



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

May 24, 2022

Present – President Chuck Callahan, Vice President Pete Lesher, Frank Divilio, Laura Everngam Price, Assistant County Manager Jessica Morris, and County Attorney Patrick Thomas. Council member Corey Pack and County Manager Clay Stamp were absent.

- I. Agenda – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda of Tuesday, May 24, 2022.
- II. Minutes – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, Tuesday, May 3, 2022.
- III. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, May 24, 2022.
- IV. Certificate of Recognition to Kelly Griffith, Ed. D., Superintendent, Talbot County Public Schools –The Clerk read a certificate into the record in recognition of the four decades of service to Talbot County Public Schools by Dr. Kelly Griffith, retiring Superintendent, Talbot County Public Schools. Dr. Griffith expressed her appreciation to the Council for their support throughout the years and stated that the children and staff of the county have been the heart and soul of her work. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Lesher, the Council approved the proclamation by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Lesher – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye

Council members expressed their appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Griffith for her service and commitment to the children and citizens of Talbot County. Council discussion ensued with Dr. Griffith.

The Council presented the proclamation to Dr. Griffith.

- V. Proclamation – National Gun Violence Awareness Day – June 3, 2022 – The Clerk read a proclamation into the record which spoke of the prevalence of gun violence in the nation and how jurisdictions throughout the country are working to end gun violence which is responsible for approximately 16,000 homicides each year in the United States. The proclamation also spoke of how June 3rd came to be a day on which citizens are encouraged to wear orange, which symbolizes the value of human life and which is worn by hunters to announce themselves to other hunters, in order to raise awareness about gun violence, to honor the lives of its victims and survivors, to renew a commitment to reduce gun violence by encouraging responsible gun ownership and keeping firearms out of the wrong hands. Upon motion by Mr. Lesher, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved the proclamation by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Lesher – Aye
Ms. Price - Aye

Mary Hunt-Miller of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, briefed the Council on the focus of her organization, securing guns from children and teaching parents to safely secure guns and ammunition. Council discussion ensued with Ms. Hunt-Miller.

Mr. Lesher presented the Proclamation to Ms. Hunt-Miller and several representatives of her organization in attendance.

- VI. Update and Request by Mid-Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. – Kathryn Dilley, LCSW-C, Executive Director, Mid-Shore Behavioral Health, Inc.; Shannon Joyce, MPH, CHES, Behavioral Health Coordinator, PASRR & Aging, Mid-Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. Ms. Dilley introduced Shannon Joyce whose area of focus is the aging and older adult population. Ms. Dilley stated that May has been recognized as Mental Health Month since 1949 and this year’s theme is “Together for Mental Health.” She outlined the mission and vision of Mid-Shore Behavioral Health which serves as the core service agency for the five mid-shore counties and is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2022. Ms. Dilley stated that since the outbreak of COVID-19, the responsibilities of her organization have tripled and as such, much effort has been to find and bring sufficient resources to the communities served by Mid-Shore Behavioral Health to assist those seeking mental health and substance abuse services. She briefed the Council on several projects over the past couple years including, working with each of the five local health departments’ addiction authorities in the Mid-Shore Region as the Mid-Shore Planning Collaborative to develop a regional plan for community behavioral health services. She stated that the State is focusing on enhancing its crisis response system and Mid-Shore Behavioral Health was selected to oversee the crisis response system for all nine counties on Maryland’s Eastern Shore; the focus is to bring more crisis response teams to the region to meet with children, adolescents and transitional age youth. She provided information on the Care Traffic Control System, for which Mid-Shore Behavioral Health utilizes layered software to fast track individuals from crisis response to providers or into treatment; Mid-Shore Behavioral Health is the second pilot project for the Care Traffic Control System in the state. Ms. Dilley briefed the Council on Mid-Shore Behavioral Health’s work on expansion of the number Safe Stations, the funding of two additional Clubhouse initiatives for work with youth at risk for substance use, particularly opioid use, collaboration with other counties and law enforcement on the Bay Bridge project for prevention of suicide, a farming wellness initiative to address the sometimes silent struggle in that segment of the population, their work with Channel Marker to provide crisis beds for a more focused treatment environment than that available in an emergency room setting and on the new position of COVID-19 wellness ambassador, an individual who will work with clients of mental and behavioral health providers to promote universal precautions and vaccine initiatives in that community. Ms. Dilley concluded her presentation by stating that 1,589 individuals in Talbot County received mental health services and 707 received substance abuse services through the public behavioral health system. Ms. Joyce provided information on the many organizations in which Mid-Shore Behavioral Health participates, sponsors and promotes, including, the Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council, Talbot Goes Purple, the Opioid Task Force, University of Maryland Shore Regional Health, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) calls during the COVID-19 pandemic, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Walks Your Way Maryland, Talbot County Public Schools, and the Out of Darkness Suicide Awareness Walk.

