLER: That's our hope.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

21 MR. LESHER: More than three-quarters of a

1 mile back and forth?

2 MS. BIXLER: We put in a lot of miles in
3 24 years, just not going very far.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

5 MR. BIXLER: I definitely want to echo
6 what Judy said. We have received nothing but
7 the best of cooperation from every person. I
8 mean if it's the man that's doing a repair, all
9 the way to the highest level of the government
10 and the individuals in between. We really
11 appreciate it. It's made it enjoyable.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

13 Well, welcome.

14 CAPTAIN ANDREWS: Thank you very much,
15 Members of the Council. My name is Captain Jim
16 Andrews. And I'm so excited to be a part of
17 the community now to help carry on the legacy
18 and preserve this vital piece of infrastructure
19 for the county and for Maryland. Thank you.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Thank you.

21 MS. MIELKE: Yeah. I want to thank the

1 Bixlers for all they've done in maintaining
2 this historic operation. And you've done a
3 wonderful job. And I'd glad that you're
4 staying on.

5 And look forward to your working with us
6 and providing the county with a gem. Thank
7 you.

8 MR. LESHER: Tom and Judy, you have been
9 extraordinary stewards of this Talbot County
10 treasure. And perhaps the most important piece
11 of your stewardship is ensuring a smooth
12 transition to the next owner. Thank you for
13 your patience in making sure that that happens
14 in this way.

15 And Mr. Andrews, Captain Andrews, welcome.
16 And we look forward to your continued
17 stewardship. We know how important this
18 resource is to Talbot County and to, and to
19 tourism as a tourism resource in this area.

20 When I started at the Maritime Museum 33
21 years ago, I had a colleague who commuted all

1 year round across the ferry. That's no longer
2 possible.

3 But I had another colleague who, after he
4 left the museum, became a relief captain. And
5 I recall him saying that running it in the
6 winter was always a bit of a challenge, you
7 didn't shut it down overnight because you
8 wondered whether it might restart in the
9 morning. And so the ferry ran for extended
10 periods through cold weather.

11 Today, it is really primarily a tourism
12 resource and ever more important for that, for
13 that role.

14 We know that you're important partners,
15 and thank you for stepping up to this role.

16 CAPTAIN ANDREWS: Thank you. It's my
17 pleasure.

18 MR. STEPP: I'll echo the thanks, and the
19 patience, too. I know this has been a
20 multiyear process in trying to find the right,
21 the right -- you're the keeper of the ferry

1 now. So...

2 MS. BIXLER: That was our goal.

3 MR. STEPP: Absolutely.

4 MS. BIXLER: We feel confident that we
5 found a great guy.

6 MR. STEPP: That's everything that I hear.

7 So Captain Jim, welcome. Welcome to --
8 you're part now in Talbot County and national
9 history. So welcome. Looking forward to
10 having you and looking forward to keeping this
11 tradition alive.

12 So thank you, guys, very much.

13 Captains Tom and Judy, thank you for all
14 you've done over these many years. Thanks for
15 employing my dad part time, you know, and just
16 everything.

17 I'm glad you guys aren't going far.

18 MR. BIXLER: It's been an honor.

19 MR. STEPP: Thank you.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Like my colleagues said,
21 thanks a lot, Tom and Judy, for so many years,

1 you know. You're a part, you're sort of a
2 fixture of Talbot County, you know. You
3 really, really are. And we thank you so much.

4 And Captain Jim, you know, you got a lot
5 of boots to fill on this one here.

6 CAPTAIN ANDREWS: Absolutely.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: You know what I mean? So
8 the county is here to help you, anything you
9 need.

10 CAPTAIN ANDREWS: Thank you.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: We're behind you, and we
12 just thank you so much.

13 CAPTAIN ANDREWS: Thank you.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.

15 MS. BIXLER: We'll be holding a blessing
16 of the ferry on April 4th. And we'd like you
17 all to be able to attend. It's a fun evening.
18 It's for everyone to get to meet Jim and to get
19 to be on the ferry.

20 The ferry doesn't leave the dock. It's
21 just so you can come and go and be there. Has

1 to be a BYO because we can't provide anything,
2 but it's a great opportunity and it's lot of
3 fun. We'd love to have you all come.

4 I know I sent invitations, but we really
5 would be happy to have you.

6 And they start on the 5th.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So we need a motion.

8 MR. LESHER: I'll move that we promulgate
9 the assignment of lease.

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. LESHER: Aye.

20 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

21 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

2 MR. BIXLER: Thank you.

3 MS. MIELKE: Thank you very much.

4 CAPTAIN ANDREWS: Thank you, folks.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

6 MR. STAMP: Council, next item I have is
7 the pleasure of introducing Jeff Harrison and
8 Jeannie Haddaway. And I believe Emily is here
9 as well. I'm not sure whether Cassandra is
10 here or not.

11 If you all want to come up. Thank you.

12 They're here this evening, Council,
13 seeking a letter of support for their grant
14 application to the Maryland Heritage Area
15 Program for funding to install some signage.

16 I'm going to just leave it for them at
17 that point, and I'll answer any other questions
18 that I might (indiscernible).

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Welcome.

20 MR. HARRISON: Mr. President and other
21 Council Members, thank you. My name is Jeff

1 Harrison. I'm the president of Talbot Watermen
2 Association.

3 Our -- this heritage sign really started
4 about three years ago. There was a sign down
5 Dogwood that reflected the -- it was the last,
6 one of the last harbors that had skipjacks in
7 it, sailing fleet. But it was actually an
8 original piece of art. It was a hand-painted
9 sign.

