



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

March 22, 2022

Present – President Chuck Callahan, Vice President Pete Lesher, Frank Divilio, Corey Pack, Laura Price, County Manager Clay Stamp, and County Attorney Patrick Thomas.

- I. Agenda – The Agenda for Tuesday, March 22, 2022 was brought forward for approval. Mr. Divilio requested that the Agenda be amended to have Item XII. *Update on Connect Talbot Broadband Project* presented prior to Item XI. *Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds and Results of Community Survey*, and to have Item VI. *Proclamation: Recognition of ICU Nurses* presented prior to Item V. *Update to Board of Health*; there was no objection. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Mr. Lesher, the Council approved the Agenda of Tuesday, March 22, 2022, as amended, by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Lesher – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye
- II. Minutes – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, February 22, 2022.
- III. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, March 15, 2022 and Tuesday, March 22, 2022.
- IV. Proclamation: Recognition of ICU Nurses – UMMS – Shore Regional Health – The Clerk read a proclamation into the record which spoke of the key role of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) nurses in healthcare systems throughout the nation and the world in helping patients who are extremely ill or injured and who are fighting for their lives, particularly over the past two plus years during the COVID-19 pandemic. It spoke of the nurses’ dedication and sacrifice to care for their patients, often under extreme circumstances, and sometimes at the risk of their own health or the health of their families. Dr. Peyman Otmishi, Pulmonology and Internal Medicine, UMMS, spoke of the special qualities of ICU nurses, who he called “heroes”. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the proclamation by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Lesher – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye
- V. Update to Board of Health – Maria Maguire, M.D., Talbot County Health Officer – Dr. Maguire utilized a PowerPoint presentation to update the Council on the following: (1) COVID-19 – She stated that since her

last update in January, rates of COVID-19 in Talbot County and Maryland had declined. She outlined recommendations for the public, the secondary complications of “long-term” COVID-19, cited various therapeutics to treat the disease, and stated that more testing is now available, including at-home tests which have been distributed to the libraries and other community venues. She stated that the Health Department’s testing site at the Talbot County Business Center (the former Black & Decker building) will continue to operate five days a week for the next several months; (2) Infectious Diseases – Influenza – Dr. Maguire stated that although rates of influenza are currently low in Talbot County and Maryland, the rates are rising throughout the country, particularly in the Central and South Central United States. She provided statistical information on the number of current cases, hospitalizations and deaths, and stated that the increase in cases is most likely due to the protective effects formerly provided by social distancing and masks and that rates of vaccination against influenza are lower than in previous years. She reminded everyone of the importance of getting vaccinated; Tuberculosis (TB) – Dr. Maguire stated that there had been a recent outbreak in Talbot County involving two individuals and that the Health Department is involved in contact tracing of this extremely contagious and very serious disease; the most recent previous outbreaks in the county occurred in 2017 and 2010; HIV – Dr. Maguire stated that as of the end of 2020, there were 79 individuals living in Talbot County with HIV; over the past six years Talbot County has had six diagnosed cases. She stated that the Health Department, in addition to testing for COVID-19, will be utilizing its mobile testing units for rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing; Avian Influenza – Dr. Maguire stated that there has been an outbreak of Avian Influenza in Cecil County and Queen Anne’s County, but not in Talbot County. She stated that the disease, which affects all types of birds, including poultry; due to its highly contagious nature, State and federal officials have expanded their surveillance in order to protect the poultry industry on the Eastern Shore. She stated that although it is theoretically possible that the disease can be transmitted to humans, there are no known cases in the United States and the CDC has assured the public that the disease is not a significant risk to humans. Dr. Maguire concluded her presentation by stating that the Talbot County Head Start program is now in its new location at the Easton Elementary School, thanks in part to Community Development Block Grant funding received by the County for the project; an Open House is planned for later in the spring. She stated that this week is LGBTQ Health Week and the Health Department seeks to empower individuals in that community to ensure they have access to quality healthcare; events are also planned for National Public Health Week (April 4 – 10, 2022). Council discussion ensued with Dr. Maguire. Dr. Maguire will continue to update the Board of Health on a regular or as-needed basis.