Ms. Dilley requested Council approval of a Letter of Agreement for FY23 designating Mid-Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. as the core service agency with regard to participating counties’ responsibilities for the management of the public health system; no County funding is required. Upon motion and second, the Council approved the Letter of Agreement for FY23. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the Letter of Agreement for FY23 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- VII. Update from Talbot County Department of Social Services on Low Income Household Water Assistance Program and Talbot County Children’s Advocacy Center – Linda Webb, Director, Talbot County Department of Social Services; Juana Blue, Assistant Director for Family Investment Administration, Talbot County Department of Social Services – Ms. Webb stated that Ms. Blue’s division of the Department of Social Services administers all public assistance programs including SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), temporary cash assistance, temporary disability assistance, emergency assistance to families with children, and the workforce development program. Ms. Blue briefed the Council on a new federally funded assistance program, the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program, available through September 2023, or until the \$72,113 in allotted funds are gone. She stated that the program offers income-qualified citizens a one-time payment from \$100 up to \$2,000 on a first-come, first-serve basis toward arrearages for water bills, to avoid disconnects, and wastewater services, and outlined the criteria for eligibility. She stated that individuals seeking assistance can apply at the Department of Social Services, the Neighborhood Service Center or online through the <https://mymdthink.maryland.gov> portal. Council discussion ensued with Ms. Blue. Ms. Webb then provided an update on the Children’s Advocacy Center, a comprehensive response to child allegations of child sex abuse, serious physical abuse or extreme neglect. She outlined the duties of the multidisciplinary team of professionals who investigate allegations of child abuse in a child-friendly atmosphere and provide various services to the child and non-offending caregiver(s), including navigation of the court system. She stated that the Children’s Advocacy Center has partnered with the local hospital, currently University of Maryland Shore Regional Health, for the past 18 years and operates the five-county Mid-Shore medical program and provides medical examinations for children who have experienced sexual or serious physical abuse. She stated that the Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) also provides financial support, mental health therapy and independent living skills to the young women as they grow older. Ms. Webb concluded her presentation by providing statistical information on the number of individuals and their families served by the CAC from 2018 to date. Ms. Webb will continue to update the Council on a regular or as-needed basis.
- VIII. Presentation on Chapel District Elementary School Feasibility Study – Kevin Shafer, Director of Operations, Talbot County Public Schools; Tom King, AIA, Principal, Noelker and Hull Associates, Inc. – Mr. Shafer and Mr. King requested Council support for the Chapel District Elementary School Feasibility Study, prepared by Mr. King, and which is required by the Maryland Department of General Services and the Interagency for School Construction in order for a school construction project to be eligible for State funding. He stated that Chapel District Elementary School is considered an aging school since portions of the facility were built in the 1950s, with additions in the 1990s and 2000. He stated that the facility does not currently meet State requirements of spacing for enrollment, energy efficiency and safety. Mr. King utilized a PowerPoint to provide a summary of his findings, developed following meetings with a planning committee and representatives from the community. The summary was presented as the following three (3) options: Option 1 – Modernize the existing building systems and spaces to meet current code, life safety and educational functions – but no new construction. He stated that Option 1 does not meet all the space needs as defined in the Educational Specifications; Option 2 – Modernize the existing building systems and spaces and construct new additions to meet all space needs as defined in the Educational Specifications space summary, site improvements, and educational functions; Option 3 – Construct a totally new elementary school on the same site to meet all educational program and space needs as defined in the Educational Specifications, demolish the existing building and reconfigure the site amenities. Mr. King

and Mr. Shafer provided schematics of each option, the costs of same, and discussion ensued with Council, including the State's enrollment projections, which, in the Council's opinion, did not take into account planned new residential developments in the county, at least one of which would utilize Cordova Elementary School. Mr. Shafer stated that Mr. King, bound by his professional standards to make a recommendation, based on the current enrollment and projected enrollment figures to date, is recommending Option 2 which was presented to the Board of Education. He stated that the Board of Education unanimously approved Option 3, as it provides the longest life expectancy, the least amount of instructional disruption, the best value in terms of comparable costs, and addresses site limitations. Council discussion again ensued with Mr. Shafer and Mr. King regarding various facets of the proposed project, including a general timeline and local funding for same, if approved. Mr. Leshner made a motion to forward a letter in support of the Feasibility Study for the Chapel District Elementary School which will be submitted to the Interagency Commission for Public School Construction for consideration; the motion was seconded by Mr. Divilio and Council discussion ensued. The Council approved forwarding a letter in support of the Feasibility Study, subject to the availability of adequate County funding at the time the project is to be initiated, and noting Council's concern about the discrepancy in enrollment figures based on anticipated enrollment projected by the County, by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Divilio – Aye

Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Price - Aye

IX. Introduction of Administrative Resolution:

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF PAID PARAMEDICS PARTICIPATING IN THE EMPLOYEES' COMBINED SYSTEM TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' PENSION SYSTEM (LEOPS) was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Mr. Divilio made a motion to approve the administrative resolution; the administrative resolution was then introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Divilio, Mr. Leshner, and Ms. Price and Council discussion ensued. Mr. Leshner seconded the motion and the Council approved the administrative resolution by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Divilio – Aye

Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Price - Aye

X. Update on Easton Airport – Micah Risher, Manager, Easton Airport; Jack Pettit, President, Airport Board – Mr. Risher briefed the Council on the status of several matters related to the operations at Easton Airport including, expansion of businesses at the Airport, and the availability of hangar space which is now at a premium and has a waiting list of 49 people for T-hangars, stating that there is a shortage of hangars throughout the state. He stated that the runway improvement project remains on schedule, Airport tours are again taking place following COVID, and the ACE program continues to pay dividends. Mr. Risher briefed the Council on several capital improvement projects at the Airport including, approval of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant for expenses incurred for aviation easements; submittal of a \$1.8 million grant application to FAA for the design phase of the runway improvement project; completion of the obstruction removal portion of the project and replacement of the Automated Weather System (AWOS), which is anticipated to take two years to complete; Talbot County Business Center – Mr. Risher stated that all leases at the Business Center will expire on December 31, 2022 and will be month to month after that time. He stated that the FAA is anticipated to award the grant for design of the runway project in

September of this year; construction of the runway is planned to begin in January 2024; Mr. Risher provided a diagram for the realignment of the runway, which will be shifted away from U.S. Rt. 50 toward the southwest by 1,900 feet; the realignment will create a 13 acre grassy area as the new 1,000 foot safety area while at the same time, reducing the amount of impervious soil by 13 acres. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Risher regarding the realignment project. The realignment project will provide for a new compliant 6,400 foot runway with 1,000 feet of safety area on each end. Mr. Risher provided information on updates on Airport security enhancements and terminal improvements. He outlined community outreach events and activities including, the Walk & Talk Open House Tours, Runway Safety Action Team Meetings, etc.; headlines and community relations including, Obstruction Removal Program Updates in the newspaper, through social media and on the Airport's website; supporting Talbot softball at the North Easton Park, etc. and proactively revamping the Airport's noise abatement and good neighbor policy by re-educating the pilots and air traffic controllers about preferred flight patterns. Mr. Risher concluded his presentation by providing air traffic statistics and fuel statistics. He stated that air traffic has returned to pre-pandemic levels and that flight training accounts for approximately 60% of the Airport's overall activity; military flight training accounts for 15% of that amount; individuals landing at Easton Airport and business users are both that the highest levels ever recorded. He stated that sales of jet fuel are up 44.7% compared to the same time last year, with Avgas sales up 40.1% compared to the same time last year. Mr. Pettit stated there is a shortage of pilots at the present time which provides many opportunities for young people who are interested in pursuing jobs in the field of aviation. He stated that the ACE program at Easton Airport, in his opinion, offers the young people who are participating in the program a lot of potential and will pay them dividends in the future. Mr. Risher will continue to update the Council on a regular or as-needed basis.