10 And it had come in disrepair. And I was
11 asked that maybe I could talk to the Council or
12 somebody to see if we could do something about
13 it. I was also a member of the Parks and Recs
14 Advisory Board.

15 And I did that. And it really didn't go a
16 whole lot until I ran into Cassandra. And I
17 want to thank her so much. She was the person
18 I was looking for. And she said yes, we can
19 help.

20 And it kind of spurred this, you know,
21 sign. We had a meeting at our monthly meetings

1 and we said well, why can't we do this at other
2 parks or other harbors. And we started there
3 with that.

4 And currently, the sign down Dogwood is
5 finished. And it was a local artist that
6 painted it. It was transferred into vinyl
7 somehow, whatever they do now. And it has like
8 a 30-year warranty on it.

9 These other signs will be similar.
10 They'll be an artist painting.

11 And we currently are working on the one
12 down at Neavitt.

13 They are heritage signs. They reflect the
14 watermen's participation in these harbors.

15 When I say that, I also want to thank the
16 Council. A lot of these local harbors have a
17 lot of watermen in them. And this Council and
18 past Councils have allowed that so that
19 watermen have the first chance of getting a
20 slip there.

21 But we also wanted to go further. And so

1 we decided that we were going to try to apply
2 for a grant to help pay for some of the costs.

3 And we want to do the next two would be
4 Bellevue and Oak Creek, which would be maybe in
5 the coming year.

6 So we're asking for a request of a letter
7 of support.

8 And I'm going to pass it to Jeannie
9 because she knows all the details about the
10 grant that we're applying for.

11 MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: Well, thank you
12 County Manager Stamp. And good evening,
13 Members of the Council. For the record,
14 Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio on behalf of Talbot
15 Watermen Association.

16 The grant is Maryland Heritage Areas
17 Authority non-capital grant. The request is
18 for \$30,000, which will cover both the way-
19 finding signage but also interpretive panels at
20 the three public landings.

21 We know that Talbot County has a lot of

1 shoreline, but water access is still really in
2 high demand. So we see this as a way to honor
3 Talbot County's heritage with a captive
4 audience that's already using the public
5 landings.

6 These projects would be coordinated with
7 Talbot County Economic Development and Tourism
8 as well as Talbot County Parks & Recreation,
9 just to ensure that we're in step with the
10 county on the location and the specifications
11 of the panels and the signage.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. Any
13 discussion?

14 MS. MIELKE: I just want to thank you for
15 your ideas and efforts in preserving our
16 precious heritage, which are the watermen.
17 Thank you.

18 MR. LESHER: This is really important to
19 do. This is important part, like the ferry, of
20 our tourism infrastructure. I know that you
21 and other watermen are making your living

1 there, but it is also an attraction for
2 visitors from elsewhere.

3 My mother tells a story about how she
4 brought guests from the south coast of England
5 and introduced them to a skipjack captain down
6 at Dogwood Harbor, a gentleman who is no longer
7 with us. And carried on a conversation with
8 him for 15 or 20 minutes. Lots of great
9 information. And as they were departing, her
10 guests from Britain said how could you
11 understand a word he said. You probably know
12 who I'm talking about now.

13 Had the signs been there, her guests might
14 have gotten more out of this. This is so
15 important.

16 I will, I will vote to support this, for
17 this letter of support.

18 I do sit on the Maryland Heritage Areas
19 Authority. But because this is for Talbot
20 County Parks & Rec, unfortunately I will have
21 to recuse myself when it gets up to the State

1 level.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Stepp, good?

3 MR. STEPP: Jeff, Jeannie, you guys are
4 always there. Thank you for doing what you're
5 doing.

6 MR. HARRISON: Thank you, guys.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys, for coming
8 and all that.

9 So Madam Secretary.

10 MR. LESHER: I'll move for the letter of
11 support.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

13 MR. STEPP: Second.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
15 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
16 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 MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: Thank you very much.

5 MR. HARRISON: Thank you, guys.

6 MR. STAMP: Just as a note, I'm not sure
7 we've ever seen Jeff without a hat on.

8 MR. HARRISON: I always take my hat off
9 when I come in here.

10 MR. STAMP: Maybe we just see you --

11 MR. HARRISON: -- probably long. I was
12 supposed to get it cut and something happened.
13 I got seven grandchildren.

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

15 MR. STAMP: Council, the next item we
16 have, I'll call Marilyn Neal forward, executive
17 director of Neighborhood Service Center.

18 And this is a request for your
19 consideration to provide \$16,500 in contingency
20 funds from the county for security and fire
21 monitoring equipment upgrades.

1 The finance director has certified
2 sufficient funds are available.

3 Marilyn is here to answer any questions or
4 explain further. Good evening, Marilyn.

5 MS. NEAL: I'll answer any questions.

6 And thank you for allowing me to come and
7 for your consideration in this project that
8 we're doing.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions?

10 MS. MIELKE: Nope.

11 MR. LESHER: I think I asked that this --
12 we saw your request as part of our budget
13 request for next fiscal year starting July 1st.
14 And I urged us to move forward more quickly on
15 it. So hence, its presence on the agenda
16 tonight.

17 We know how important this is, we know how
18 important the agency is and all that it does
19 for us, and we want to make sure that it gets
20 this form of support.

