

COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

November 26, 2024; 5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner - Via Telephone

Keasha N. Haythe

Lynn L. Mielke

Dave Stepp

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: So Vice President Leshner,</p> <p>4 he's on the phone. He's doing the Thanksgiving</p> <p>5 dinner with his family. So just to let</p> <p>6 everybody know.</p> <p>7 Okay. I want to go ahead and get started.</p> <p>8 I want to welcome everybody tonight. Get the</p> <p>9 meeting going.</p> <p>10 So if you don't mind standing for a prayer</p> <p>11 and the Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag.</p> <p>12 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,</p> <p>14 Mr. Stepp. Good job. Okay.</p> <p>15 Council has got the agenda before them.</p> <p>16 Is there any additions, deletions, or</p> <p>17 corrections to the agenda?</p> <p>18 MS. HAYTHE: Yes, Mr. President. I make a</p> <p>19 motion to amend the agenda under the county</p> <p>20 manager's report and to remove the item for</p> <p>21 contingency to reimburse the ERAP program.</p>	<p>1 Okay. Hearing none, the chair moves that the</p> <p>2 minutes be accepted as unanimous consent.</p> <p>3 Next is the disbursements of November 19th</p> <p>4 and 26th. We've had a chance to take a look at</p> <p>5 it. Is there any additions, deletions, or</p> <p>6 corrections to the disbursements, Council?</p> <p>7 MS. HAYTHE: No.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Hearing none, the</p> <p>9 chair moves that the disbursements be accepted</p> <p>10 as unanimous consent.</p> <p>11 First on the agenda tonight is a</p> <p>12 presentation of finance. Martha, you want to</p> <p>13 come on up? Welcome.</p> <p>14 MS. SPARKS: Martha Sparks, finance</p> <p>15 director for Talbot County.</p> <p>16 I'm pleased to inform Talbot County</p> <p>17 Council that Talbot County has once again been</p> <p>18 awarded the Certificate of Excellence in</p> <p>19 financial reporting for its FY23 annual</p> <p>20 comprehensive financial report.</p> <p>21 While the entire department does not</p>
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<p>1 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>3 a second to go ahead and amend the agenda on</p> <p>4 the ERAP program, that \$60,000. Madam</p> <p>5 Secretary, could you call the vote.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>9 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>12 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>14 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>16 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. Okay.</p> <p>18 Next on the agenda is the minutes of</p> <p>19 October the 22nd and 25th. We've had a chance</p> <p>20 to take a look at it. Is there any additions,</p> <p>21 deletions, or corrections to the minutes?</p>	<p>1 directly work on this report, it reflects the</p> <p>2 work that they do every day. Their hard work</p> <p>3 and excellence flows through these pages.</p> <p>4 When filling out the application for this</p> <p>5 award, you can select three acknowledgments.</p> <p>6 Historically you see the finance director being</p> <p>7 the only one that gets acknowledged, but I felt</p> <p>8 that it was opportune time to acknowledge our</p> <p>9 entire finance department, in addition to our</p> <p>10 assistant finance director. So three of them</p> <p>11 also received acknowledgment in the acceptance</p> <p>12 of this award.</p> <p>13 I'm very proud to work with this group of</p> <p>14 people, as together we serve the residents of</p> <p>15 Talbot County.</p> <p>16 And I have my Finance Department, a good</p> <p>17 chunk of us, here this evening.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: So guys, can you stand up,</p> <p>19 please?</p> <p>20 Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>21 Okay. Council.</p>

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<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: So Martha, thank you so much.</p> <p>2 And congratulations to you and your team and</p> <p>3 for all the hard work that you do getting us</p> <p>4 through budget and everything else that you do</p> <p>5 on the daily basis in your office. So well</p> <p>6 deserved. Congratulations to you all.</p> <p>7 You going to introduce your staff so we</p> <p>8 know who they are?</p> <p>9 MS. SPARKS: Actually. Yes, I certainly</p> <p>10 will. You know what, I'm going to forget</p> <p>11 everybody's name just because.</p> <p>12 We have Kaitlin Fitzgerald. She is our</p> <p>13 grants clerk. We have Craig Atwood. Kaitlin</p> <p>14 has been with us for two years.</p> <p>15 Craig Atwood, who is our senior</p> <p>16 accountant. And he's been with us for also two</p> <p>17 years.</p> <p>18 Kaitlin Foster-Clark, our assistant</p> <p>19 finance director, who has been just a bit over</p> <p>20 a year and a half.</p> <p>21 Rolinda Pearce, she's our treasury</p>	<p>1 employees and we're very fortunate. I have</p> <p>2 been very fortunate to have them work in my</p> <p>3 department, but the county is also very</p> <p>4 fortunate to have them as well.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.</p> <p>6 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Lynn.</p> <p>8 MS. MIELKE: Keep on keeping on. You're</p> <p>9 doing a great job. Appreciate it, truly.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>11 MR. STEPP: There are certificates. We</p> <p>12 got a copy of them.</p> <p>13 MS. SPARKS: Yes, you do, you do.</p> <p>14 MR. STEPP: I love it. Wonderful job,</p> <p>15 guys.</p> <p>16 Like I said, we're -- you guys are</p> <p>17 entrusted with receiving all the tax dollars,</p> <p>18 right. So it's just an important job, right.</p> <p>19 So job well done. Thank you for</p> <p>20 representing all of our taxpayers and our</p> <p>21 citizens well and just doing a great job. You</p>
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<p>1 manager. And Rolinda has been with the county</p> <p>2 for ten years.</p> <p>3 And Linda Pitman is our accounts payable</p> <p>4 and payroll specialist. And Linda has been</p> <p>5 with us for four months, four months.</p> <p>6 We also have, with the 12 employees that</p> <p>7 we have, half of us have been here for two</p> <p>8 years or less. And those who have been here</p> <p>9 longer, have been our rocks through -- the rock</p> <p>10 for all of us, as we've all come on board and</p> <p>11 learned the ropes.</p> <p>12 I don't know what I'd do without my right</p> <p>13 hands that are -- I have four of them. I have</p> <p>14 Melanie Haufe, our accounting manager, who is</p> <p>15 not able to be here. Kaitlin Foster-Clark, my</p> <p>16 assistant finance director. Rolinda Pearce,</p> <p>17 our treasury manager. And Tracy Smith, who is</p> <p>18 our tax accountant. He does all of the tax</p> <p>19 billing.</p> <p>20 And when I came, in the two years that</p> <p>21 I've been here, I just -- they are phenomenal</p>	<p>1 guys don't get accolades if you didn't. So</p> <p>2 wonderful job. Thank you.</p> <p>3 MS. SPARKS: They help me put all the</p> <p>4 beans in the right pots.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: They sure do.</p> <p>6 MS. HAYTHE: That's important.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys. I really</p> <p>8 appreciate it.</p> <p>9 Oh, Pete. Pete.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHER: Yeah. I want to offer my</p> <p>11 congratulations as well to the full team and</p> <p>12 Martha. This doesn't happen without good</p> <p>13 leadership. Congratulations.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>15 MS. SPARKS: Thank you.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, guys.</p> <p>17 Appreciate it.</p> <p>18 MR. STAMP: Thank you, all.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Can't do it without</p> <p>20 them. That's for sure. That's for sure.</p> <p>21 Okay.</p>