- VI. Proclamation: International Transgender Day of Visibility – March 31, 2022 – The Clerk read a proclamation into the record which spoke of the fear and discrimination faced by transgender individuals of all racial and ethnic backgrounds who desire to live openly and authentically and to contribute to their communities, and encouraged all citizens to treat each other with dignity. Tina Jones, Chair, Board of Directors, Delmarva Pride Center, briefed the Council on the nature and purpose of her organization which serves the transgender and LBGT communities in the Mid-Shore area. She expressed appreciation to the Council for their commitment to promote the full inclusion of all individuals regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race or ethnic background. Council discussion ensued with Ms. Jones. Ms. Jones provided information on upcoming community events sponsored by the transgender and LBGT community. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the proclamation by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye

Mr. Leshner presented the Proclamation to Ms. Jones and Lisa Barry who accepted on behalf of their organization.

VII. Introduction of Administrative Resolutions:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TALBOT COUNTY TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A SECTION 5303, 5304, 5307, 5309, 5310, AND 5311 GRANT UNDER THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ACT was read into the record by the Clerk; the administrative resolution was inadvertently omitted from the Council agenda for Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at which time the Delmarva Community Transit's FY2023 Annual Transportation Plan was presented and subsequently approved by the Council. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the Administrative Resolution by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Pack - Aye

A RESOLUTION OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND (THE "COUNTY"), AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$600,000) PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF BILL NO. 1493 ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 (THE "PUBLIC LOCAL LAW"), SECTION 10-203 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND (2013 REPLACEMENT VOLUME, AS AMENDED) (THE "ENABLING ACT") AND SECTION 623 OF THE CHARTER OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND (THE "CHARTER"), THE BONDS, TO BE DESIGNATED "TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (ST. MICHAELS WASTEWATER SYSTEM BELT FILTER)", THE NET PROCEEDS OF THE SALE THEREOF TO BE USED AND APPLIED FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF FINANCING OR REFINANCING REHABILITATION IMPROVEMENTS TO CERTAIN WASTEWATER FACILITIES LOCATED WITHIN THE COUNTY AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN, TOGETHER WITH FINANCING OR REFINANCING OF THE ACQUISITION OF ALL NECESSARY PROPERTY RIGHTS AND EQUIPMENT, AND RELATED ARCHITECTURAL, FINANCIAL, LEGAL, PLANNING AND ENGINEERING EXPENSES; PRESCRIBING THE FORM AND TENOR OF THE BONDS AND THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE THEREOF AT PRIVATE SALE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING THROUGH RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ("USDA"); AUTHORIZING THE CONSOLIDATION OF SEPARATE SERIES OF BONDS INTO ONE OR MORE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE PROMPT PAYMENT OF THE MATURING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS; COVENANTING TO LEVY AND COLLECT ALL TAXES NECESSARY TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SUCH BONDS, SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATION SET FORTH IN SECTION 614 OF THE COUNTY CHARTER; AND GENERALLY RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND DELIVERY OF THE BONDS, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Ray Clarke, County Engineer, stated that the administrative resolution relates to the replacement of the belt filter press at the Region II (St. Michaels) Wastewater Treatment Plant and is required as part of the process for securing a loan through the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development. Upon motion by Mr.