XI. County Manager's Report:

A. Bid No. 22-07, REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – ENGINEERING SERVICES – COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWERAGE PLAN UPDATE – 2022/2023 REPORT OF THE REVIEW – TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND - Requested Council approval of the County Engineer's recommendation to award Bid No. 22-07 to Rauch, Inc. in the sum of \$129,530.00 for engineering services for, and update to, the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan; two bids were received. Council discussion ensued with Ray Clarke, County Engineer. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved the award by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Divilio – Aye

Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Price – Aye

B. Bid No. 22-01, REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – REAL PROPERTY FOR TALBOT COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX – Requested Council approval of the County Manager's recommendation to award Bid No. 22-01 to Nova Sixa, LLC for \$6 million for a property in Easton; nine bids were received. Ms. Morris stated that the property includes two parcels with a 24,000 square foot office building which will house the Public Safety Complex, including the Sheriff's Office. She stated that there are sufficient funds in the County's Capital Improvement Program for the project. Council comment ensued. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the award by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- C. Request from Finance Office – Ken Davis, Acting Finance Director, requested Council approval of 4th Quarter FY22 Budget transfers between various agencies and departments of County government. Mr. Davis stated that the proposed transfers are based on projected spending through June 30, 2022 and outlined the proposed transfers; Council discussion ensued with Mr. Davis. Transfers are outlined in the County Charter for transfer in the 4th quarter of the fiscal year only, upon the recommendation of the County Manager. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the request by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- D. Special Legislative Day – Requested Council approval to declare Tuesday, June 7, 2022 as a Special Legislative Day for the purpose of introducing the FY23 Capital Enabling Legislation; the meeting will start at 3:00 p.m. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the request by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- E. County Offices Closed – Ms. Morris stated that County offices will be closed on Monday, May 30, 2022 in recognition of Memorial Day.
- F. Thank You to Council – Ms. Morris expressed appreciation to the Council for adopting the administrative resolution authorizing Talbot County’s paramedics’ participation in the Law Enforcement Officers’ Pension System (LEOPS); there are 37 paramedics who are eligible to participate.

XII. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

XIII. Council Comments:

Ms. Price – No comments.

Mr. Divilio – Mr. Divilio stated that he had attended services earlier in the day for Millard Pack, Sr., Mr. Pack’s father, which was extremely well-attended. He stated that, in his opinion, Mr. Pack’s father was an amazing man who had nine children, eight sons and one daughter, is in the Maryland Boxing Hall of Fame with a record of 38 and 2, and was a very gifted artist whose charcoal portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was displayed in the Turner Station Branch of the Baltimore Public Library for many years. Mr. Divilio extended his condolences to Corey and his family and encouraged those who had an opportunity to do so, to read the elder Mr. Pack’s obituary which spoke of his 36 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Lesher – No comments.

Mr. Callahan - Mr. Callahan expressed his appreciation to all veterans.

XIV. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. for the Council meeting and at 5:00 p.m. for a meeting with elected officials from the Towns of Easton, Oxford, Queen Anne, St. Michaels, and Trappe in the Wye Oak Room at the Talbot County Community Center, located at 10028 Ocean Gateway, Easton, by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

- Mr. Callahan - Aye
- Mr. Divilio – Aye
- Mr. Lesher – Aye
- Mr. Pack – Aye

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The transcript of the May 24, 2022 County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

XV. Summary of Closed Session Held on May 24, 2022:

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

- Time of closed session: 5:15 p.m. to 5:40 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, Divilio, Lesher, Price
- Members opposed: None
- Abstaining: None
- Absent: Pack

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, Frank Divilio, Pete Lesher, Laura Price, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris	No action

CASH STATEMENT 5/24/2022

BALANCE 5/17/2022	44,441,363.90
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 5/16/2022	(79,741.36)
COMMUNITY CENTER SALES & USE DUE 5/20/2022	(5.89)
GOLF COURSE SALES & USE DUE 5/20/2022	(1,462.80)
ROADS SALES & USE DUE 5/20/2022	(1,020.27)
GOLF COURSE BANK CHARGES/SHIFT4 FEES	(47.45)
SDAT/FY22 LOCAL COST SHARING 1/1/2022	(44,588.00)
SDAT/FY22 LOCAL COST SHARING 4/1/2022	(44,588.00)
WELLS FARGO GOLF EQUIPMENT LEASE PYMT	(4,092.00)
USDA/RD QTRLY BOND PYMT #92-16	(6,626.00)
USDA/RD QTRLY BOND PYMT #92-14	(13,086.00)
DEPOSITS	3,244,460.62
CHECKS	(775,172.65)
ACH DISBURSEMENT(S)	0.00
VOIDED CHECK(S) #	0.00
BALANCE 5/24/2022	<u>46,715,394.10</u>

INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.65%	20,500,000.00
BAYVANGUARD BANK			10,229,720.55
TOTAL INVESTED			<u>30,729,720.55</u>
PETTY CASH BALANCE			<u>12,605.00</u>
<u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>			<u>77,457,719.65</u>