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<p>1 Next on the agenda is a presentation of</p> <p>2 the Veterans & Military Support Alliance. You</p> <p>3 guys want to come on up.</p> <p>4 Welcome. How are you doing?</p> <p>5 MR. BEREANO: Good evening. Good evening,</p> <p>6 Mr. President and Members of the Talbot County</p> <p>7 Council.</p> <p>8 For the record, my name is Bruce Bereano.</p> <p>9 I'm a State-registered lobbyist for VAMSA,</p> <p>10 which is the Veteran & Military Support</p> <p>11 Alliance. Recently created, located physically</p> <p>12 in Queen Anne's County.</p> <p>13 And as you'll hear, they're an</p> <p>14 organization that is targeted with supporting</p> <p>15 and helping and assisting veterans and their</p> <p>16 families up and down the Eastern Shore, the</p> <p>17 Eastern Shore.</p> <p>18 We really appreciate very much this</p> <p>19 opportunity to make a presentation and let you</p> <p>20 know about what we're doing and what our asks</p> <p>21 are and what have you. Very, very briefly.</p>	<p>1 MR. JOHNSON: Here, here.</p> <p>2 Good evening. Mr. President, Members of</p> <p>3 the Council, and staff that are here tonight, I</p> <p>4 just want to echo the thanks of the finance</p> <p>5 folks because behind every good leader is a</p> <p>6 financial team that does a really great job.</p> <p>7 And I'm fortunate to have that as well.</p> <p>8 So I'm going to ask, Lei Ellingson is our</p> <p>9 deputy director, to introduce herself. Then</p> <p>10 I'll provide a little background and then we'll</p> <p>11 jump right into the slides.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>13 MS. ELLINGSON: Good evening. I'm Lei</p> <p>14 Ellingson. I'm the deputy director of VAMSA.</p> <p>15 And I had the privilege of presenting to</p> <p>16 you earlier about the Veterans Treatment Court.</p> <p>17 And I just want to let you know that we have</p> <p>18 been notified that this is going to move</p> <p>19 forward and that we'll be working on that in</p> <p>20 the new year.</p> <p>21 I don't think I had a chance then to give</p>
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<p>1 We've already met with your colleagues in</p> <p>2 Caroline County. We have meetings set up with</p> <p>3 Kent County, Cecil County, Dorchester County,</p> <p>4 Queen Anne's County. And then we will go down</p> <p>5 to the lower shore individuals.</p> <p>6 In addition, once the legislative session</p> <p>7 starts, which is around the corner, we're going</p> <p>8 to have a meeting with the Eastern Shore</p> <p>9 delegation, chaired by Delegate Chris Adams,</p> <p>10 who I know you know. And we will also meet</p> <p>11 with the Legislative Veterans Caucus, again, to</p> <p>12 educate and to be of assistance and</p> <p>13 partnership.</p> <p>14 We really appreciate this very much. And</p> <p>15 I'd like to turn it over to Eric to give the</p> <p>16 presentation.</p> <p>17 But let me just say one last thing. And</p> <p>18 she did not ask me to do it. But Ms. Moran was</p> <p>19 extremely helpful from an administrative</p> <p>20 standpoint. And I really appreciate and thank</p> <p>21 her very much.</p>	<p>1 you a little bit of my background. I worked</p> <p>2 with former first lady Rosalynn Carter and</p> <p>3 President Jimmy Carter at the Carter Center in</p> <p>4 Atlanta for 20 years. So my background is in</p> <p>5 mental health and care giving, as well as a</p> <p>6 distant background in special education.</p> <p>7 I grew up in Columbia, Maryland. And I</p> <p>8 wanted to move back and my mother had moved to</p> <p>9 the Eastern Shore. So I'm enjoying living a</p> <p>10 much slower-paced life over here and glad to be</p> <p>11 back in Maryland.</p> <p>12 I think that's probably enough from me for</p> <p>13 now. Go ahead with the presentation.</p> <p>14 MR. JOHNSON: So just a little background</p> <p>15 on myself.</p> <p>16 I grew up here in Maryland in Queen Anne's</p> <p>17 County. Went to Queen Anne's County High</p> <p>18 School where I met my high school sweetheart</p> <p>19 and was --</p> <p>20 MS. ELLINGSON: And you married her.</p> <p>21 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. I guess that would be</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 helpful. I did marry my high school 2 sweetheart. Thank you for that reminder. 3 She's wonderful and puts up with me. 4 I was one of seven children. And several 5 of us went into the military. 6 And I want to thank -- I know several of 7 you come from military veteran families. So 8 thank you for your combined service. 9 And so I had an opportunity to serve for 10 about ten years in the Air Force. My final 11 assignment, a deployment, was in Afghanistan. 12 About three days before I came home, I had an 13 incident where I was nearly abducted. 14 And I had spent some time prior to 15 entering the military working as a volunteer in 16 the addictions field. So I knew about mental 17 health to understand that when I got home from 18 the desert, that if I didn't get tapped into 19 resources, that I could potentially have a 20 tough journey. And I share that just to help 21 illustrate. You're going to sense some passion</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 be helping to get the word out, sending clients 2 our way, just knowing that we're an agency that 3 you can lean on. And then also seeing if 4 there's a possibility, as we continue to brief 5 you and communicate the population from your 6 community that we're serving, to potentially 7 help provide some funding in our direction that 8 could be helpful to us. 9 So that being said, kind of a 10 military-style approach, SBAR. We'll share a 11 little bit about the situation, the criticality 12 of the resource needs within the veteran 13 community right now. And particularly of 14 interest to folks here on the Eastern Shore is 15 that sense of an equity between what we have 16 available on the Eastern Shore versus what is 17 available on the western shore. 18 A little bit about our background, our 19 history, the resource center's implementation, 20 our assessment of the opportunities, potential 21 partners and resources, and then our</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 from me and our team tonight and kind of where 2 that comes from basically on a visceral level. 3 As luck would have it, I have two siblings 4 who had similarly traumatic experiences in war 5 zones in the Middle East who elected to take 6 their lives. So suicide prevention and the 7 veteran community and the military community is 8 deeply personal for me. And it's an expressed 9 part of the very mission that we have in our 10 organization that we're going to tell you a 11 little bit about. 12 So beginning with the end in sight, 13 there's really three reasons why we're here. 14 And then I'll come back to this at the end. 15 Number one, we just want to tell you a 16 little bit about what VAMSA, the Veteran & 17 Military Support Alliance, is doing as it 18 operates. We're one of two organizations that 19 operates the Center for the Military and 20 Veteran Family here on the Eastern Shore. 21 We want to enlist your support, whether it</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 recommendations. 2 Thought it would be helpful to put in 3 perspective the population dynamics around the 4 veteran community. So within the United States 5 of America, 6.2 percent of the population are 6 veterans. Whereas, in Maryland, a higher 7 representation, 7.6 percent. 8 And if you look in the far right-hand 9 column on this table, you'll see that on the 10 Eastern Shore, while we don't have the 11 population numbers, as a percentage of the 12 community, our veterans are even higher than 13 that. And in Talbot, of course, your 14 percentage is 8.46 percent. 15 And one of the numbers that I pulled, we 16 use a 2.5 multiplier when we think about the 17 veteran family. So if you take 2.5 and 18 multiply that by your population of 2,559 19 veterans, now you're talking about a portion of 20 your community 6,400 strong. Well, that's 21 about, that's a little more than a fifth of</p>

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<p>1 your community is part of a veteran family.</p> <p>2 And that doesn't even take into account the</p> <p>3 numbers that would be potentially active,</p> <p>4 Guard, reservists in the military that aren't</p> <p>5 quite in a veteran status. And then whatever</p> <p>6 multiplier you'd want to use for military</p> <p>7 families.</p> <p>8 So we're not talking about a very small</p> <p>9 percentage of your community. It's a</p> <p>10 meaningful percentage.</p> <p>11 And something that I like to really stress</p> <p>12 is that I am asked this question all the time.</p> <p>13 Well, I understand the number of veterans is</p> <p>14 going down. So are communities in a better</p> <p>15 position to take care of the veterans they</p> <p>16 have. With World War II veterans dying off so</p> <p>17 quickly, there's so few left. And now we're</p> <p>18 starting to see this trend with Vietnam era</p> <p>19 veterans, Korean War veterans.</p> <p>20 The reality is yes, the number of total</p> <p>21 veterans nationally is going down. But the</p>	<p>1 your own way. But I will tell you that we also</p> <p>2 hear a ton of great experience with the VA, and</p> <p>3 they are truly taxed sufficiently.</p> <p>4 And on that note, only about 20 percent of</p> <p>5 veterans get their care in the VA. So when you</p> <p>6 think about -- and Talbot has a plethora of</p> <p>7 medical and behavioral health resources. Most</p> <p>8 veterans are not getting their care in the VA.</p> <p>9 They're getting it right here in your backyard.</p> <p>10 So I mentioned those with significant</p> <p>11 co-morbidities. Those are increasing</p> <p>12 exponentially.</p> <p>13 I talked already about the population</p> <p>14 comparison between the State and the nation.</p> <p>15 And really as you look at the bottom of the</p> <p>16 slide here, there's really no one-stop-stop for</p> <p>17 veterans, military, and their families.</p> <p>18 So if you're a veteran and you're rated</p> <p>19 for disability, there's certain services that</p> <p>20 you can access in the VA. But if you show up</p> <p>21 and your wife is your caregiver and she is</p>
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<p>1 number of veterans that receive a disability</p> <p>2 rating from the VA at the highest possible</p> <p>3 level, which is 100 percent total and</p> <p>4 permanent -- you may have heard that term, T&P,</p> <p>5 P&T -- that's basically I have a ton of medical</p> <p>6 issues that are military service connected and</p> <p>7 they're not going to get better. The number of</p> <p>8 veterans in that category has skyrocketed. So</p> <p>9 the demand is actually more than say what it</p> <p>10 was 30, 40, 50 years ago and why, in my</p> <p>11 opinion, the VA is struggling in the way that</p> <p>12 they are.</p> <p>13 And just on that note, I'm a proud</p> <p>14 consumer of VA resources. I think the VA does</p> <p>15 a phenomenal job in specialty areas, whether it</p> <p>16 be burns, amputees, PTSD, traumatic brain</p> <p>17 injury.</p> <p>18 And what I also say is when the VA fails,</p> <p>19 they're really good at that, too. So when I</p> <p>20 hear veterans complain about mess-ups, it's</p> <p>21 like oh, my gosh, you guys can't get out of</p>	<p>1 taking care of you, doing all the different</p> <p>2 things, and has no time for herself, you show</p> <p>3 up to the VA for an appointment, she could look</p> <p>4 as needy as all get out, and there's not really</p> <p>5 anything they can do for her because of the</p> <p>6 limitations that are prescribed by law.</p> <p>7 So something that we were made aware of as</p> <p>8 we looked at things here on the shore and took</p> <p>9 into account, as you'll see on in the slides</p> <p>10 further, that we try to piece together in terms</p> <p>11 of solutions. And so our belief is if we have</p> <p>12 a veteran or a military service member that is</p> <p>13 in need, there's probably somebody else in that</p> <p>14 family that needs resources.</p> <p>15 A little bit about our background. So in</p> <p>16 January of 2022, a bunch of leaders from Queen</p> <p>17 Anne's County got together. It was a group of</p> <p>18 Legion commanders, VFW commander, our county</p> <p>19 commissioner Jim Moran, who as you know is one</p> <p>20 of our county commissioners in Queen Anne's</p> <p>21 that happens to be a veteran from the Marine</p>