21 MS. NEAL: Thank you so much.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Dave.

2 MR. STEPP: No, no comments. Thank you.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: I just want to say that
4 obviously I'm the chair.

5 MS. NEAL: Yes.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: You're doing such a great
7 job. And I really appreciate all you've done,
8 Marilyn, to bring this to our attention. And
9 we're in communications all the time.

10 So this is definitely needed for your
11 building and everything. So I'm glad to help
12 out. I'm glad to help you chair and move this
13 forward.

14 So being that's said, Madam Secretary.

15 MR. LESHER: Well, I'll move that we
16 utilize contingency funds for this project as
17 requested by Neighborhood Service Center.

18 MR. STEPP: Second.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
20 second. Madam Secretary.

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 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Marilyn.
9 Appreciate it.

10 MS. NEAL: I would like to thank the
11 Council for everything you do for NSC and the
12 community because without you, we couldn't fill
13 so many gaps. So thank you.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

15 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Marilyn. Okay.

16 The next item we have, I ask Carrie Ottey
17 and Rachel Smith to come forward. And Jenna,
18 I'm sorry.

19 MS. MARCHI: Yeah. Rachel wasn't able to
20 be here today.

21 MR. STAMP: So they're here this evening,

1 Council, to raise their concern about some
2 things that are happening that could impact the
3 senior program.

4 MS. OTTEY: Thank you. Carrie Ottey. I'm
5 the program manager for senior services program
6 at the Talbot County Health Department, which
7 includes our Senior Care Program.

8 MS. MARCHI: And I'm Jenna Marchi. I'm
9 the owner of Home Instead and I'm the vice
10 chairman of the Commission on Aging.

11 MS. OTTEY: So basically we are here
12 tonight to ask for your support for our Senior
13 Care program.

14 And I want to start off by thanking you
15 for having us here tonight. I know you're all
16 familiar with our Senior Care Program. I
17 usually come in the fall to give you all the
18 details about it.

19 And then I wanted to thank also all the
20 people that came out to support our program
21 tonight. We have people from Upper Shore

1 Aging, Delmarva Community Services, all our
2 senior services staff at the Health Department
3 is out here to support us. Dr. Fahmi, our
4 health officer, is back there somewhere. And
5 then Commission on Aging members. So really
6 appreciate everybody coming out for us tonight.

7 The reason we're here is a few weeks ago,
8 we were notified about a proposal in State
9 legislation to cut the funding for our Senior
10 Care Program this year, here in fiscal year
11 2025, which kind of came out of left field for
12 us.

13 And then the Department of Aging was able
14 to decide how the cuts would be allocated to
15 each of the jurisdictions. And that resulted
16 in Talbot County potentially receiving a cut of
17 14.9 percent, or \$24,000, to our budget this
18 year.

19 Since we're already pretty much spent
20 through quarter three, that would be really
21 drastic cuts in quarter four of this year.

1 Basically we'd have to cut off almost all of
2 our services to our seniors in the last quarter
3 of this year if these cuts were to go through.

4 Jenna and Rachel Smith, the chairperson
5 for Commission on Aging, wrote a beautiful
6 letter to the secretary of aging and the
7 Governor's Office.

8 MS. MARCHI: Yup.

9 MS. OTTEY: Just stating what effects
10 these cuts were going to have on our seniors
11 here in Talbot County. They received a
12 response from Secretary --

13 MS. MARCHI: We did.

14 MS. OTTEY: -- yesterday.

15 And the good news in it is that the House
16 has voted or has pushed forward a potential not
17 \$2.5 million cut across the State, but lowering
18 it to \$900,000 across the State. So that still
19 has to pass over to the Senate to vote on. But
20 we're a little bit hopeful now that the cuts
21 won't be as drastic as initially proposed.

1 We still don't know, if that \$900,000 cut
2 goes through to the State, what portion of that
3 would go to Talbot County. So we're still
4 asking for your support as we're just not sure
5 what that cut's going to mean to us, whether,
6 you know, they would cut us at all.

7 Our hope would be that they leave a small
8 county maybe alone in those cuts, but we don't
9 know.

10 So you know what a vibrant Senior Care
11 Program we have here in Talbot County. Last
12 year we served 207 unduplicated clients. This
13 year, we're already up to 214. So people are
14 needing us more now than ever just with the
15 expense of everything these days. Food,
16 utilities, rent. People are really being hit
17 hard. So they really need our services more
18 now than ever.

19 And our county, aside from the big five
20 counties across the bridge, PG, Montgomery,
21 Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Anne

1 Arundel County, we're the next in line for the
2 most number of clients that we serve. Little
3 Talbot County serves a lot of clients with a
4 lot less money. Those big counties get upwards
5 of a million to \$2 million to run their
6 programs. And we get just 160,000 from the
7 State. And then, of course, the funds that the
8 county provides, too.

9 So we really, we have a great program. We
10 serve a lot of people. The last thing I would
11 want to see happen is us have to cut important
12 services to people. That could really lead to
13 bad outcomes. Someone living alone that has a
14 fall and doesn't have their emergency response
15 system to get help and lays on the floor for
16 hours, days, you know, that's a bad outcome.
17 Someone who can't get their medications because
18 they're too expensive that we help pay for,
19 that could potentially be a bad outcome. And
20 somebody who can't maintain their personal
21 hygiene because we're not out there helping

1 with their bath or providing them with
2 incontinence supplies could lead to bad
3 outcomes with skin and health and whatnot. So
4 that's really the last thing we want to see
5 happen.