Divilio, seconded by Mr. Pack, the Council approved the Administrative Resolution by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Divilio – Aye

Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Price – Aye

Mr. Pack - Aye

VIII. Introduction of Legislation:

A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 24 (BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS) OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE IN ORDER TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE V ENTITLED “POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGING COMMITTEE” was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, County Attorney, Patrick Thomas, stated that the creation of the Police Accountability Board and Administrative Charging Committee is required under the Maryland Police Accountability Board Act of 2021 (the “Act”). He stated that the majority of the language incorporated in the legislation is required under the Act and regulations which are being considered by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission. Mr. Thomas stated that Council had held public work sessions on the proposed legislation. Council commended Mr. Thomas, Sheriff Gamble, and the local police chiefs for their input toward the wording for the legislation. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Divilio, Mr. Leshner, Mr. Pack, and Ms. Price as Bill No. 1497. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

IX. Public Hearings on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Projects:

- Update on Countywide Food Program administered by the St. Michaels Community Center and the Senior Food Program administered by Upper Shore Aging, Inc.
- Update on Bay Hundred Senior Center/Perkins Family YMCA – Site work for new senior center and YMCA located at 300 Seymour Avenue, St. Michaels, MD 21663

Prior to the public hearings, Mary Kay Verdery, Talbot County Grants Administrator, stated that the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) requires projects which receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to hold a second public hearing to provide an update to the public on the project itself and the progress of spending for the project. She stated that the Countywide Food Program applied for a CDBG grant in June 2020 and executed an agreement with DHCD in August 2020; \$150,000 of the \$250,000 awarded was distributed to the Countywide Food Program administered by the St. Michaels Community Center for staff costs, kitchen equipment and food and supplies to serve low-to-moderate income beneficiaries; conditions of the grant required that 420 beneficiaries be served, 370 of whom had to be of low-to-moderate income; as of October 2021, 467 individuals had been served. The remaining \$100,000 was distributed to the Senior Food Program administered by Upper Shore Aging, Inc. for their homebound senior citizen food delivery program (Meals on Wheels). She stated that Upper Shore Aging, Inc. met their beneficiary count in the first quarter of the grant cycle (August 2020 – August 2021). Ms. Verdery utilized a PowerPoint presentation to provide photographs of the volunteers, equipment and beneficiaries of services. Ms. Verdery expressed her appreciation to all the individuals involved in the provision of services; Patrick Rofe, Executive Director, St. Michaels Community Center, and Childlene Brooks, Manager, Brookletts Place, the Talbot County

Senior Center expressed their appreciation to Ms. Verdery and to all those who help them provide the services offered by their respective organizations to the citizens of Talbot County; Council discussion ensued with Mr. Rofo and Ms. Brooks.

Ms. Verdery then updated the Council on the Bay Hundred Senior Center/Perkins Family YMCA CDBG project. She stated that the County applied for a grant in June 2018 and executed an agreement in November 2018 for a 24,000 square foot building at the St. Michaels High School campus on Seymour Avenue in St. Michaels to be used as a shared space for a senior center and YMCA facility. Ms. Verdery stated that CDBG provided \$200,000 in funding for site work; additional State grants and other funding sources provided over \$8 million for the project which was completed from groundbreaking in late 2018 to the ribbon-cutting in June 2019. Ms. Verdery stated that the grant agreement required that 850 low-to-moderate income beneficiaries be served, including 288 by December 2021; however, due to the statewide closure of senior centers during the height of the COVID-19 crisis, the goal was not reached; now that the senior centers have reopened, the numbers are again being tracked. Ms. Verdery provided photographs of the stages of construction and various amenities of the facility, including a central kitchen, dual dining room and gymnasium, warm water exercise pool, wellness center, childcare and nursery centers. She stated that during the COVID-19 shutdown, online services and Zoom classes were provided. Ms. Verdery expressed her appreciation to the various agencies, partnerships and volunteers instrumental in bringing the project to fruition. Ann DeMart, Manager, Bay Hundred Senior Center, Robbie Gill, CEO, YMCA of the Chesapeake, and Tracy Eutsler, Branch Executive Director, YMCA of the Chesapeake, outlined what the joint facility means to the community and expressed their appreciation to the Council and the State of Maryland for bringing the vision to completion.

Members of the public were then afforded an opportunity to comment on the projects.