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<p>1 Corps. And we got in a room and we said we 2 want to do something to help the veteran 3 community. But we agreed let's let form follow 4 function. Let's not just throw a solution at 5 the problem because there's a lot of 6 flavor-of-the-month activities out there. 7 So we commissioned a needs assessment. It 8 was released on social media through Survey 9 Monkey, a three-minute-or-less questionnaire 10 that basically asked two separate types of 11 questions. 12 The first one was what do you think about 13 the availability of resources for veterans and 14 for military and for their family members. So 15 are they good, are they bad, that kind of 16 thing. And then in your particular family, 17 what are your specific needs along the Likert 18 scale, whether it be legal resources, financial 19 resources, adaptive housing based on your 20 disability, addiction, you name it. 21 And so we took the results of that survey.</p>	<p>1 again, a nod to the financial folks that were 2 here, great financial folks there so that we 3 could use those resources until we grew our 4 own. 5 So the board approved our business plan 6 for the resource center by October of that 7 year. And then by May of 2023, we were able to 8 open our bricks and mortar resource center. 9 You'll see on paper we exist legally as 10 the Veteran Military Support Alliance, or 11 VAMSA. And then we have partnered with a 12 national organization called the Veterans 13 Health and Wellness Foundation that has been 14 around for about ten years. And together we 15 operate on Kent Island what is the National 16 Center for the Military and Veteran Family. 17 And with that organization comes resources 18 that include a tool that we will share after 19 this meeting with you that we encourage you to 20 use in your departments. It's zip code based. 21 You can type in your zip code and select</p>
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<p>1 And what basically came back was that we had 2 tremendous need in medical resources, 3 behavioral health, addiction, transportation, 4 and legal. 5 So we basically said, you know what, we're 6 going to put together a resource center that 7 addresses all of those needs, all the social 8 determinants of health. But we're going to 9 focus in this specific area first. 10 So in September, we became a component 11 fund of Mid-Shore Community Foundation. A lot 12 of key partners are here in Talbot County. So 13 we're here tonight to not only tell you about 14 ourselves but also celebrate the fact that so 15 much of our success has come from Talbot County 16 resources. So we want to thank you up front 17 for that. 18 So we, of course, were able to use 19 Mid-Shore Community Foundation using their 20 nonprofit status while we worked to obtain our 21 own. And of course, it didn't hurt to have,</p>	<p>1 different categories of services that are 2 needed. And it will pull up agencies that you 3 may not have even known existed. 4 I come from Queen Anne's County. And I 5 literally said there's not going to be anything 6 in this pool that I haven't heard of. There 7 was tons of stuff. In any case, whether 8 agencies are closed, have curtailed their 9 resources, I think you'll be shocked in a good 10 way at how helpful this particular tool is. So 11 we use that for our agency. 12 In June, we submitted our IRS application 13 for our 501(c)(3), and that was granted by 14 August of last year. 15 We ended up moving to larger space. We're 16 at Bay Bridge Marina right now right near 17 Libby's Restaurant right by the Chesapeake Bay 18 Bridge right on the Chesapeake Bay. It's a 19 hardship to work at that office and look out 20 the window and have the Chesapeake Bay right 21 there, I tell you. It's a great spot.</p>

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<p>1 We signed an MOA. This is something we're</p> <p>2 really excited to share, a memorandum of</p> <p>3 agreement with the Maryland Department of</p> <p>4 Veterans and Military Families.</p> <p>5 As you're aware, the State agency under</p> <p>6 Secretary Woods was MDVA for a very long time.</p> <p>7 And with the governor's support and a lot of</p> <p>8 statewide support, the agency said we need to</p> <p>9 really shift our focus beyond just the veteran.</p> <p>10 And if we're going to take care of the veteran</p> <p>11 and his or her family, we need to look at</p> <p>12 everybody. So hence, the department officially</p> <p>13 changing its name to MDVMF, which is a</p> <p>14 mouthful.</p> <p>15 And so we had an opportunity back in May</p> <p>16 to sit with Secretary Woods. And he said, you</p> <p>17 know what, we don't have an agency, a nonprofit</p> <p>18 on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, that can help</p> <p>19 us to explicitly address the inequity that</p> <p>20 veterans on the Eastern Shore feel when they</p> <p>21 compare themselves to the resources that you</p>	<p>1 four out of five of our folks, if they come in,</p> <p>2 it's truly important for us to say how is the</p> <p>3 rest of your family doing and we proactively do</p> <p>4 that.</p> <p>5 Ninety-five percent of our clients come in</p> <p>6 with one need and they leave with a plan to</p> <p>7 address three or more.</p> <p>8 And then this is important. Fifteen</p> <p>9 percent of our clients have current or past</p> <p>10 suicidal ideation.</p> <p>11 And I pulled numbers. So for this</p> <p>12 calendar year so far, 33 of our clients have</p> <p>13 come from Talbot County. And that may sound</p> <p>14 like a small number. We have seen hundreds of</p> <p>15 folks from Talbot County in terms of giving</p> <p>16 information, maybe seeing them at a tabling</p> <p>17 event, a community resource fair, a job fair.</p> <p>18 But in terms of something that we have</p> <p>19 connected between a need and a specific</p> <p>20 resource, it's been 33 to date. And two of our</p> <p>21 suicide saves out of a total of 23 year to date</p>
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<p>1 can get on the western shore.</p> <p>2 So we signed this MOA. And that MOA</p> <p>3 basically says you are going to be the face</p> <p>4 (inaudible). So we are in the process right</p> <p>5 now of implementing that partnership and</p> <p>6 working with the MDVMF to put forth resources</p> <p>7 that we'll be sharing with you further.</p> <p>8 Some objective data when we get to the</p> <p>9 assessment. So 60 percent of our clients need</p> <p>10 claim support. So that's I need to file a new</p> <p>11 claim for the VA. I got back from Iraq two</p> <p>12 years ago. I didn't really have any issues and</p> <p>13 now I'm having back problems. Or maybe it's a</p> <p>14 complete train wreck of issues and they've been</p> <p>15 struggling to get a VA rating and they have an</p> <p>16 appeal. We help with all of the above.</p> <p>17 Ninety percent of the claims that we help</p> <p>18 work on are decided favorably when they're</p> <p>19 adjudicated for the veteran.</p> <p>20 Eighty percent of our clients require</p> <p>21 resources for other members of the family. So</p>	<p>1 are from Talbot County.</p> <p>2 Subjectively, it goes without saying that</p> <p>3 veteran and military families, they're not all</p> <p>4 in crisis. But those that are, need</p> <p>5 comprehensive solutions and a resource center,</p> <p>6 whether it be a bricks and mortar facility that</p> <p>7 you come to in person, which is an option, or</p> <p>8 virtually accessible, as we attempt to be</p> <p>9 always. That is a crucial need for that</p> <p>10 community.</p> <p>11 Most of our clients report needing some</p> <p>12 sort of navigation assistance, somebody that</p> <p>13 can just tell me I have all these complex</p> <p>14 needs, tell me who I should call first. I see</p> <p>15 a VA doctor, I see a non-VA doctor, who is</p> <p>16 responsible for my prescriptions. Sometimes</p> <p>17 it's just helping them to hold their hand</p> <p>18 through the process.</p> <p>19 Let's see. And then this is also</p> <p>20 important, of course, when we think about our</p> <p>21 aging population. We have folks that are not</p>