6 So we're just asking for your support. We
7 don't know what that is going to mean yet
8 because we don't know exactly what these cuts
9 are going to be.

10 MS. MARCHI: Yeah. Carrie obviously
11 undersells herself a bit with all the great
12 work that they do. The numbers are super
13 impressive with just a little bit of funds she
14 has.

15 So what we're asking for is that you guys
16 authorize contingency funds to cover these cuts
17 if they do come down.

18 Again, there's a lot of uncertainty about
19 what that number is. I think we're thinking 24
20 would be the top of that. We're hoping it
21 would be substantially less. But we're hoping

1 that you guys are willing to authorize some
2 contingency funds so all of the seniors in the
3 Senior Care Program can continue to receive
4 services this year.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds good.

6 MR. LESHER: And so the request for
7 tonight is for letter of support, but you're
8 giving us that heads-up that once we know this
9 number, you might be coming back to us with
10 that further request for contingency funding?

11 MS. MARCHI: Yes. So we did, we did send
12 our letter. We did send you guys one as well
13 making our position clear. We were, you know,
14 encouraged to receive a response from the
15 Governor quite promptly, or the Governor's
16 Office.

17 We're hopeful nothing comes from it, but
18 we certainly want to make sure you guys are
19 aware of the potential for the loss of those
20 funds and a need to fill that to continue the
21 services.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other questions?

2 MR. LESHER: Well, we know how important
3 these services are. What you do to help our
4 seniors age in place, which is best for them,
5 which is typically most affordable for them as
6 well, but they need, they need these supports
7 in place to be able to do that. And you
8 provide them, but you need the funding to do
9 this.

10 We know that, that so many of the -- these
11 are not high pay scales. Working, many of
12 these folks working with our seniors. This is
13 not a place to balance the State's budget. And
14 as dire as the State's budget deficit situation
15 is right now, this is I think we recognize the
16 wrong place to find those savings.

17 So I'll move for that letter of support.

18 MR. STEPP: I'll second.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Did you want to say
20 something?

21 MS. MIELKE: Yeah.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Go ahead.

2 MS. MIELKE: I just want to say that I
3 think it's disgraceful what this State has done
4 in this regard and find it to be really ageist.

5 Of all the things that they could cut,
6 they cut this for senior citizens.

7 And the impact on our county, as you
8 pointed out, is significant because of our
9 demographic and the high percentage.

10 And you've done a fabulous job with
11 providing services.

12 And we also know that there are homeless,
13 senior homeless issues that are going to have
14 to be addressed. And how are they going to be
15 addressed if they cut back on funding for what
16 we're already providing?

17 So it's, it's a tragic situation, and I'm
18 100 percent in support of what you're
19 requesting that we send a letter. And
20 hopefully the State legislature will wake up
21 and do the right thing by its senior citizens,

1 who have supported them all these years. Thank
2 you.

3 MS. OTTEY: Thank you.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

5 MS. MARCHI: And thanks to Lynn
6 specifically just because she's been such a
7 advocate for seniors as our representative on
8 the Commission on Aging. She's extremely
9 engaged with us, which is lovely and is really
10 just an excellent advocate. So an extra
11 special thanks to Lynn.

12 MS. MIELKE: Thank you.

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

16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

18 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

19 MR. STEPP: Aye.

20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

21 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

1 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

2 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

4 MS. OTTEY: Thank you.

5 MS. MARCHI: Thank you.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you for coming in.

7 MR. STAMP: Okay. Council, your next
8 item, I'll call Cheryl Lewis forward.

9 You'll see in your packet, she's
10 requesting a letter of support for the Trappe
11 Volunteer Fire Company's request for an FY2026
12 community project funding for the construction
13 of a replacement firehouse. And she'll fill in
14 the details.

15 Good evening, Cheryl.

16 MS. LEWIS: Nice to see everybody.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Nice seeing you.

18 MS. LEWIS: So it was about a year ago, we
19 spoke with Congressman Harris and he was
20 willing to support us requesting federal
21 funding to replace the firehouse.

1 The firehouse was built in 1951 with
2 federal funding. It is no longer structurally
3 sound for us to do any renovations to.

4 We technically can't even fit equipment in
5 it properly. As it is, we replace a lot of
6 mirrors and we have to custom build our
7 firetrucks. So we need a new firehouse. We
8 probably have the oldest in the county and
9 getting very close to the oldest on the shore.

10 We were successful last year and you did
11 support us last year. And up until a few weeks
12 ago, we were a line item in the federal budget.
13 So we are no longer that line item.

14 Congressman Harris has reached out and
15 said he intendeds to give full support for the
16 project again in '26.

17 And I'm basically just visiting everyone
18 and getting updated letters of support, those
19 that, you know, need this support, support this
20 effort.

21 It is -- it was always a \$6 million

1 project. I imagine it's probably more costly
2 now, but we will make it work if we can get the
3 funds from federal government.

4 The agreement with Congressman Harris was
5 a 75/25 split. And our job is to raise the
6 25 percent.

7 We have set aside about half of that now.
8 So we are working very hard at getting there.
9 And you know, it's hard for a very small fire
10 company in a very small community. But we are
11 determined. And if we can get this money this
12 year, we will get to work and we'll make it
13 happen.

