



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

August 25, 2026

Present – President, Chuck Callahan, Vice President, Pete Leshner, Keasha N. Haythe, Lynn L. Mielke, and County Manager Clay Stamp. Councilmember Dave Stepp was absent and Attorney, Andy Meehan, of MacLeod Law Group, LLC, was in attendance for County Attorney, Patrick Thomas.

- I. Agenda – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda for Tuesday, August 25, 2026.
- II. Minutes – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, July 28, 2026, and Tuesday, August 11, 2026.
- III. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, August 18, 2026, and Tuesday, August 25, 2026.
- IV. Presentation of Certificates of Recognition – Talbot All-Star Junior League – 2026 Maryland State Champion – The Clerk read a statement into the record which recognized the accomplishment of the players and coaches of the Talbot All-Star Junior League team. Upon motion by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Mr. Leshner. The Council approved the Certificates of Recognition by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

Prior to presentation of the certificates of recognition, Brian Plutschak, Head Coach, briefed the Council on the team's journey to the championship beginning in June 2026. Council members congratulated the team members, Mr. Plutschak, and assistant coaches for the commitment and hard work which went into achieving the championship and that they were proud of the team's representation of Talbot County and Maryland. Ms. Haythe read the name of each player into the record and those players in attendance came forward to receive an individual certificate of recognition: Davis Councell; Cayson Kennedy; Brycen Mollick; Henry Callahan; Michael Adams; Tommy Mackall; Hunter Kennedy; Liam Sutton; Colton Smith; Blake Hanna; Brady White; Jaiden Smith; Brian Plutschak (Head Coach); Jason Smith (Assistant Coach); and Buddy Callahan (Assistant Coach).

- V. Presentation of Proclamation to Ray Clarke, P.E., County Engineer – The Clerk read a proclamation into the record which spoke of Mr. Clarke's outstanding 26-year career as the County Engineer for Talbot County, during which time he oversaw numerous sewer extension and

infrastructure projects, and construction, upgrades and renovation of various County facilities, all of which have strengthened the County and will continue to benefit the citizens of Talbot County for years to come. The proclamation also spoke of Mr. Clarke's legacy of professionalism, technical expertise and unwavering commitment to the citizens of Talbot County. Council members commended Mr. Clarke for his outstanding contributions to the citizens of Talbot County. County Manager, Clay Stamp, spoke of his time working with Mr. Clarke over the past 17 years and stated that Mr. Clarke always tried to figure out a way to help County citizens.

Ms. Mielke presented the proclamation to Mr. Clarke.

VI. Eligible for Vote:

Bill No. 1652, A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 131 (ROAD NAMING AND PROPERTY NUMBERING) OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE FOR THE PURPOSES OF MODERNIZING TALBOT COUNTY'S ADDRESSING STANDARDS TO BE NEXT-GENERATION 911 COMPLIANT AND TO CLARIFY STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES IN ADMINISTERING THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 131, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. Prior to the vote, Bryce Yelton, Assistant Planning Officer stated that the purpose of the bill is to modernize the addressing standards in Talbot County to be Next Gen 911 compliant and to clarify the responsibilities of personnel from the Departments of Emergency Services and Planning and Zoning when new addresses are assigned to properties in the county. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Yelton and Katie Stafford, CAD GIS Specialist, Department of Emergency Management. The Council approved Bill No. 1652 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye (via absentee ballot)
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

Bill No. 1652 becomes effective as outlined in the legislation.