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<p>1 as able to navigate independently. We have 2 other agencies that will say well, tell your 3 client to get on the Internet and apply for X, 4 Y, Z. Well, they don't use the Internet. They 5 don't have an email account. So we will help 6 do all of those things.</p> <p>7 And the greatest needs reported on our 8 needs assessments, some of these I talked about 9 already, is really claims assistance, new and 10 increased rating appeals, behavioral health, 11 medical needs, legal, and then increasingly, 12 and I know this won't shock you because we 13 don't have as robust a public transportation 14 infrastructure here on the shore, that is 15 becoming increasingly a need.</p> <p>16 This is an I chart. I'm not going to read 17 through it. It just kind of gives you an idea 18 in the different quadrants of kind of where we 19 are, the current services on site. We have 20 specialized support groups for spouses and 21 caregivers. We have the only specialized</p>	<p>1 jointly fundraising to make up that or to 2 replenish that fund so that we can still offer 3 that service.</p> <p>4 And then there's some aspirational things 5 that we're going to do, but it's a lot.</p> <p>6 Oops. So our recommendations.</p> <p>7 We want to continue to offer resources 8 virtually. We know that as you get further 9 down the shore, we do have clients right now 10 from Salisbury, Ocean City. And we even have 11 clients from outside the state, but I would say 12 that 95 to 97 percent of our clients are from 13 the Eastern Shore. And we know that it's 14 helpful for them to not have to drive all the 15 way to Kent Island.</p> <p>16 One of the things that was suggested to us 17 through the MOA process with Secretary Woods 18 and the newly named Maryland Department of 19 Veterans and Military Families is that we think 20 about, as we look at our business plan 21 evolving, some sort of presence on the lower</p>
Page 31	Page 33
<p>1 support group for combat PTSD here on the 2 shore. And all of these meet in person and are 3 available via Zoom for virtual participation.</p> <p>4 We have a number of resources that we use 5 through a warm handoff, and then we have 6 partnership services that we use through what 7 we call a hot handoff.</p> <p>8 Right now, our go-to agency is For All 9 Seasons for mental health care. And we jointly 10 worked on a grant through the Staff Sergeant 11 Fox Foundation. Or is it Hickman?</p> <p>12 MS. ELLINGSON: We got the Hickman.</p> <p>13 MR. JOHNSON: The Hickman. I apologize. 14 I almost messed that up.</p> <p>15 But it allowed for them to offer mental 16 health services for free to those families that 17 might not have insurance coverage that would 18 pay for that.</p> <p>19 And that has gone so well and we've 20 referred so many folks to them that they have 21 already run out of funds. And so we are</p>	<p>1 shore or further down on the mid shore. So 2 it's something that we're keeping an eye on.</p> <p>3 We're also working with both Legions and 4 VFWs to see what if we put a laptop in your 5 VFW, in your Legion, and we came and we did all 6 the updates on it and we put forms nearby and 7 you could literally say on this day, at this 8 timeframe, we will open up a link and anybody 9 that needs help that day, we can offer very 10 specific resources. So just trying to do 11 everything we can to provide that 12 crucially needed access.</p> <p>13 We want to offer more support groups, 14 specifically in the LBGTQIA-plus area, our 15 youth and teens, and women support groups. Our 16 next support group that we'll be opening up 17 will likely be a women's veterans support 18 group.</p> <p>19 We want to ensure the viability of our 20 bricks and mortar facility. So we're 21 continuing to build and strengthen VFW Legion</p>

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<p>1 relationships. Right now, about 80 percent of 2 our funding has been coming from Legions and 3 VFWs. And as folks come in and are happy with 4 the services they get, they are the best 5 marketing tool that we can possibly have. 6 So then they tell three people. And the 7 phone is ringing and we are just doing 8 everything we can to keep up with the volume. 9 So that number says it's 50, 60 percent of 10 it. That has changed. So it is closer to that 11 80 percent, 70, 80 percent. 12 So we're open full time. Our client 13 demand has really exceeded our capacity. 14 Queen Anne's County, where we started, the 15 commissioners have given us a grant out of 16 their external agency fund, their sort of grant 17 fund, for 50,000 the current fiscal year that 18 we're in. And we operate on a July 1st to 19 June 30th fiscal year. And then during the 20 past fiscal year, we had a \$50,000 grant. 21 We are working with them to be part of the</p>	<p>1 position of trust with you to be able to do 2 that and to work toward that. 3 So we are working on various grant 4 applications. As you all know from your 5 finance folks, and I heard you have a grant 6 person, grants are increasingly more 7 competitive. And so we have three years almost 8 of financials at this point, which is sort of a 9 good threshold to be able to qualify for 10 certain federal funding. 11 As I mentioned, as of August of last year, 12 so just over a year do we have our own 13 501(c)(3) status. So we're still sort of 14 pushing in that direction of the viability and 15 those thresholds that key agencies look for 16 when they decide whether or not you're worth 17 taking a risk on for grant funding. 18 So we have been working with Tony Woods' 19 staff. We do believe that Maryland Department 20 of Veterans and Military Families is going to 21 give us a six-digit gift from the Maryland</p>
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<p>1 budget rather than an external agency funding 2 recipient. 3 And what we're hoping is that we can 4 continue to work with our mid shore county 5 governments in particular, since that's where 6 the bulk of our clientele come, to see if you 7 happen to have a fund where we know we're 8 coming off cycle tonight and you would be able 9 to make a donation. We're sort of asking each 10 of the counties that we approach if you were 11 able to give us something between ten and 12 \$20,000, it would be hugely, hugely helpful 13 right now for case management and claims 14 support in particular, where the phones are 15 ringing off the hook for those types of 16 services. 17 And then work with your finance folks on 18 the appropriate process to come in at a formal 19 budget cycle moment to apply for funding in 20 whatever way you might recommend. 21 So we're just hoping we can earn a</p>	<p>1 Veterans Trust. And then we think a 2 combination of pursuing private and federal 3 grants, working with our county governments, 4 working with our municipality governments, and 5 the VFWs and Legions of course, that's a 6 position that will help us to be solvent and 7 viable and to continue to offer the great 8 service that we try to. 9 MR. BEREANO: If I can just interject one 10 other thing very briefly. 11 To reiterate one of our requests, all of 12 you are respected and known well in your 13 community. You're elected officials. The 14 extent to which you can spread the word of 15 VAMSA's existence as you interact with your 16 constituents, that would help us enormously in 17 addition to what we're doing. 18 And we've asked the other county 19 commissioners and Council members in their 20 jurisdictions as well. 21 And with the additional funding that we</p>

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<p>1 talked about, we'd like to be 7/24/365, which</p> <p>2 we are not yet. But we really want to do that.</p> <p>3 Full transportation, you know, whatever.</p> <p>4 But thank you, again, very much.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys. Thank</p> <p>6 you.</p> <p>7 MR. JOHNSON: Do you all have any</p> <p>8 questions?</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup. Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>10 MR. STEPP: I have none. I appreciate the</p> <p>11 time and just the very thorough overview. So</p> <p>12 thank you. Appreciate what y'all are doing.</p> <p>13 MR. BEREANO: Thank you. Appreciate it.</p> <p>14 MS. MIELKE: This is very personal to me.</p> <p>15 And I want to thank you for addressing needs of</p> <p>16 veterans, because it is quite concerning and</p> <p>17 that there aren't enough resources. But you're</p> <p>18 working towards an end of providing that here</p> <p>19 on the shore. And what you do and what you</p> <p>20 sponsor is addressing those needs, and that's</p> <p>21 fantastic.</p>	<p>1 just like us up here.</p> <p>2 MR. BEREANO: Thank you.</p> <p>3 MS. HAYTHE: In Annapolis. So thank you</p> <p>4 for coming in tonight, too.</p> <p>5 But for all that you do, this is a great</p> <p>6 program. I'm so excited about it.</p> <p>7 He's navigating through using VA resources</p> <p>8 right now and doctors here that are not part of</p> <p>9 the VA.</p> <p>10 So I don't have a question, but I</p> <p>11 certainly will help in any way I can to spread</p> <p>12 the word.</p> <p>13 But also, do you have a card?</p> <p>14 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.</p> <p>15 MS. HAYTHE: Because I do want to put him</p> <p>16 in touch with you.</p> <p>17 And I, too, had the same challenge working</p> <p>18 in Queen Anne's, that's where I started in</p> <p>19 economic development.</p> <p>20 MR. JOHNSON: I thought you looked</p> <p>21 familiar.</p>
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<p>1 So thank you so much for what you're</p> <p>2 doing.</p> <p>3 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Councilwoman.</p> <p>4 MS. HAYTHE: So I'll echo what my</p> <p>5 colleagues said.</p> <p>6 My dad was Air Force and my son is Army</p> <p>7 and still wants to jump out of planes now in</p> <p>8 the Army Reserves.</p> <p>9 And so he, too, was in Afghanistan at the</p> <p>10 age of 20.</p> <p>11 MR. JOHNSON: Oh, wow.</p> <p>12 MS. HAYTHE: And so completely understand</p> <p>13 how you felt when you came back from</p> <p>14 Afghanistan because he felt the same way. And</p> <p>15 he could not navigate.</p> <p>16 And being in government like I was, I</p> <p>17 couldn't necessarily connect him to the right</p> <p>18 people, either.</p> <p>19 But he finally found his way.</p> <p>20 So kudos to you guys.</p> <p>21 Bruce, you're certainly well known, too,</p>	<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: My office was off of Piney</p> <p>2 Narrows Road. So on my break, we would go out</p> <p>3 on the boat. So we had that water view too,</p> <p>4 which is a huge distraction. So that's where I</p> <p>5 believe the Economic Development and Tourism</p> <p>6 Office is now. So that used to be my office so</p> <p>7 many years ago.</p> <p>8 But thank you for all that do you. This</p> <p>9 is very, very important.</p> <p>10 And me and Councilwoman Mielke, we do say</p> <p>11 that this is very dear, near and dear to our</p> <p>12 hearts because it really is.</p> <p>13 MR. JOHNSON: And we understand that you</p> <p>14 may not be able to make a donation now, but it</p> <p>15 might be more appropriate as part of the formal</p> <p>16 budget cycle. But whatever you are able to do</p> <p>17 as you further consider our request, we</p> <p>18 appreciate that.</p> <p>19 And for anybody listening at home, our</p> <p>20 phone number is 844-MIL-VETS, M-I-L-V-E-T-S.</p> <p>21 And our website is vamsa.us, V-A-M-S-A.us, for</p>