- X. Update on Connect Talbot Broadband Project – Hugh F. Grunden, P.E., President & CEO, Easton Utilities; Steve Ochse, Senior Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, Easton Utilities; Ted Book, Director of Easton Velocity, Easton Utilities – Mr. Grunden briefed the Council on the Connect Talbot project, a partnership begun in 2019 between Easton Utilities and Talbot County Government to provide broadband access for all underserved and unserved residents in Talbot County; the project is being made possible through funding from various State and federal programs. He stated that Easton Utilities, Talbot County and the State of Maryland submitted an application for funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural e-Connectivity Pilot Program (Re-Connect) and had recently been notified of an award of \$20 million which will reach 92%, or approximately 3,300 of the 3,600 unserved properties in Talbot County; the timeframe for connection of the properties is 48 months. He stated that Easton Utilities applied for additional grant funding from the State of Maryland in the sum of \$3.8 million to complete connection to the remaining 8% (300) of the properties. Mr. Grunden provided a map detailing where Connect Talbot construction is in progress, customers currently served by Easton Velocity, as well as areas to be served by USDA ReConnect funding. He stated that the only grant funding requiring a customer contribution is the ReConnect funding; the customer contribution in aid of construction (CIAC) in building the foundation as well as for lengthy or difficult service drops; the sum needed is \$4 million. Mr. Grunden stated that in anticipation of receipt of grant funding and the increasing cost of materials, Easton Utilities has been stockpiling items necessary for construction of the project, including 1.2 million feet of fiber. He requested Council's consideration to designate \$1.75 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding; the ARPA funding, in addition to an anticipated State grant in the sum of \$1 million and \$1.25 million from Easton Utilities, will close the gap in the customer contribution for the Connect Talbot project. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Grunden regarding various facets of the project.
- XI. Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds and Results of Community Survey – Pete Leshner, Vice-President, Talbot County Council; Cassandra Vanhooser, Director, Department of Economic

Development and Tourism – Ms. Vanhooser stated that Talbot County had received funding in the sum of \$7.2 million through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), introduced members of the task force designated to determine how the funding should be distributed: Councilman Pete Leshner, County Manager, Clay Stamp, Assistant County Manager, Jessica Morris, Finance Director, Joye Nagle, Ken Calcagnini, Grants Clerk, Ray Clarke, County Engineer, Nancy Andrew, Executive Director, Talbot Family Network, and Ms. Vanhooser. Ms. Vanhooser stated that a survey was available to Talbot County citizens in order to garner comment as to how they would like to see the funding used. Ms. Vanhooser utilized a PowerPoint presentation to outline categories permissible for use of the funding including: investments in infrastructure (water, sewer, broadband); investments in public health to provide resources in the continuing fight against COVID-19; assistance to households to offset the impact of COVID-19 on county residents; assistance to small businesses to help them weather the economic uncertainties; investments in tourism to support targeted industries hit the hardest during COVID-19; and economic recovery to build a strong, resilient, equitable recovery. Ms. Vanhooser stated that the funding was received in May 2021, is required to be obligated by December 31, 2024 and must be fully spent by December 31, 2026. She provided results of the survey to which 634 county residents responded indicating how they thought the County should use the ARPA funds; 52% of the survey respondents were from Easton. She stated that the top three priorities listed by the respondents were Infrastructure (expansion of broadband for education, remote work and telehealth); Public Health; and Assistance to Households, respectively. She then presented the recommendations of the task force for distribution of funding as follows: \$1.75 million toward expansion of broadband to the unserved and underserved properties in Talbot County; \$105,000 for improvements to the failing septic system at the Chesapeake Center (on St. Michaels Road) by connecting the facility to the County sewer system; \$1 million toward funding for an EMS station/back-up 911 Center in the northern part of the county; \$300,000 for funding of an additional EMS unit for the Talbot County Department of Emergency Services; \$500,000 for the creation of a grant fund for Talbot County fire companies; \$250,000 for the funding of a Talbot County Non-profit grant fund; \$150,000 to replenish the shelves of food banks in Talbot County; \$50,000 for a new sound system at the Talbot County Free Library; \$160,000 for a Talbot County Information Technology cybersecurity project; and \$235,000 toward administrative costs associated with distribution of the ARPA funds. The total funding recommended to be distributed in the first round is \$4.5 million, with \$2.7 in reserve for recommendations to be made at a later date. Council discussion ensued with Ms. Vanhooser. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved distribution of funding for the following task force recommendations: \$1.75 million toward expansion of broadband; \$105,000 for the Chesapeake Center sewer connection; and \$500,000 for equipment for the fire companies; Council discussion ensued with Mr. Stamp regarding the funding for the fire companies. The Council approved the motion and second by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye

The Council will be reviewing the outstanding ARPA funding recommendation at a future meeting.

XII. County Manager’s Report:

- A. Talbot County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Glen Gannon to a five-year term on the Talbot County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board; said term will expire on March 13, 2027, Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved the reappointment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye

- B. Talbot County Commission on the Aging – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Marion Donahue, Ellen Taggart and Lee Newcomb to three-year terms on the Talbot County Commission on the Aging; said terms will expire on April 1, 2025. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the reappointments by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye

- C. Talbot County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Thomas “Tom” Klein to the Talbot County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board as the Town of Easton’s representative; said term will complete the unexpired term of Jeffrey “Jeff” Parks which will expire on July 1, 2023. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the appointment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye

- D. Bid No. 21-04, Talbot County Senior Center Parking Lot Expansion– Requested Council approval of the County Engineer’s recommendation to award Bid No. 21-04 to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Duvall Brothers, Inc. in the sum of \$129,220; funding for the project is included in the FY22 budget. Council discussion ensued with County Engineer, Ray Clarke. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved the award by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye

- E. Request from Talbot County Finance Office – Requested Council approval of a USDA Rural Development Loan Resolution in the sum of \$600,000; approval of the resolution is required as part of the County’s financing of a replacement belt filter press at the Region II (St. Michaels) Wastewater Treatment Plant. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved the Loan Resolution by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye

- F. Request from Easton Airport – Requested Council approval of the Airport Manager’s recommendation to accept Airport consultant, AECOM’s Price Proposal for general professional engineering services for full program design for Runway 4-22 safety improvements in the sum of \$1,885,261; the Airport’s portion of the project totals \$188,526.10 and is available in the Airport’s budget; and
- G. Request from Easton Airport– Requested Council approval to have Easton Airport apply for and accept Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Project (AIP) funding in the sum of \$1.8 million; if funding is approved, the Airport will move forward with the project outlined in AECOM’s Price Proposal. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the requests by voting 5 – 0 as follows:
- Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Pack - Aye
- H. Bid No. 21-09, Master Plan – Bill Burton Fishing Pier State Park – Talbot County, Maryland – Requested Council approval of the Director of the Department of Parks & Recreation’s recommendation to award Bid No. 21-09 the lowest bidder, A. Morton Thomas (AMT), in the sum of \$55,464.00, and to allow staff to negotiate a best and final price to meet the \$50,000 set for the project. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved the recommendation by voting 5 – 0 as follows:
- Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye
- I. Regional Agricultural Scrap Tire Event – Mr. Stamp stated that Mid-Shore Regional Landfill (Mid-Shore II) in Ridgely, Caroline County, will be held on March 21 through March 25, 2022 and again on March 28 through April 1, 2022.
- J. Request from the Talbot County Office of Law – Requested Council approval of the County Attorney’s request for approval of a letter to be sent to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in response to MDE’s letter dated February 3, 2022 requesting clarification of the County’s position regarding the proposed Lakeside/Trappe East project. County Attorney, Patrick Thomas, stated that he had drafted a letter in response to Lee Currey’s February 3, 2022 letter explaining what happened with respect to Resolution Nos. 308 and 313 and the March 8, 2022 Council meeting. Mr. Thomas stated that he also noted the introduction of Resolution No.327 in the response to MDE and that prior to tonight’s meeting he had spoken with Mr. Leshner and Ms. Price who had requested a couple of revisions to the letter. Mr. Thomas outlined the proposed changes to the letter

and Council discussion ensued. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Mr. Pack, the Council approved submittin the letter as originally drafted by voting 3 – 2 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Nay
Ms. Price – Nay
Mr. Pack - Aye