VII. County Manager's Report:

- A. Agricultural Resolution Board – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Antoinette Johnson to a four-year term on the Agricultural Resolution Board as an at-large member; said term will expire on January 1, 2030. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the appointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan - Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- B. Commission on the Aging – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Betsy Roe to the Commission on the Aging; said term will complete the unexpired term of Ms. Ellen Taggart which will expire on April 1, 2028. Upon motion by

Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the appointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan - Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- C. Talbot Family Network Board of Directors – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Pastor Demetrius Price to a three-year term on the Talbot Family Network Board of Directors as a representative of the private sector; said term will expire on June 30, 2029. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the appointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Leshner - Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- D. Request from Waterfowl Festival, Inc. – Requested Council approval to forward a letter in support of Waterfowl Festival, Inc.’s application for Maryland State Arts Council grant funding in the sum of \$200,000. If approved, the funding will be used to continue restoration of the Waterfowl building (the Historic Easton Armory) to include improvements to ventilation and HVAC on the main floor and creation of ADA accessible front steps and lobby in order to make the facility more available to a wider audience; no County funds are required. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the letter of support by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Leshner - Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- E. Request from Roads Department – Requested Council approval to have the Roads Department use FY27 Capital Budget funding for the purchase of a 2027 Freightliner dump truck with snowplow package and extended warranty in the sum of \$235,786.00; if approved, the purchase will be made utilizing a Sourcewell contract from Johnson Truck Center in Landover, Maryland. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the purchase by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Leshner - Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- F. Bid No. 25-12, STATE LOBBYING AND LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION SERVICES – Requested Council approval to renew the County’s contract with Providence Strategies for lobbying services for a period of one (1) year in the sum

of \$48,000. Mr. Stamp stated that the services provided by Providence during the 2026 Legislative Session were, in his opinion, incredibly helpful as it allowed the County to engage in legislative proposals in real-time. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved renewing the contract as outlined by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Leshner - Aye

Ms. Mielke – Aye

Ms. Haythe – Aye

XI. Public Comments: Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on matters of interest to them.

XII. Council Comments:

Mr. Leshner - Mr. Leshner stated that he had recently attended the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Summer Conference and that, in his opinion, it was the best conference yet in tackling the most pressing issues that counties, including Talbot, are facing, including housing affordability, the Blueprint for Excellence in Education (Blueprint for Maryland's Future), to a wide range of issues relating to data centers. He stated that, in his opinion, there was a particularly informative session on data centers that included an official from Loudoun County, Virginia, which has the largest concentration of data centers in the United States, and that the session discussion raised the topics of use of resources including electric power and water, as well as transmission of data. He stated that the Loudoun County official urged jurisdictions which have not already done so to do what Talbot County is poised to do, to institute a temporary moratorium on data centers in order to gather the facts and to take the time to figure it out. Mr. Leshner stated that the public hearing on the proposed temporary moratorium (Resolution No. 395) will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, and that he looks forward to the discussion.

Ms. Mielke - Ms. Mielke stated that earlier in the day, the Council had toured the new hospital which is under construction and that she was impressed with the progress being made. She stated that she is looking forward to the facility offering good health services to the Talbot County community and surrounding counties.

Ms. Haythe - Ms. Haythe stated that, like Mr. Leshner, she had attended the MACo Summer Conference and while there had the opportunity to speak at the diversity caucus on why diversity matters. She stated that is a conversation and she and President Callahan have had quite often, particularly recently. She stated that she is glad that President Callahan understands why diversity matters and that, in her opinion, it's important to Talbot County and this Council, and she certainly hopes that the next Council will continue in that vein and understands why diversity matters in the future.

Ms. Haythe then stated that a constituent had reached out to her regarding upgrading the ball fields in Chapel District and asked Mr. Stamp to have the Department of Parks & Recreation look into the matter so she can respond to the individual who inquired.

Mr. Callahan - Mr. Callahan followed up on statements made during Public Comments regarding the County's lobbyist. He stated that last year was the County's first year having a lobbyist, Michael Mason, and, in his opinion, it was a great experience. He stated that the Council learned a lot and it was money well spent, both for the constituents and the County. Mr. Callahan reiterated Ms. Mielke's comments regarding the hospital, stating that the Council had toured the new facility and that it is an impressive building. He stated that, in his opinion, it is something of which the Council, Talbot County and the surrounding counties can be very proud; it is a regional hospital and it is very impressive. Mr. Callahan stated that the project is on time and on budget, and that the new technology going in the facility is, in his opinion, fascinating.