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<p>1 more information.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Good.</p> <p>3 MR. BEREANO: We're not just here for</p> <p>4 money. We need you to spread the word.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. Yes, sir.</p> <p>6 MR. BEREANO: I'm repeating that. But</p> <p>7 that really is number one because the more</p> <p>8 people that know, and it's not just veterans,</p> <p>9 but their families. So thank you.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner, you want to say</p> <p>11 a few words?</p> <p>12 MR. LESHNER: Add my thanks and my</p> <p>13 commitment to spread the word on this.</p> <p>14 Thank you for those providing these</p> <p>15 services, which we clearly are -- have a</p> <p>16 desperate need for.</p> <p>17 I particularly appreciate the navigator</p> <p>18 services that you're providing. I've seen a</p> <p>19 parallel need for that being provided by our</p> <p>20 area agency for aging. We have citizens who</p> <p>21 just need to understand where they can turn.</p>	<p>1 holidays.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: You, too.</p> <p>3 MS. HAYTHE: You, too. Have a happy</p> <p>4 Thanksgiving.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay. Next on the</p> <p>6 agenda is a presentation of the Maryland</p> <p>7 Agricultural Land Preservation. Yup.</p> <p>8 Hey there. How are you?</p> <p>9 MS. DEFLAUX: Good evening.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.</p> <p>11 MS. DEFLAUX: Elise Deflaux, Planning and</p> <p>12 Zoning.</p> <p>13 I've provided you the report ahead of time</p> <p>14 and I'm here to ask questions or to get an</p> <p>15 approval for the report. This is the</p> <p>16 recertification of our MALPH program.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So everybody's had a</p> <p>18 chance to take a look at it.</p> <p>19 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Is everybody in good shape?</p> <p>21 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah.</p>
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<p>1 The sources of help may be there, but</p> <p>2 navigating the system can be pretty</p> <p>3 challenging, and that's a real need.</p> <p>4 Really important work that you're doing.</p> <p>5 Thank you.</p> <p>6 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys.</p> <p>8 And like my colleagues said, this is</p> <p>9 something that is very important to all of us.</p> <p>10 That's for sure. And we'd be glad to support</p> <p>11 you and spread the word. And hopefully we can</p> <p>12 find a little spot in there in the budget for</p> <p>13 you.</p> <p>14 MR. JOHNSON: Well, and thank you again</p> <p>15 for Mid-Shore Community Foundation, For All</p> <p>16 Seasons, and some great clients that we've</p> <p>17 already gotten to know. So thank you.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Thank you, guys.</p> <p>19 Appreciate it.</p> <p>20 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.</p> <p>21 MR. JOHNSON: Have a good evening. Happy</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner, you in good</p> <p>2 shape with what you're looking at? Mr. Leshner?</p> <p>3 MR. LESHNER: I didn't quite catch that.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Elisa is here to ask</p> <p>5 any questions on the MALPH, if you have any</p> <p>6 questions.</p> <p>7 MR. LESHNER: No, no questions. Just my</p> <p>8 appreciation for the progress of this program.</p> <p>9 I note that Talbot County has fallen</p> <p>10 behind Queen Anne's County in agricultural land</p> <p>11 preservation. And this is important work and</p> <p>12 we need to do more of it.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay. Okay.</p> <p>14 At this time, is there a motion?</p> <p>15 MS. HAYTHE: Yes. I'll make a motion that</p> <p>16 the report be approved at this time.</p> <p>17 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got motion a</p> <p>19 second to approve the report. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>20 could you call the vote.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p>

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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>3 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>7 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>9 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>11 MS. DEFLAUX: Thank you very much.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: You're welcome. Thank you.</p> <p>13 Next on the agenda, Mr. Clarke, you want</p> <p>14 to come on up and go over the 2024 Report of</p> <p>15 the Review.</p> <p>16 MR. CLARKE: Yes, sir.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>18 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. Ray Clarke,</p> <p>19 county engineer.</p> <p>20 We have basically a hard copy that we've</p> <p>21 forwarded to the County Council of the 2024</p>	<p>1 all's approval of that, go ahead and put this</p> <p>2 in the libraries, one copy of each document.</p> <p>3 We've got the 2002 Report of the Review</p> <p>4 and then the 2024 Report of the Review.</p> <p>5 So the problem we ran into is when we did</p> <p>6 the track changes, it just didn't work. So</p> <p>7 we're going to provide both copies. So if you</p> <p>8 want to make a comparison between the 2002</p> <p>9 versus the 2024, you can do so.</p> <p>10 Again, the focus of the 2024 Report of the</p> <p>11 Review was taking the maps that were identified</p> <p>12 in the 2002 Report of the Review and really</p> <p>13 kind of bringing that up and kind of balancing</p> <p>14 the checkbook. So we're trying to get all</p> <p>15 those parcels that were amended and</p> <p>16 incorporated into the comprehensive water and</p> <p>17 sewer plan for all of the water and sewer</p> <p>18 service areas are now shown in this document.</p> <p>19 So that's basically where we're at. I'm</p> <p>20 here to answer any questions.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Stepp.</p>
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<p>1 Report of the Review for your reading and</p> <p>2 enjoyment.</p> <p>3 At the same time, I think one of the</p> <p>4 things we're here with you to discuss, I guess</p> <p>5 one is the next steps in moving forward. One</p> <p>6 would be to get the document posted on our</p> <p>7 county website for the general public to</p> <p>8 review, as well as MDE, Maryland Department of</p> <p>9 Planning, the Planning Commission, as well as</p> <p>10 Public Works Advisory Board.</p> <p>11 That being said, I think the other thing I</p> <p>12 probably will try and do is work with our IT</p> <p>13 director to set up a web -- I'm sorry. Set up</p> <p>14 an email address and put that with the link for</p> <p>15 the Report of the Review so that people who</p> <p>16 have comments can then basically email those</p> <p>17 comments to that email address. And then we'll</p> <p>18 have basically all the comments in one spot for</p> <p>19 us.</p> <p>20 And then the other thing what we are</p> <p>21 proposing to do is go ahead and post, upon your</p>	<p>1 MR. STEPP: I have my copies. I'm ready</p> <p>2 to read.</p> <p>3 MR. CLARKE: I would highly recommend</p> <p>4 doing it after about three cups of coffee in</p> <p>5 the morning. And it might put you to sleep</p> <p>6 maybe in five minutes.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>8 MS. MIELKE: Yeah. I'm still reviewing</p> <p>9 it. It's quite a task, but it's good. Thank</p> <p>10 you.</p> <p>11 MR. CLARKE: Well, and the other thing I</p> <p>12 just should point out to the County Council,</p> <p>13 and that's part of what took us a little bit of</p> <p>14 time, is all of the maps that we have in this</p> <p>15 document, basically if you go to our county</p> <p>16 website, if you want to scroll in, the maps are</p> <p>17 land use maps, are going to show the Report of</p> <p>18 the Review.</p> <p>19 And so what will end up happening is if</p> <p>20 you want to zoom in, zoom out, in those maps</p> <p>21 you can do so.</p>

