



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

July 27, 2021

Present – President Chuck F. Callahan, Vice President Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Laura Price, County Manager Clay Stamp, and Acting County Attorney Patrick Thomas. Councilman Frank Divilio was absent.

- I. Agenda – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda of Tuesday, July 27, 2021.
- II. Minutes - Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, July 13, 2021.
- III. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, July 20, 2021, and Tuesday, July 27, 2021.
- IV. Presentation of Certificates of Recognition to Robert Bridge and Derek Hoffman – The Clerk read a statement into the record which spoke of the acts of heroism of Mr. Robert Bridge and Mr. Derek Hoffman who witnessed a plane crash on June 24, 2021 near Easton Airport; acts which directly aided in saving the life of the pilot. Mr. Bridge and Mr. Hoffman were provided an opportunity to speak firsthand about the experience. Jack Pettit, President, Airport Board, expressed his appreciation to Mr. Bridge and Mr. Hoffman for their heroic acts. Council members expressed their appreciation to the gentlemen for their selfless assistance to a fellow human being.
- V. Update by Maryland Environmental Service – Tim Ford, Acting Managing Director, Environmental Operations, Maryland Environmental Service (MES) – Mr. Ford outlined some of the functions of MES throughout the state, including the operation of hundreds of wastewater treatment plants, responsibility for port dredging projects, and the management of solid waste facilities. He utilized a PowerPoint presentation to provide a brief history of the Midshore Agreement, an 80-year agreement begun in 1991 between the counties of Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne’s and Talbot for management of solid waste whereby each participating county is obligated to host a landfill within their county for a period of 20 years. Mr. Ford provided statistical information on tonnage of solid waste and yard waste received, and homeowner drop-off customers utilizing the Mid-Shore I transfer station for the timeframe October 2020 through March 2021. He stated that the amount of waste received at the transfer station and the homeowner drop-off had increased by 14% and 8%, respectively, as a result of the pandemic. Mr. Ford provided information on post closure activities at Mid-Shore I, operations at Mid-Shore II in Ridgely, tipping fees, oil recycling, and the Mid-Shore Recycling Program; Council discussion ensued with Mr. Ford as the various matters were brought forward. Maryland Environmental Service will continue to update the Council on a regular or as-needed basis.
- VI. Presentation by Chesapeake College – Fund Balance Request and Revised FY22 Budget Request – Dr. Cliff Coppersmith, President, Chesapeake College – Dr. Coppersmith stated that Chesapeake College had recently received approximately \$895,000 in additional, unanticipated funding from the State as a result of the Senator John A. Cade Funding Formula & Budget Reconciliation & Financing Act of FY2022; the funding, which will be on-going, will primarily be used for salary increases for full-time staff to meet the

challenges of retaining a highly skilled workforce. He also requested to utilize \$1.2 million in Fund Balance for the following projects: to update the College’s website; to re-brand and re-logo the College; to digitize student records; to replace furniture in the public areas of the Learning Resource Center; and to repaint and re-carpet areas in the Learning Resource Center; no additional funding is required from the supporting counties. Council discussion with Dr. Coppersmith ensued as the various items were brought forward. Dr. Coppersmith requested Council approval of the revised budget as outlined. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Pack, the Council approved the College’s revised budget as presented by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Price – Aye

Mr. Pack - Aye

VII. Introduction of Legislation:

A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL SALARY OF THE SHERIFF FOR TALBOT COUNTY TO BECOME EFFECTIVE FOR TERMS BEGINNING IN AND AFTER 2022 was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, and Ms. Price as Bill No. 1492. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

VIII. Update by Economic Development and Tourism – Cassandra Vanhooser, Director, Economic Development and Tourism; Reza Jafari, Chair, Economic Development Commission – Ms. Vanhooser encouraged the Council members and members of the public to review the information presented earlier during the work session on the Eastern Shore Recovery Project. She stated that the data provided will enable a better understanding of the business community to ensure a better response to future crisis situations so that disruption of business is minimal. The data is available at www.recovery.delmarvaindex.org as well as the Talbot County website and the Talbot County Department of Economic Development website. Ms. Vanhooser briefed the Council on various business entities in Talbot County which are in the process of reopening, expanding or under new ownership, while also noting that some businesses continue to try to recover from the pandemic and others are experiencing workforce issues. She stated that since her last update to the Council, her team had processed 112 applications for grant funding from the Maryland Department of Commerce and the Maryland Department of Health and Community Development to assist businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic totaling \$545,350.89. Since June 2020, her department has given out \$3.158 million in grants which have been invested in the Talbot County community; none of which was more than \$10,000. Ms. Vanhooser expressed appreciation to the members of her department for their outstanding efforts to assist individuals with grant applications and to distribute the grant funding to the community. Council discussion ensued with Ms. Vanhooser and Mr. Jafari. He stated that beginning August 5, 2021, the Economic Development Commission meetings will be held in a hybrid format. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism will continue to update the Council on a regular or as-needed basis.