14 So here asking for your support. Happy to
15 answer any questions.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

17 MS. MIELKE: I do have a question. I
18 recall when the issue of Lakeside came up, that
19 there was a DERA (sic.) that the developer was
20 going to provide some funding for a
21 firehouse --

1 MS. LEWIS: So any funding, any funding
2 we've received from them, it has gone directly
3 into that \$600,000. So when we are receiving
4 payments for the houses as they're built, we
5 are putting that into that fund. We're --

6 MS. MIELKE: Into the money to do --

7 MS. LEWIS: For the new firehouse, yeah.
8 Absolutely.

9 And we did -- there was also a contingency
10 that pays us a little bit annually forever.
11 And that is the intent because we're trying to
12 get from A to B. We needed the firehouse
13 whether there was a development or not, but
14 we're taking advantage of the funds.

15 MS. MIELKE: Where is that documented?

16 MS. LEWIS: The DRRA?

17 MS. MIELKE: Well, the funding.

18 They haven't come across with the funding,
19 just a promise --

20 MS. LEWIS: Oh, no, no, no, no. We have
21 probably received 300 to \$350,000. So it's

1 about half of the 600,000 that we've set aside.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Good. Okay. Any other
3 questions? Okay.

4 MS. LEWIS: I will also make note, because
5 I don't come here that often, so our small
6 department does run 500 calls a year, which is
7 sort of substantial because of the uniqueness
8 where we're located and we serve a fairly large
9 portion of Talbot County. And we go as far up
10 as Queen Anne and all the way into Dorchester.

11 So just kind of give you a heads-up that
12 we have a fairly busy but small department.

13 MS. MIELKE: And I also understand that
14 from the struggles you all have had, it has
15 burdened a lot of the neighboring volunteer
16 companies, like Oxford and Easton.

17 MS. LEWIS: Yeah. No. We support five
18 companies regularly.

19 MS. MIELKE: Oh, yeah. I know.

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

21 MR. STAMP: Well, I'd just like to add a

1 thank you to the Trappe Volunteer Fire Company
2 for allowing us to keep a paramedic unit at
3 their station as well. They've been gracious
4 over the years and helpful to ensure that our
5 crews have a decent place. And we work with
6 them regularly.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

8 MR. STAMP: And you know, clearly, I would
9 echo the concern about the state of the current
10 firehouse. And they certainly need a new one
11 built for sure.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

13 MR. LESHER: I'll move for the letter of
14 support for the community project funding for
15 the replacement firehouse.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

17 MR. STEPP: 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 MS. LEWIS: Very much appreciate it.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. STEPP: Thank you, Cheryl.

11 MR. STAMP: Council, the next item I have,
12 I'll invite your director of Parks &
13 Recreation, Emily Gilmer, forward. Emily.

14 And Brian, would you like to come up as
15 well? Brian Harris.

16 Emily was so excited to come see you all
17 this evening.

18 MS. GILMER: Not nervous at all.

19 MR. STAMP: So the first item that she
20 has, and she'll fill in the details, she is
21 asking Council's consideration for the award of

1 a Bid Number 2303 for portable sanitary
2 chemical toilet service to Pierson's Comfort
3 Group.

4 And I'll let you fill in the blanks there.

5 MS. GILMER: Yes. So we've been using
6 Pierson's for the past few years. No
7 complaints. They seem to do a good service.
8 If a porta potty blows over in the wind,
9 they're out there to get it back up that day.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Emily, could you introduce
11 yourself, please?

12 MS. GILMER: Yes. I'm Emily Gilmer,
13 director of Parks & Recreation.

14 And then this is Brian Harris. He is the
15 facilities manager.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

17 MR. STAMP: So the bid is actually Bid
18 2303 in a sum not to exceed \$46,147.

19 And this would be I believe extending the
20 existing contract.

21 MR. STEPP: This is out to the Community

1 Center and the landings and everything, right?

2 MS. GILMER: Yup.

3 MR. STEPP: Got you.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions,
5 Council?

6 MS. MIELKE: No.

7 MR. STEPP: No.

8 MR. LESHER: I'll move for the extension
9 of contract.

10 MS. MIELKE: Second.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. We got a motion
12 and second. Madam Secretary, could you call
13 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 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

2 MR. STAMP: And while Emily is here, the
3 next item she has is Council's consideration to
4 award Bid Number 2421, Bellevue Harbor pier
5 re-decking at 5536 Bellevue Road, Royal Oak,
6 Maryland.

7 And I'll let her add some detail to that
8 and I'll fill in where you need.

9 MS. GILMER: So we will be -- it's all
10 grant covered. We will be doing the re-decking
11 the Bellevue pier and then some of the finger
12 piers as well there and then the top rails that
13 go down to the ferry.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

15 MR. STAMP: And this would be Bid 24-21 to
16 lowest responsive and responsible bidder,
17 Dissen & Juhn, LLC, in the sum of \$85,280.

18 There were a total of nine bids received.
19 The project will be 100 percent reimbursed by
20 the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.
21 And they concur with the bid recommendation.

1 MR. LESHER: So this does include some
2 work on the ferry dock as well as on the
3 watermen's public landing side?

4 MS. GILMER: This will be on the left-hand
5 side. Then the railings are on the ferry, that
6 go down towards the ferry. Yeah.

7 MR. LESHER: Okay. I'll, I'll move
8 approval of Bid 2421.

9 MS. MIELKE: Second.

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

13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

15 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

16 MR. STEPP: Aye.

17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

18 MR. LESHER: Aye.

19 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

20 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

21 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.