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<p>1 But we're trying to keep it to the mapping</p> <p>2 in our books, that eight and a half by 11. So</p> <p>3 it makes the document a little easier to kind</p> <p>4 of go through.</p> <p>5 But other than that, we're ready to move</p> <p>6 forward.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Any questions, Ms. Haythe?</p> <p>8 MS. HAYTHE: No questions. I mean great</p> <p>9 job. Just like Councilman Mielke, still</p> <p>10 reviewing.</p> <p>11 MR. CLARKE: You will be.</p> <p>12 MS. HAYTHE: And had coffee.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner. Any questions,</p> <p>14 Mr. Leshner? Hey, Pete can you hear me?</p> <p>15 MS. MIELKE: Ut-oh.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Ut-oh. Okay. Well, he's</p> <p>17 out.</p> <p>18 So first of all, Ray, I really appreciate</p> <p>19 the hard work. I know it's been --</p> <p>20 MR. CLARKE: A lot of work with my staff</p> <p>21 as well.</p>	<p>1 MS. MIELKE: I have one question. One of</p> <p>2 the charts that I saw, it was about the</p> <p>3 increase in population for municipalities.</p> <p>4 MR. CLARKE: Okay.</p> <p>5 MS. MIELKE: And you had the increase in</p> <p>6 the population of Queen Anne's, 225 percent?</p> <p>7 MR. CLARKE: We'll have to look at that.</p> <p>8 MS. MIELKE: I think it was supposed to be</p> <p>9 22.5.</p> <p>10 MR. CLARKE: That might be a typo on our</p> <p>11 part. We'll definitely look at that one. Good</p> <p>12 comment. Good catch.</p> <p>13 MS. HAYTHE: Maybe just take another</p> <p>14 breeze through before putting it on the web.</p> <p>15 MR. CLARKE: We'll go ahead.</p> <p>16 MS. HAYTHE: Another pair of eyes.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. That sounds good.</p> <p>18 Okay. Thank you, Ray. Appreciate it.</p> <p>19 MR. CLARKE: Okay.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda</p> <p>21 is the election of officers.</p>
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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: I was going to say, your</p> <p>2 staff.</p> <p>3 So we really appreciate the effort to put</p> <p>4 all this stuff together because you're picking</p> <p>5 up, what, 22, 23 years of work.</p> <p>6 MR. CLARKE: Right.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: And compiling it all</p> <p>8 together. So I can't thank you enough for</p> <p>9 doing that for us and putting all this together</p> <p>10 for us to review. So we'll review it. I'm</p> <p>11 sure it's going to be fine.</p> <p>12 MR. CLARKE: And we welcome the comments.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So at this time, do</p> <p>14 you need anything from us?</p> <p>15 MR. CLARKE: I think at this point, if the</p> <p>16 Council is ready for us to go ahead and proceed</p> <p>17 in putting this out on let's say the county</p> <p>18 website for the general public to review, that</p> <p>19 would be great.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>21 MR. CLARKE: Yes, ma'am.</p>	<p>1 MR. THOMAS: So under the Charter, every</p> <p>2 year the Council elects a president and a vice</p> <p>3 president.</p> <p>4 So the way we do this is Ms. Morris will</p> <p>5 hand out the ballots for president first. And</p> <p>6 then once you've completed the ballots, you'll</p> <p>7 provide them to me and I will tally them up and</p> <p>8 announce the Council president. And then we'll</p> <p>9 do the vice president.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>11 MR. THOMAS: I'm short one. We're short</p> <p>12 one. I've got three president ballots. I'm</p> <p>13 short two president ballots.</p> <p>14 MS. MORRIS: President is highlighted in</p> <p>15 yellow and the vice president is in green.</p> <p>16 MR. THOMAS: Congratulations, Council</p> <p>17 President Callahan.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Appreciate it.</p> <p>19 Thank you, Council.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHNER: Congratulations, Chuck. And</p> <p>21 thank you for your service.</p>

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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>2 MR. THOMAS: And congratulations, Vice</p> <p>3 President Leshner.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Congratulations to you,</p> <p>5 too, Pete. You deserve it. That's for sure.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: Thank you very much.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Okay. Clay's stuff.</p> <p>8 MR. STAMP: Okay. Council, under county</p> <p>9 manager report tonight, I have several items</p> <p>10 for you.</p> <p>11 First I'll ask Micah Risher to come up,</p> <p>12 your airport manager. He has a request this</p> <p>13 evening to enter a contract for the purchase of</p> <p>14 some property. I'll allow him to go ahead and</p> <p>15 make the ask. I'll fill in where he might</p> <p>16 leave off.</p> <p>17 MR. RISHER: Thank you, Clay. Good</p> <p>18 evening, Council. Micah Risher, the airport</p> <p>19 manager.</p> <p>20 We've talked about this a few times now.</p> <p>21 We had the opportunity to purchase 16 acres of</p>	<p>1 support this initiative.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.</p> <p>3 MS. MIELKE: All a part of all the good</p> <p>4 things that are going on with our airport</p> <p>5 modernization.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Exactly. Thank you.</p> <p>7 MR. STEPP: I'll support it with a motion</p> <p>8 to move forward.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHER: I didn't hear the question.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Micah was just telling us</p> <p>12 about the property that we have the opportunity</p> <p>13 to buy out to the airport. He was just telling</p> <p>14 us about that.</p> <p>15 So everybody is just supportive of it.</p> <p>16 Can you hear me?</p> <p>17 MR. LESHER: Yeah. Got it. No questions.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>19 MS. HAYTHE: I'll second the motion.</p> <p>20 MR. STAMP: Council, before you go to vote</p> <p>21 on this, the only thing I would like to add for</p>
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<p>1 land adjacent to the current airport property</p> <p>2 off of Goldsborough Neck Road.</p> <p>3 We see this as a good opportunity. It's a</p> <p>4 strategic move for us. It gives us some new</p> <p>5 opportunities. A lot of things are changing in</p> <p>6 the industry. This just gives us a larger</p> <p>7 canvas to plan for and really look at some new</p> <p>8 opportunities, possibly some non-aeronautical</p> <p>9 business opportunities.</p> <p>10 It's strategically located adjacent to the</p> <p>11 Mistletoe Hall Business Park as well. So it</p> <p>12 would give us a really good location to where</p> <p>13 our businesses are building out for the future.</p> <p>14 We were able to secure this property for</p> <p>15 \$250,000, and the appraisal came in at</p> <p>16 \$585,000. So it's well worth the value, and</p> <p>17 we're really excited about this opportunity.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions,</p> <p>19 Council?</p> <p>20 MS. HAYTHE: No questions. Just think</p> <p>21 it's a good move for the airport. So happy to</p>	<p>1 the public's benefit is that the funding for</p> <p>2 this acquisition of the property comes out of</p> <p>3 the enterprise fund of the airport, which is a</p> <p>4 self-sustaining fund. And they do a very good</p> <p>5 job at managing that.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you for bringing that</p> <p>7 up. Okay.</p> <p>8 We got a motion.</p> <p>9 MS. HAYTHE: Dave. And I seconded it.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>11 second to go ahead and purchase the land at the</p> <p>12 airport. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>13 coal.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>17 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>19 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>21 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p>

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<p>1 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 2 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 4 MR. RISHER: Thank you, Council. I 5 appreciate it. 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. 7 MR. RISHER: Happy Thanksgiving. 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. 9 MS. HAYTHE: You, too. 10 MR. STAMP: Council, the next item I have 11 is the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy is 12 requesting a letter of support from the County 13 Council for their FY26 mid shore rural legacy 14 applications. The prioritization will be for 15 the Eastern Shore heartland rural legacy area 16 and the Tuckahoe rural legacy area. 17 No county funds are required. 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 19 MS. DEFLAUX: I'm Elisa Deflaux, Planning 20 and Zoning, if you have any questions. 21 MS. HAYTHE: No questions. I make a</p>	<p>1 your consideration to award Bid Number 24-11 to 2 Camoin & Associates in the amount of \$104,712. 3 Total of five bids were received and reviewed 4 by a steering committee, the Economic 5 Development Commission. The finalists were 6 interviewed. 7 And I'm sitting there telling your story; 8 aren't I? 9 And Ryan will finish off the story. 10 MR. SNOW: Thank you, Clay. 11 MR. STAMP: You're welcome. 12 MR. SNOW: Good to be here, Members of the 13 Council. Again, Ryan Snow on behalf of 14 Cassandra Vanhooser and the Talbot County 15 Department of Economic Development and Tourism. 16 How we got here. If you recall, a few 17 years ago, the governor's Rural Economic 18 Development Fund awarded Talbot County funds. 19 And with your leadership, 14 of those projects 20 were selected to move forward. 21 Some, as you know, we've completed, some</p>
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<p>1 motion to support. 2 MS. MIELKE: Second. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 4 second to go ahead and support that. Madam 5 Secretary, could you call the vote. 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 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 15 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 16 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Elisa. 17 MS. DEFLAUX: Thank you. 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. 19 MR. STAMP: Council, next item I have, 20 I'll ask Ryan Snow to come up. 21 And Ryan is here this evening to ask for</p>	<p>1 are in progress. And here we are now, this one 2 we're beginning. 3 And so as Clay said, Talbot County was 4 fortunate enough to receive five bids from very 5 talented firms from across the country. 6 Our selection committee included two of 7 the EDC past chairs, the current chair, the 8 current vice chair, and department staff. 9 And with Clay's assistance, after two 10 rounds of interviews, we chose Camoin & 11 Associates. 12 So here for your consideration to move 13 this forward. I think this is a great time for 14 a new strategic plan update, at the same time 15 of the Planning and Zoning Comprehensive Plan 16 update. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay. Any questions? 18 MS. HAYTHE: No questions. And Ryan, you 19 said that grant funds were being used for this 20 project, correct? 21 MR. SNOW: Yup. 100 percent grant funded.</p>