- K. Mid-Shore Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Day – Mr. Stamp stated that Maryland Environmental Service (MES) will be hosting a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Day on Saturday, April 2, 2022, rain or shine, at the Queen Anne’s County Public Works Facility located at 312 Safety Drive in Centreville. More information may be obtained by contacting MES at 443-685-4073 or the Talbot County Department of Public Works at 410-770-8170.

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

XIV. Council Comments:

Ms. Price - Ms. Price provided an update on SB997 (Correctional Officers’ Retirement System – Talbot County), which the Council had requested Senator Eckardt sponsor. She stated that she had had the privilege of sitting next to Senator Eckardt to see the bill pass quickly out of the Pension Subcommittee, receive full approval from the Budget and Taxation Committee and pass unanimously in the Senate; the bill will now go to the House. She stated that although we talk a lot about all the counties, sometimes, in her opinion, it is really nice to be able to do something that just affects Talbot County. Ms. Price then updated the Council on the hearings related to Highway User Revenues. She stated that approximately 20 elected county officials testified at the first hearing and, in her opinion, were a force to be reckoned with and that the script could not have been written any better because each person who testified had something different to say. She stated that the House held a virtual hearing the next day and, in her opinion, made mincemeat of the bill, only increasing the amount going to the counties by a couple tenth of a percent over the next three years – the counties currently receive 3.2 percent and over the next three years will get 3.6 percent, following which the amount reverts back to 3.2 percent. Ms. Price stated that the counties used to receive 15 percent. She praised the efforts of Senator McCray and the other bipartisan sponsors and the attempts to get the proposal to a conference committee, acknowledging that the counties were not going to get 100 percent of what they wanted but hopefully would get something more than they did from the House. She stated that, in her opinion, it’s a shame when the way the program was designed and built for 40 years that the funding was supposed to come back to the counties. Ms. Price briefed the Council on the “EMS Transport” bill, which currently reimburses \$100 per ambulance ride only if the patient is transported to a hospital; it does not recognize transport to a doctor’s office, an urgent care facility or treatment on site. She stated that the legislation is stuck because it just keeps being looked at from a fiscal note standpoint, not from a savings standpoint so we are working really hard to try to get them to recognize where the savings are. Ms. Price concluded her comments by stating that

since MACo did not have its opening reception, they will be talking to the delegates and senators tomorrow night as we feed them crab cakes, wine, and beer – and hopefully make a little bit more progress. She stated that more updates will be coming in upcoming meetings.

Mr. Pack - Mr. Pack stated that, in his opinion, allowing our local Detention Center officers to go into the Correctional Officers' Retirement System (CORS) system will be, in his opinion, really huge. He reiterated a previous speaker's comments that last year the Council approved having the Sheriff's deputies join the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System (LEOPS) and the same applies to our Detention Center officers. He stated that inmates are sometimes held at the Detention Center for over five years when they are only supposed to stay for 18 months; therefore, the correctional officers are seeing the same class of individuals that a State corrections officer would see and deal with; that, combined with changes made in Annapolis related to requirements for opioid treatment and other things, places a greater demand on our correctional officers. Mr. Pack commended Senator Eckardt for pushing the matter through the Senate and stated that hopefully it will also pass in the House, because, in his opinion, we need to send a clear signal to our Detention Center workers that we have their backs when it comes to retirement – a 30 or 35-year system is not the place to be when you are dealing with a certain clientele. Mr. Pack expressed his appreciation to Ms. Price for her update on the matter – it means a lot to him personally. He concluded his comments by stating that it was great to be back in the Bradley Room for the second time in a row and he hopes it continues. He thanked Dr. Maguire for her report which noted that everything is trending down.