1 And finally, for Parks & Recreation,
2 they're here to discuss with you or request
3 your approval to install a new generator system
4 at the Talbot County Community Center.

5 This would also include a temporary
6 generator while that one is being installed.

7 I'll fill in anything that you need me to
8 cover. Hand it to you.

9 MR. HARRIS: The temporary generator,
10 right now our generator is broken. And the --
11 it was put in in 2005, and the parts are no
12 longer available. So I had two contractors
13 come out and verify that for me.

14 So we have to get a temporary generator
15 out there just in case. It's starting to get
16 warmer out right now. So if we lose power for
17 more than five to six hours, we're going to be
18 in trouble as far as melting down. So we have
19 to have a temporary generator put in.

20 And that's part of, part of the package,
21 along with the new one.

1 MR. STAMP: And Council, so they received
2 pricing for this effort. And they're asking
3 your approval to award to Barnes Electric in
4 the amount \$211,950 for the new generator.
5 Additionally, a temporary rental generator will
6 be procured at a cost of \$19,000 for a ten-week
7 period. There are sufficient funds in the
8 Parks & Recreation FY25 budget for this
9 project.

10 MR. STEPP: I'll make a motion.

11 MR. LESHER: 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 MR. STAMP: All right.

3 MS. GILMER: Thank you very much.

4 MR. HARRIS: Thank you. Have a good
5 evening.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

7 MR. STAMP: Okay. Thank you for hanging
8 in there with me, Council. Moving right along
9 here.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

11 MR. STAMP: The next item I have, Brian
12 Moore is not with us this evening, and he asked
13 if I would bring this forward.

14 This is an annual request for his road
15 paving work.

16 Just as a reminder, the Roads Department
17 maintains a CIP project, capital improvement
18 project, to address what we would refer to as
19 primary county roads. These are connector
20 roads that have high traffic volume, such as
21 Black Dog Alley, Almhouse Road, Glebe Road,

1 Goldsboro Neck, Airport Roads.

2 And what he does is draws a blanket
3 purchase order at the beginning of the year.
4 And we piggyback off the State contract with
5 David A. Bramble.

6 We are here tonight asking for Council's
7 consideration to award a blanket purchase order
8 for 1.2 million. It will take him through the
9 year.

10 There are adequate funds in the CIP for
11 this.

12 We did our due diligence checking the
13 average cost to provide paving overlay, two to
14 three inches of about anywhere from 65 to
15 \$110,000 per mile. This bid comes in around
16 85,000 per mile. So it's in line with the
17 national average. And it would, it would -- he
18 will try to overlay about 14 miles of the
19 370 miles of county roads.

20 And again, this would be directed at the
21 primary roads that I talked about, connector

1 high volume roads. And then subsequently,
2 he'll be back to talk about doing tar and chip
3 overlays on county secondary roads. And I'm
4 going to make sure he's here to talk to you
5 about that.

6 So all that's to say tonight I am asking
7 your consideration for approval of a contract
8 with David A. Bramble piggybacking off the
9 State contract to cover 14 miles of paved
10 roads.

11 And again, there are sufficient funds in
12 the CIP project.

13 MR. STEPP: I will make a motion.

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. Leshner.

2 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

3 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

4 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

5 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.

6 Now I will call forward your county
7 engineer, fresh off vacation, Mr. Ray Clarke.

8 And Ray is here this evening to talk about
9 or actually ask your permission to move forward
10 in acquiring 20 Orenco septic effluent tank
11 pumps. And he will fill out detail on that,
12 and I'll pick up anything that I need to.

13 MR. CLARKE: Council, Ray Clarke, county
14 engineer.

15 This is actually a request to purchase 20
16 Orenco tanks. We had gone through a bid
17 process with MDE to have these tanks selected.
18 So these were a sole source that we were
19 purchasing through, which was approved by MDE.

20 We utilize these within the Resolution 235
21 sewer service area. We have up to about 300 of

1 these systems to be installed. And then
2 probably towards the end of the year, we'll
3 have Resolution 250, which will require about
4 610.

5 What we do here is we buy 20 because we do
6 get a discount for every ten that we buy. And
7 we then pass that discount on to the users that
8 are basically securing the tank and reimbursing
9 us once that tank has been installed.

10 This is, again, part of the Bay
11 Restoration Fund for, you know, the sewer
12 system that we tend to receive about -- well,
13 we receive \$25,000 for property owners that
14 make less than \$300,000 a year and about 12,500
15 for property owners that, this is grant
16 funding, that make over \$300,000 a year. So we
17 basically will be reimbursed for all this.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

19 MR. STAMP: And again, just to echo Ray.
20 This is for 20 Orenco STEP tank units at a cost
21 of 138,000. And I think he answered the rest

1 of your questions.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions,
3 Council?

4 MR. STEPP: So moved.

5 MR. LESHER: 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. LESHER: Aye.

15 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

16 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ray.

18 MR. STEPP: Thanks, Ray.

19 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.

20 And then finally, Council, we're
21 requesting a letter of support be written from

1 Council to Congressman Harris for a grant to
2 the Whitsitt Center for the Eastern Shore Youth
3 Crisis Center proposal.

4 MR. STEPP: I'll make a motion.

5 MR. LESHER: 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. LESHER: Aye.

15 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

16 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

18 MR. STAMP: And that completes your county
19 manager report for this evening. Thank you,
20 Council, as always.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. Good

1 job.

2 Next on the agenda is public comment.

3 Okay.

4 MR. LESHER: And we have one person who
5 signed up in advance, and that is Mr. Phil
6 Riggin.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening, good evening.