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<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. I make a motion to</p> <p>2 approve Camoin & Associates for the strategic</p> <p>3 plan for the Department of Economic Development</p> <p>4 and Tourism.</p> <p>5 MR. STEPP: I will second that.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>7 second it. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>8 vote.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>12 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>14 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>16 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>18 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. There you go.</p> <p>20 MR. SNOW: Thank you, all.</p> <p>21 MS. HAYTHE: Thanks, Ryan.</p>	<p>1 which is pretty heavy. It's a metal valve.</p> <p>2 And it sits on top of this T. And ultimately</p> <p>3 it's about a two-inch diameter pipe sitting on</p> <p>4 let's say an eight or seven-inch diameter pipe.</p> <p>5 But then when the flows kick in, it starts</p> <p>6 doing it's -- it kind of vibrates. And we</p> <p>7 needed to replace the valve bolts and then</p> <p>8 ultimately put brackets to prevent that</p> <p>9 vibration.</p> <p>10 And basically what happens, that vibration</p> <p>11 creates a fatigue within the plastic material.</p> <p>12 It's almost like taking a paperclip and you</p> <p>13 kind of play with the paperclip and it breaks.</p> <p>14 Well, that's the fatigue, and that's what</p> <p>15 happened over time with those. When that T</p> <p>16 breaks, we end up having a sanitary sewer</p> <p>17 overflow.</p> <p>18 So this is actually going to help us</p> <p>19 prevent future sanitary sewer overflows.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Got you.</p> <p>21 MR. CLARKE: This would also be charged to</p>
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<p>1 MR. STAMP: Council, I'll ask Ray Clarke</p> <p>2 to come up. He has a request for Council to</p> <p>3 approve a change order in the amount of</p> <p>4 \$217,643.42 for Retallack and Sons for some</p> <p>5 work that's needed, which he'll explain, on the</p> <p>6 force main from Unionville to Royal Oak.</p> <p>7 MR. CLARKE: Well, it's actually the force</p> <p>8 main from Unionville to the Royal Oak pump</p> <p>9 station and then Royal Oak pump station to</p> <p>10 St. Michael's.</p> <p>11 As part of the overall project, we did</p> <p>12 replace I believe it was five to six ARVs, air</p> <p>13 release valves. However, we felt like we had</p> <p>14 to replace another ten valves.</p> <p>15 Part of the problem that we've experienced</p> <p>16 in the past, and the Council has probably been</p> <p>17 aware of that too, is when we do have a</p> <p>18 sanitary sewer overflow, it's been associated</p> <p>19 with air release valves.</p> <p>20 And what's happened in the past is it's a</p> <p>21 PVC pipe. So you have this air release valve,</p>	<p>1 the sanitary district's capital project for the</p> <p>2 force mains and then ultimately billed out for</p> <p>3 those users.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions,</p> <p>5 Council?</p> <p>6 MS. MIELKE: No.</p> <p>7 MS. HAYTHE: No questions.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Any questions, Pete?</p> <p>9 MR. LESHNER: Not a question.</p> <p>10 But I've been watching the record of</p> <p>11 breaks along this line, and we need to do</p> <p>12 better. Just our responsibility to the</p> <p>13 environment and to the citizens who live along</p> <p>14 these lines and along the waters that they</p> <p>15 spill into. I am -- my compliments to</p> <p>16 Mr. Clarke for tackling this project and</p> <p>17 getting this problem solved. This is something</p> <p>18 that's really important to solve.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job. Okay.</p> <p>20 So do we need a...</p> <p>21 MS. HAYTHE: Motion?</p>

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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve Retallack</p> <p>3 and Sons for the replacement.</p> <p>4 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>6 second to go ahead and approve the change</p> <p>7 order. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>8 vote.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>12 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>14 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>16 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>18 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>20 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. Happy</p> <p>21 Thanksgiving.</p>	<p>1 second to go and approve the support letter.</p> <p>2 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>6 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>8 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>10 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>12 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>14 MR. STAMP: And that completes your county</p> <p>15 manager report for this evening. Thank you,</p> <p>16 Council.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great. Good job.</p> <p>18 Okay.</p> <p>19 Next on the agenda is public comment.</p> <p>20 Yup. Yes, sir. Come on up.</p> <p>21 MR. RIGGIN: Again, Mr. Chairman, Members</p>
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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: You, too, Ray. Thanks a</p> <p>2 lot.</p> <p>3 MR. STAMP: And Council, my final request</p> <p>4 is the Martingham Property Owners Association,</p> <p>5 Incorporated is applying for a grant through</p> <p>6 the Maryland Department of Natural Resources</p> <p>7 for a Martingham flood mitigation and</p> <p>8 stormwater management planning project.</p> <p>9 Martingham is seeking a letter of support</p> <p>10 for the Council for their application. No</p> <p>11 county funds are required.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Council? Any</p> <p>13 discussion?</p> <p>14 MS. HAYTHE: No discussion.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner, any discussion</p> <p>16 on that support letter?</p> <p>17 MR. LESHNER: No questions.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>19 MR. STEPP: Motion to approve.</p> <p>20 MS. HAYTHE: Second.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p>	<p>1 of the Council. My name is Phil Rigglin. I</p> <p>2 live at 29736 Solomon Drive. Is that what you</p> <p>3 need? What else? That's all.</p> <p>4 I had not planned to say anything tonight,</p> <p>5 even though I've done -- I really hadn't.</p> <p>6 Going back to, what was it, VAMSA or</p> <p>7 WAMSA, whatever the military and veterans</p> <p>8 assistance program.</p> <p>9 I do think that there are some gaps in --</p> <p>10 I spent my life doing veterans' stuff for 30</p> <p>11 something years. And I'm also here in</p> <p>12 Maryland.</p> <p>13 I do think there are some gaps in</p> <p>14 providing navigator services that they were</p> <p>15 talking about where you have to deal with</p> <p>16 bureaucracy, the VA, Department of Veterans</p> <p>17 Affairs nationally. It doesn't matter. Any</p> <p>18 bureaucracy, same thing. You're nodding your</p> <p>19 head.</p> <p>20 But in any case, it's important that</p> <p>21 assistance is available. And I'm concerned</p>

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<p>1 that there might be a gap in terms of what the 2 respective veteran?s organizations can provide 3 locally in that regard. I'm not saying it 4 doesn't exist, because it clearly does exist. 5 But sometimes it's difficult to get somebody as 6 a volunteer who is proficient in VA regulations 7 and procedures. 8 So I do think the respective veterans? 9 organizations here on the shore should make an 10 effort to get in touch with this organization 11 so that they know each other. And I will 12 certainly do my part there in terms of 13 contacting veterans' officials, veterans' 14 organization officials to make that happen. 15 And finally, I was impressed by the fact 16 they were accompanied by Bruce Bereano, 17 Mr. Lobbyist in Annapolis. So I assume he's 18 doing this pro bono. 19 MS. HAYTHE: One would hope. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Exactly. 21 MR. RIGGIN: Anyhow, I just wanted to say</p>	<p>1 Council or by the Talbot County Planning 2 Commission. 3 As you know, before any property can be 4 connected to sewer, you, the Council, must 5 first classify it in our comprehensive water 6 and sewer plan as S-1, immediate priority. And 7 as you and all parties involved also know, this 8 20-acre parcel was not and is not today 9 classified S-1. It is now and has always been 10 classified unprogrammed. 11 As explained in TIP's email, this illegal 12 connection was handled by the same individuals 13 who represent Lakeside. Lakeside's engineer 14 designed the improper connection and handled 15 permitting with MDE. And Lakeside's lawyer 16 drafted key documents. 17 The Trappe town attorney, whose fees are 18 paid by the Lakeside developer, handled key 19 aspects of the matter. 20 The email that each of you were sent 21 included links to documentary evidence of each</p>
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<p>1 that I appreciate your time. Thank you very 2 much. 3 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate you. Thank you. 5 Yup. 6 MR. WATSON: Good evening. 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening. 8 MR. WATSON: My name is Dan Watson. I 9 live at 8404 Averly Manor Lane, Easton. And I 10 speak on behalf of the Talbot Integrity 11 Project, an organization representing many 12 citizens of Talbot County and focused on honest 13 government. 14 I will not exceed my five-minute limit 15 here. 16 More than a month ago, the Talbot 17 Integrity Project sent to each of you directly 18 an email describing an illegal action taken 19 right under your noses by the Town of Trappe, 20 arranging a significant sewer hook-up never 21 approved, as legally required by Talbot County</p>	<p>1 of these allegations. 2 These individuals were the same people who 3 advocated for Lakeside before you, before the 4 Planning Commission, and before everyone else 5 in Talbot County literally for years, without 6 having mentioned in any of those presentations 7 that they had arranged the sewer connection for 8 a property classified unprogrammed. 9 And this was not just any sewer hook-up. 10 It was the lynchpin for Lakeside. The lynchpin 11 not because it was legally or physically 12 required in order for Lakeside to connect to 13 the existing wastewater treatment, but because 14 the connection was obviously the essential quid 15 pro quo for Lakeside to acquire an easement for 16 its main sewer line to connect to the existing 17 plant. 18 Surely you recall TIP's most serious 19 allegation in that email, which is that some 20 individuals in the county government appear to 21 be complicit. Because as information from a</p>