Mr. Divilio - Mr. Divilio stated that spring has sprung and the weather is starting to turn which means that people are going to start taking the covers off their pools or start shopping to put a pool, dock or patio in so people can hang out. He stated that it also means that people are going to start renovation projects when the ground dries out so to all those individuals who have been waiting on permits, he apologized for not being persuasive enough to end the discussion on Lakeside when we are directing growth next to a municipality that is going to have two ENR wastewater treatment facilities. He stated that, in his opinion he cannot think of a better scenario – it's across Route 50 because it's farther away from the water which is another win; it's in a municipality that needs growth – another win; and the waste is going to be treated to ENR standards, with two facilities – another win. Yet, we still have other failing systems – if you are in Tilghman and you are flushing the toilet, you're polluting the water worse than what is going on in Trappe. He stated that he hasn't taken the time to address that; he hasn't taken the time to meet with Planning and Zoning and apologize to them for all the extra work they have had to do to explain the Trappe project to him, and for the hours upon hours that aren't billable that are costing Talbot County a fortune. He stated that the County department heads are not cheap and they are spending a lot of time and resources not getting permits issued, which is what their job is. Mr. Divilio apologized for not being a better politician and being able to fix this. He stated that he had received an email from Dan Watson dated March 7th at 7:43 a.m. stating that Resolution 308, which contained the rescission language in our petition from last summer, will be withdrawn or defeated tomorrow night – but don't worry, it served us all very well. It raised Lakeside up as an issue. Mr. Divilio stated that he kept asking and had a lot of frustration – What's the issue? Do you not want it? How do you stop it? Nobody told me how to stop it; nobody who was against it could tell me how to stop it; nobody could tell me what better way to treat the water than with an ENR treatment facility because there isn't anything better. He stated that he's uncertain as to what discussion the Council is

going to keep having on this issue, but, in his opinion, we are going to miss out on a lot of pool parties while people are waiting on permits that are already taking 12 weeks. Mr. Divilio concluded his comments by apologizing to County staff and county residents, stating that he will try to do better.

Mr. Leshler - No comments.

Mr. Callahan- Mr. Callahan expressed his appreciation to Hugh Grunden and the team at Easton Utilities for their collaborative efforts to provide broadband to the underserved and unserved areas of the county. He stated that, in his opinion, it is huge for Talbot County and its residents. Mr. Callahan expressed his appreciation to Mr. Leshler and Cassandra Vanhooser, Director, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, for all their work to prioritize distribution of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding received by the County to help the citizens live a better life and that he was proud to be a part of it.

XV. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in Closed Session to discuss personnel matters; on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 4:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 4:30 p.m., and on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Bradley Room for Budget deliberations, and to reconvene on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 in Open Session at 4:30 p.m. and then adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of legal, personnel and real estate matters as listed on the statement for closing the meeting, and at 6:00 p.m. for the regularly scheduled meeting by voting 5– 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan - Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Leshler – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

The transcript of the March 22, 2022 County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

XVI. Summary of Closed Session Held on March 22, 2022:

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

Time of closed session: 5:00 p.m. to 5:55 p.m.
Place of closed session: Bradley Meeting Room and 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, Divilio, Leshler, Pack, Price
Members opposed: None
Abstaining: None
Absent: None