8 MR. RIGGIN: Thank you. Again, I've
9 spoken before. My name is Phil Riggin.
10 Address is 29736 Sullivan Drive in Easton.

11 I listened to your respective comments
12 earlier to this meeting, and it appears to me,
13 and it's just my opinion, that you folks are
14 dealing with a changing budgetary environment
15 as you deliberate on your own budget for the
16 upcoming fiscal year. And I know that you
17 spent lots of hours already on that project,
18 and you still have at least another, I don't
19 know, six or eight to go, whatever that may be
20 in terms of hours committed to those
21 deliberations.

1 So congratulations to you for working
2 through that process, and I wish you the best
3 of luck as you evaluate the entire budgetary
4 picture, particularly on the revenue side in
5 terms of what you may expect from other
6 government entities.

7 I do want to spend a couple of minutes to
8 talk about Vietnam veterans. Last week -- last
9 meeting, two weeks ago, I had intended to talk
10 about this for a couple of minutes. But the
11 entire meeting environment was overtaken by, by
12 circumstances that I didn't feel comfortable
13 trying to say something about Vietnam veterans.

14 I want to congratulate you again for
15 inviting several Vietnam veterans to your
16 March 11th meeting so they could describe the
17 plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the
18 end of the Vietnam War on March 30th here in
19 Easton.

20 That celebration will begin with a
21 ceremony just 100 yards from here on the front

1 lawn of the courthouse, followed by a parade,
2 which may, given the age of people in the
3 Vietnam generation, could be a leisurely stroll
4 along Washington Street and then over to Glebe
5 Road to the local VFW Post.

6 For those of us who grew up in the 1950s
7 and 1960s, and I look around the room and I
8 realize there may be one other person, two
9 other people who are in that group, for those
10 who grew up during that period of time, the
11 Vietnam War had a major impact on the lives of
12 tens of millions of Americans. Thousands of my
13 contemporaries learned how to protest in city
14 streets and on college campuses by expressing
15 their opposition to the war, which is perfectly
16 fine. But I think in many cases, it was the
17 first time they ever protested anything.

18 Many of those protests, of course, were
19 occurring at the same time as civil rights
20 protests in major American cities across the
21 country.

1 In 1970, I was called to active duty. And
2 ten months later, I was in Vietnam as a United
3 States Army first lieutenant, who had been
4 assigned to the 23rd Infantry Division.

5 During my time in Vietnam, I developed a
6 profound respect for my fellow soldiers because
7 they were true patriots. Doing their very best
8 under very trying conditions, just following
9 orders, even though they knew their collective
10 goal of achieving total victory would never be
11 achieved.

12 During my first two years after my
13 discharge from military service, I found myself
14 trying to answer a series of related questions.
15 What would these Vietnam veterans, who are now
16 Vietnam veterans, achieve in civilian life, the
17 people I served with in Vietnam, was there
18 something I could do to make them successful,
19 and where could I start.

20 All those questions were answered by my
21 decision in 1974 to join the national staff of

1 the American Legion in Washington, D.C. I then
2 embarked on a 35-year career as a veterans
3 advocate, working primarily with Congress to
4 continually change federal laws for the purpose
5 of improving educational assistance, job
6 training, disability compensation, and health
7 care for military veterans.

8 For me, this was a labor of love because I
9 knew that each time there was a legislative
10 change enacted, that would enhance the quality
11 of life for literally hundreds of thousands of
12 veterans and their families. The combination
13 of improved benefits and services was truly
14 life changing. It enabled Vietnam veterans to
15 overcome the effects of traumatic injuries of
16 military service and to then become productive
17 citizens who did extraordinary things during
18 their civilian careers.

19 I can offer many examples of that, but I'm
20 going to focus on just one.

21 As I testified at Congressional hearings

1 many, many times, I was frequently joined at
2 the witness table by double amputees, who had
3 refused to be sidelined by their disabilities.
4 Instead, they had committed themselves to
5 professional careers as advocates for veterans.
6 And along the way, they presented themselves as
7 examples of what was possible.

8 As I conclude here tonight, I want to
9 share my thoughts about one project that had a
10 dramatic effect on how Americans perceived the
11 Vietnam War. That project was the construction
12 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington,
13 D.C. on the west end of the National Mall.

14 It was built in 1982. I was honored to be
15 part of a group of 20 people who participated
16 in a groundbreaking for that memorial on a very
17 chilly day in late March of 1982.

18 That memorial contains the names of 58,000
19 young Americans who died during their service
20 in Vietnam. There have been estimates that
21 that total, that total of 58,000 would probably

1 be closer to 100,000 except for the
2 highly-effective medical evacuation system that
3 was in place in Vietnam at that time, a system
4 that was capable of moving a wounded soldier
5 from the battlefield and getting him or her
6 into a field hospital within ten or 15 minutes.

7 The Vietnam Veteran Memorial has been in
8 place for more than 42 years now, but it
9 continues to be an emotional experience for
10 most of the 3 million people who still visit
11 that site each year.

12 Now, it's interesting that as I was
13 walking in here tonight, I happened -- I was in
14 the front lawn of the courthouse, and I walked
15 by the memorial that's already out there for
16 Vietnam veterans. I noticed that there were
17 11, the names of 11 people on the memorial, I
18 assume who are people who died in Vietnam who
19 were from Talbot County.