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<p>1 PIA request shows, one or more people in Talbot 2 County staff knew of this hook-up in advance 3 and did nothing to stop it. No one appears to 4 have brought that information to the county 5 manager's attention or to your attention. 6 In fact, there's evidence that steps were 7 taken by the county to facilitate this 8 unauthorized action. 9 Council Members, what could be more 10 serious than this? A credible claim of 11 illegality involving a billion-dollar project 12 that impacted our county in fundamental ways 13 and in which some in our county government 14 appear to have been complicit. 15 And yet a month has passed, more than a 16 month has passed, and there has not been so 17 much as an acknowledgment of receipt of TIP's 18 email formally by the county or informally by 19 any of you. 20 Mark this truth. At some point, tolerance 21 of corrupt practices is complicity. And at</p>	<p>1 to us about the illegal hook-up? 2 MR. STAMP: Let me get back with you on 3 that. 4 You all received the email. 5 MS. HAYTHE: For accuracy. I do recall it 6 coming up. And I do believe that someone was 7 supposed to look into that to see if that was 8 accurate and true. 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 10 MS. HAYTHE: So just so Mr. Watson is 11 aware of that. 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda 13 is Council comment. Mr. Stepp. 14 MR. STEPP: I just want to wish everyone a 15 very happy and safe Thanksgiving, as in prayer 16 today, and for safe travels for everyone. Hope 17 everyone enjoys their time with family and 18 friends this Thanksgiving. So thank you. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 20 MS. MIELKE: Just wish everybody a Happy 21 Gobble Gobble Day.</p>
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<p>1 some point, complicity is corruption itself. 2 A month ago, TIP respectfully requested 3 that the Council authorize an independent 4 investigation, and I emphasize an independent 5 investigation, not a white wash, of this entire 6 matter. 7 Our request is not going to go away. 8 Ignoring it is not going to solve the problem. 9 We hope not to be required to bring this matter 10 repeatedly to the Council's attention in future 11 meetings. 12 The citizens of Talbot County deserve an 13 independent inquiry and answers to the question 14 of what went on here. 15 Thank you for hearing me out. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. Thank 17 you. Okay. 18 MS. HAYTHE: Can I comment on that a 19 minute? Can I make a statement because I do 20 believe we were looking into that. 21 Weren't we, Clay, when that initially came</p>	<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: I think that's going to be 2 the sentiment, right. 3 Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. And I 4 hope staff has some much needed time off to 5 enjoy time with their family and enjoy turkey 6 day. 7 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good. 8 MR. STEPP: Congratulations to our 9 recently re-elected president and vice 10 president. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. I 12 appreciate that. Appreciate that a lot. 13 Mr. Leshner. 14 MR. LESHER: I will add my remarks 15 regarding Thanksgiving. Just to remind us that 16 this is a holiday that is about something, that 17 this is a holiday that is a moment for 18 gratitude. And we have all reason for 19 gratitude. And we should take a moment to 20 express that to whomever and whatever we find, 21 that we find ourselves in fortunate</p>

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<p>1 circumstances about.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Thank you. I</p> <p>3 would agree.</p> <p>4 And I will say the same thing about</p> <p>5 Thanksgiving. I hope everybody has a great</p> <p>6 Thanksgiving, a safe Thanksgiving.</p> <p>7 And one thing I want to do, which is very</p> <p>8 important, during the election, we had question</p> <p>9 A pass, which was really big.</p> <p>10 And I really wanted to reach out to the</p> <p>11 public and help them understand how important</p> <p>12 that is for this county for that extra penny</p> <p>13 per thousand is for us. It helps the fire</p> <p>14 departments, the sheriffs.</p> <p>15 Everybody thinks things are going to the</p> <p>16 school. It's actually going to public safety</p> <p>17 is what it's going to.</p> <p>18 And me and Clay were talking about this</p> <p>19 the other day. So it's very, very important.</p> <p>20 And I want to really thank the public for</p> <p>21 doing that because that's a big deal to us, and</p>	<p>1 great cost.</p> <p>2 We find ourselves in a highly competitive</p> <p>3 environment for talent right now. And of</p> <p>4 course, we want to give them the tools that</p> <p>5 they need to do their best for our community.</p> <p>6 And this penny allows us to get the extra funds</p> <p>7 to be able to direct that toward public safety.</p> <p>8 So we do appreciate the public allowing us</p> <p>9 to do that.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. We do, we do. So</p> <p>11 thank you. Okay.</p> <p>12 MR. STEPP: County Council's next meeting</p> <p>13 will be held on Tuesday, December 10th,</p> <p>14 beginning at five o'clock p.m. The Council</p> <p>15 will be convening in open session at 2:30 p.m.</p> <p>16 for a work session to discuss the cannabis</p> <p>17 community reinvestment and repair funds, and</p> <p>18 then adjourning into closed session, as listed</p> <p>19 on that statement for closing that meeting.</p> <p>20 On Tuesday, December 3rd, at 3:30 p.m.,</p> <p>21 the Council will be holding a work session to</p>
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<p>1 it's a big deal for the community to have</p> <p>2 safety.</p> <p>3 It's allowed us to do the new EMS north</p> <p>4 station on Cordova Road.</p> <p>5 Is it started yet, Clay?</p> <p>6 MR. STAMP: So we've acquired the</p> <p>7 property. We're in final design at this point.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. So these extra</p> <p>9 costs, an extra penny means a lot to these type</p> <p>10 of projects in that community.</p> <p>11 So would you like to add anything to that,</p> <p>12 Clay?</p> <p>13 MR. STAMP: No. I'd just like to thank</p> <p>14 Council for your continued leadership for</p> <p>15 public safety services.</p> <p>16 This does allow -- as the public knows, we</p> <p>17 have a revenue cap on our property tax. It</p> <p>18 forces the Council to be very frugal in the way</p> <p>19 we administer county government, which is a</p> <p>20 good thing. But in order to enjoy the public</p> <p>21 safety services that we have, it comes with a</p>	<p>1 discuss a proposal for an oyster nutrient trade</p> <p>2 credit program, followed by a closed session.</p> <p>3 The work session will be held in the Bradley</p> <p>4 Meeting Room right here and is open to the</p> <p>5 public.</p> <p>6 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn</p> <p>7 this meeting and reconvene as noted?</p> <p>8 MS. HAYTHE: So moved.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>10 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>11 vote.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>15 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>17 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>19 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>21 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p>

<p>Page 82</p> <p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Have a good 2 Thanksgiving. 3 And Pete, thanks a lot. Have a good 4 Thanksgiving, Pete. 5 (Meeting concluded at: 6:11 p.m.) 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p>	
<p>Page 83</p> <p>1 STATE OF MARYLAND 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and 3 for the State of Maryland, County of Baltimore City, 4 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot County Council Audio, personally appeared before me 5 at the time and place herein set according to law, was interrogated by counsel. 6 7 I further certify that the examination was 8 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed 9 from my stenographic notes to the within printed 10 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription 11 in a true and accurate manner. 12 13 I further certify that the stipulations 14 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my 15 presence. 16 17 I further certify that I am not of counsel 18 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel, 19 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way 20 interested in the outcome of this action. 21 AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 2nd day of December 2024.</p> <p> Diane Houlihan Notary Public</p> <p>My commission expires September 16, 2025</p>	

[& - actually]

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