Upon motion by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. for a work session with representatives of the Talbot County Farm Bureau, then adjourn into Closed Session at 3:30 p.m. as listed on the statement for closing that meeting, and for the regularly scheduled meeting at 5:00 p.m. by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Leshner - Aye
Ms. Mielke - Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

Following a request from a citizen to provide public comments. Mr. Callahan called the meeting back into order. The member of the public was afforded an opportunity to comment on matters of interest to them.

Upon motion by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene as previously stated by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Leshner - Aye
Ms. Mielke - Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

The meeting ended at 5:44 p.m.

The transcript of the Tuesday, August 25, 2026, County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

XIV. Summary of Closed Session Held on August 25, 2026:

1. Statement of the time, place, and purpose of the closed session:

Time of closed session: 4:00 p.m. End 4:35 p.m.
 Place of closed session: County Council Office
 Purpose of the closed session: To consider various matters as set forth in the statement for closing the meeting

2. Record of the vote of each member as to closing the session:

Names of members voting aye: Callahan, Haythe, Leshner, Mielke
 Members opposed: None
 Abstaining: None
 Absent: Stepp

3. Statutory authority to close session and listing of each topic actually discussed, persons present, and each action taken in the session:

Topic Description	Statutory Authority	Reason for Closed Session Discussion	Persons Present	Action Taken
To discuss appointments to various County boards and committees	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Public discussion would discourage individuals from volunteering to serve	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris	No action
To consider the acquisition of property in Easton for a public purpose	GP § 3-305(b) (3)	To protect the County's bargaining position regarding the possible acquisition of real property for a public purpose	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris	No action
For legal advice regarding lease of property	GP § 3-305(b) (7)(8)	Attorney-client privilege	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris	No action

		TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT 8/18/2026	
OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK			
OPERATING FUNDS AT		8/11/2026	\$ 59,274,530.43
Returned Paymentus Payments			(9,790.83)
Returned Checks #2125, #839, #1198			(21,376.25)
Interest on Accounts 7/2026			128,184.10
Bank Charges 7/2026			(11,128.99)
Deposits			4,694,560.57
Checks			(190,133.49)
ACH Disbursements			(1,718,509.66)
EFT's			(557,373.54)
Wire Transfers			(6,498,492.51)
Voided Check			779.77
OPERATING FUNDS AT		8/18/2026	\$ 55,091,249.60
PETTY CASH FUNDS			\$ 18,455.00
INVESTMENT FUNDS			
		<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)		3.74%	\$ 24,426,167.42
Bayvanguard Bank		3.89%	\$ 11,743,519.58
Shore United Money Market Account		3.63%	\$ 65,684,403.99
INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL			\$ 101,872,545.99
<u>TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</u>			\$ 156,963,795.59



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND
WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT
8/25/2026

OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK

OPERATING FUNDS AT **8/18/2026** **\$ 55,091,249.60**

Total ADP Payroll PPE 8/14/2026 (1,131,919.26)

Returned Paymentus Payments (261.34)

Returned Checks #989413, #710, #1584 (6,136.96)

Community Center Sales & Use Tax Due 8/20/2026 (41.40)

Golf Course Sales & Use Tax Due 8/20/2026 (3,999.18)

Deposits 1,887,910.62

Checks (115,722.15)

ACH Disbursements (3,352,521.22)

OPERATING FUNDS AT **8/25/2026** **\$ 52,368,558.71**

PETTY CASH FUNDS **\$ 18,455.00**

INVESTMENT FUNDS

Yield

Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP) 3.75% \$ 24,426,167.42

Bayvanguard Bank 3.89% \$ 11,743,519.58

Shore United Money Market Account 3.63% \$ 65,684,403.99

INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL **\$ 101,872,545.99**

TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS **\$ 154,241,104.70**