20 It was also interesting for me to note
21 that the visual presentation next to those

1 names was a soldier carrying a wounded comrade
2 with a helicopter in the background, precisely
3 the medical evacuation system, symbolizing
4 precisely the same evacuation system I mentioned
5 a few minutes earlier, which probably kept that
6 number at 58,000 rather than over 100,000.

7 So we come full circle. Again, I want to
8 thank you for your -- what you did to provide
9 public information on the 30th anniversary,
10 which is coming up -- I'm sorry. The 50th
11 anniversary, which is coming up on March the
12 30th. I plan to be there, and I plan to invite
13 a bunch of friends. And we'll see who
14 participates.

15 But again, thank you for your support in
16 that regard. I appreciate it.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
18 Appreciate you.

19 And I'll see you tomorrow night; won't I?

20 MR. RIGGIN: Yes, you will. And I'd like
21 to talk to you tomorrow morning if you have a

1 chance.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Okay.

3 MR. RIGGIN: We'll talk about that later.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. Okay.

5 Anybody else like to come up? Okay. All
6 right.

7 Council comment.

8 MR. LESHER: I'll offer, I'll offer
9 congratulations to Easton High School's ACE
10 Mentors program for their winning project
11 design. This program, supported by local
12 volunteers in architectural, construction, and
13 engineering firms, guides teams from our
14 various high schools from Easton, from
15 St. Michaels, and from Sts. Peter and Paul, as
16 well as judges drawn from these same firms.

17 And one of the volunteers in this program
18 was from our own county engineering office.

19 I want to thank all the community support
20 for this. And again, congratulate Easton High
21 School for their winning project.

1 And finally, my choice of a unusually loud
2 tie this evening is no accident. Along those
3 lines, I want to wish everybody on this
4 March 25th a Happy Maryland Day.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good.

6 Mr. Stepp.

7 MR. STEPP: I will echo the Happy Maryland
8 Day, but also add to that we are exactly one
9 month away from Talbot Day.

10 So Sarah, I just wanted to thank you for
11 all your work here and all the county staff and
12 everything that everyone is doing to make that
13 a continued celebration. So thank you for all
14 that and looking forward it. Thanks.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yup.

16 MS. MIELKE: Well, our public speaker
17 stole my thunder because I was going to do an
18 announcement to remind everybody to turn up on
19 Sunday for the parade and the event at the VFW.
20 Fifty years. It's hard to believe.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

1 MS. MIELKE: It was quite, quite an
2 experience for everyone.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I guess I just want
4 to wish Keasha Haythe, she's not here tonight,
5 she's not feeling good tonight. And we want to
6 wish her and her family good health. And
7 hopefully she'll be up and running here in the
8 next couple of days.

9 So other than that, I really want to thank
10 staff once again and Martha back there. You
11 put in some long nights, Martha, and staff, you
12 know, to give us the information for the budget
13 and stuff.

14 And you know, we keep saying this over and
15 over, but you do do a phenomenal job and we
16 really appreciate it.

17 I know it's tough sometimes to get us the
18 information that we need. But you know, at the
19 end of the day, we're working very, very well
20 together. And we really appreciate all the
21 efforts you do for us to get us to the point

1 where we can approve some of these budgets and
2 stuff. So we really appreciate it.

3 MS. SPARKS: Thank you for your support.

4 There are many finance directors and
5 finance offices and staff that are not as
6 fortunate as us.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup. Exactly. Okay.

8 MR. LESHER: The County Council's next
9 meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8th,
10 beginning at 5 o'clock p.m. The Council will
11 be convening in open session 3:30 p.m. and then
12 adjourning into closed session, as listed on
13 the statement for closing that meeting.

14 On Thursday, March 27th, at...

15 MS. MORRIS: 4:30.

16 MR. LESHER: 4:30 p.m., the Council will
17 be meeting for a fiscal year 26 budget work
18 session. The meeting will be held here in the
19 Bradley Meeting Room and is open to the public.

20 On Monday, March 31st, at 4:30 p.m., the
21 Council will be holding a joint work session

1 with the Easton Town Council and members from
2 Easton Utilities to discuss a grant application
3 to the Maryland -- to the Economic Development
4 Administration for the regional medical center
5 project. The work session is open to the
6 public and will be held at the Easton Town
7 Council Chambers, 14 South Harrison Street in
8 Easton.

9 A 5:30 p.m., the Council will be meeting
10 with the Board of Education. The meeting is
11 open to the public and will be held at the
12 Easton High School culinary arts program at 723
13 Mecklenburg in Easton.

14 On Tuesday, April 1st at 2 o'clock p.m.,
15 the Council will be meeting for a fiscal year
16 26 budget work session. The meeting will be
17 held here in the Bradley Meeting Room and is
18 open to the public.

19 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn
20 this meeting and reconvene as noted?

21 MR. STEPP: So moved.

1 MS. MIELKE: Second.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
3 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
4 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 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thanks a lot.

14 (Meeting concluded at: 6:24 p.m.)
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21

STATE OF MARYLAND

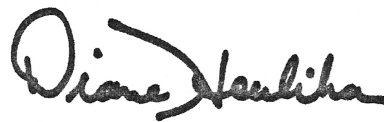
I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and for the State of Maryland, County of Baltimore City, do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot County Council Audio, personally appeared before me at the time and place herein set according to law, was interrogated by counsel.

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 31st day of March, 2025, at Easton, MD.



Diane Houlihan
Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2025

[& - 900,000]

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