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 possible acquisition of property in Easton for a public purpose	GP § 3-305(b)(3)	To protect County's bargaining position regarding the potential acquisition of a specific parcel of real property for a public purpose	Chuck Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Laura Price, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas, Joye Nagle, Doug James	No action
To discuss appointments to various County boards and committees	GP § 3-305 (b) (1)(i)	Public discussion of specific appointees could discourage individuals from volunteering to serve on County boards and committees	Chuck Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Laura Price, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action
To discuss contract negotiations for Bid No. 21-09	GP § 3-305 (b) (14)	To discuss contract negotiations before bid is awarded	Chuck Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Laura Price, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action
Update on litigation (Civil Action No: 1:21-cv-01088)	GP § 3-305 (b) (7)(8)	Confidential attorney-client discussion regarding status of litigation	Chuck Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Laura Price, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action
Legal advice on opioid litigation	GP § 3-305 (b) (7)(8)	Confidential attorney-client discussion regarding status of litigation	Chuck Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Laura Price, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	Council concurred with proposal as presented

CASH STATEMENT 3/15/2022

BALANCE 3/08/2022	53,936,190.47
TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 3/11/2022	(96,586.57)
ELECTION BOARD PPE 2/8/2022 & 2/15/2022	(13,136.49)
AGRICULTURAL TRANSFER TAX PAYMENT 1/2022	(1,000.00)
CIGNA HEALTH CLAIMS PAID THROUGH 3/7/2022	(53,603.27)
TALBOT COUNTY 2002 AIRPORT FACILITIES PMT	(42,260.00)
RETURNED CHECK(S)# 786 & 1010	(1,656.93)
REIMB TALBOT COUNTY FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER	(11,433.69)
REIMB EASTON HIGH SCHOOL ROOF PROJECT	(505,706.49)
AECOM/ RJO SERVICES/ OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL PHASE 2	(110,258.11)
STATE REPORT 2/2022	(62,010.89)
USDA/ RD MTHLY BOND PYMT #97-08	(1,304.00)
PENSION DED PPE 3/11/2022 COLA	(5,692.63)
POSTAGE WIRE	(3,000.00)
DEPOSITS	822,279.36
CHECKS	(848,855.38)
BALANCE 3/15/2022	<u>53,001,965.38</u>

INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.11%	20,500,000.00
BAYVANGUARD BANK			10,221,316.07
TOTAL INVESTED			<u>30,721,316.07</u>
PETTY CASH BALANCE			<u>12,175.00</u>
<u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>			<u>83,735,456.45</u>

CASH STATEMENT 3/22/2022

BALANCE 3/15/2022	53,001,965.38
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TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 3/04/2022	(696,059.51)
CIGNA HEALTH CLAIMS PAID THROUGH 3/14/2022	(89,146.68)
PENSION DED PPE 3/4/2022	(42,212.07)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 3/4/2022	(19,944.04)
DEFERRED COMP PPE 3/4/2022 PLAN 401 (A)	(6,642.37)
SALES & USE HOG NECK GOLF COURSE DUE 2/20/22	(22.95)
SALES & USE COMMUNITY CENTER DUE 2/20/22	(564.31)
SALES & USE REPURPOSING DUE 2/20/22	(11.86)
SALES & USE HOG NECK GOLF COURSE DUE 3/20/22	(250.69)
SALES & USE COMMUNITY CENTER DUE 3/20/22	(548.87)
SALES& USE REPURPOSING DUE 3/20/22	(120.04)
TALBOT COUNTY VISA PAYMENTS 3/2022	(21,689.51)
W/F GOLF EQUIP LEASE PYMT	(4,092.00)
USDA/ RD QTRLY BOND PYMT #92-11	(60,886.00)
USDA/ RD QTRLY BOND PYMT #92-09	(26,240.00)
INTEREST ON ACCOUNTS 2/2022	3,375.06
DEPOSITS	512,185.45
CHECKS	(1,123,923.39)
VOIDED CHECK(S) # 357561, 357578, 357693, 355790	52,351.77
BALANCE 3/22/2022	51,477,523.37

INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.14%	20,500,000.00
BAYVANGUARD BANK			10,221,316.07
TOTAL INVESTED			<u>30,721,316.07</u>
PETTY CASH BALANCE			<u>12,175.00</u>
<u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>			<u>82,211,014.44</u>