IX. County Manager’s Report:

A. Talbot County Economic Development Commission – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Ken Kozel to the Talbot County Economic Development Commission; said term will expire on June 30, 2023. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved the appointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- B. Talbot County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Kim Kearns to a four-year term on the Talbot County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as a representative of the Town of Oxford; said term will expire on July 1, 2025. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the reappointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- C. Talbot County Tourism Board – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Ron Engle to a four-year term on the Talbot County Tourism Board as a representative of the Town of Easton; said term will expire on July 1, 2025. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved the reappointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- D. Request from Department of Emergency Services – Requested Council approval to have the Department of Emergency Services apply for and accept grant funding from the Maryland 9-1-1 Board (formerly the Numbers Board) in the sum of \$669,166.25. If approved, the funding will be used to transition the County’s 9-1-1- Service from Legacy Telephone Service to Next Generation IP Service; no County funding is required. Council discussion ensued with Brian LeCates, Acting Director, Department of Emergency Services. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved submittal of the grant application by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- E. Request from Department of Emergency Services – Requested Council approval to have the Department of Emergency Services apply for and accept grant funding from the Maryland 9-1-1 Board (formerly the Numbers Board) in the sum of \$327,000 for cybersecurity monitoring of the Next Generation 9-1-1 network. If approved, the funding will be utilized to extend the current contract for an additional five (5) years; no County funding is required. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Pack, the Council approved submittal of the grant application by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Price – Aye

Mr. Pack – Aye

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

XII. Council Comments:

Mr. Pack - Mr. Pack expressed his appreciation to Senators Cardin and Van Hollen, and Congressman Steny Hoyer for their support of \$1,000,000 in American Rescue Plan funding for local fire departments in the state of Maryland. He stated that Talbot County will receive \$120,000. Mr. Pack stated that during the pandemic, the fire departments' fundraising activities have been hard hit and, in his opinion, the monies will come in handy.

Ms. Price - No comments.

Mr. Leshner - Mr. Leshner posed the question, "Should issues of justice be decided by the will of the majority or should matters of justice be decided on the basis of constitutionally guaranteed freedoms?"

Mr. Callahan - Mr. Callahan stated that it had been a privilege to have had the two gentlemen in attendance this evening who had saved a life. He stated that the individuals responded to a situation that made a difference in that person's life and in the lives of their family. He stated that, in his opinion, that's what we are all here for and he would like it to be a lesson to everyone to get involved to help people – not to sit back and watch, but to do something to make a difference in someone's life.

XIII. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Pack, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. for a meeting with Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) President, Wilbur Levengood, and Michael Sanderson, Executive Director, MACo, to discuss the upcoming legislative session and to reconvene on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in Open Session and immediately 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 4–0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Price – Aye

Mr. Pack - Aye

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

The transcript of the July 27, 2021 County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

XIV. Work Session: Presentation of Eastern Shore Recovery Project – Cassandra Vanhooser, Director of Economic Development and Tourism; Deborah Bowden, Director, Department of Economic Development for Caroline County; Susan Banks, Director, Dorchester County Economic Development Office; Dr.

Michael Scott, Director, Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative, Salisbury University; Brett Dobelstein, Senior GIS Analyst, Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative, Salisbury University ; Dan McDermott, Executive Director, Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board; Greg Padgham, Executive Director, Tri-County Multi-Purpose Center of the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance; and Scott Warner, Executive Director, Mid-Shore Regional Council – The representatives of the various organizations met with the County Council on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. to review and discuss the data compiled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the purpose of which is to better understand and assist those governments, organizations and businesses affected by the pandemic toward recovery. Data included, among others, the demographics of those affected, unemployment trends, socially vulnerable populations, and the occupations and income of those affected; 2020 Census Data, when available, will be added; all nine (9) counties of Maryland’s Eastern Shore are included in the Project. The information can be used by local leaders and other decision-makers to view trends within particular industries and to better understand the effects of COVID-19 and the economic stimulus efforts in various sectors of the economy. The data is available at www.recovery.delmarvaindex.org as well as the Talbot County website and the Talbot County Department of Economic Development website

XV. Summary of Closed Session Held on July 27, 2021:

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

Time of closed session: 4:40 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 Place of closed session: Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, MD
 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, Leshner, Pack
 Members opposed: None
 Abstaining: None
 Absent: Price (arrived at 5:05 p.m.)

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	Persons present	Action taken
To discuss appointments to various County boards and committees	GP § 3-305 (b) (1)(i)	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action
To discuss personnel matter in Finance Office	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action

To discuss personnel matter in Planning & Zoning	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action
To discuss public security at Talbot County Community Center	GP § 3-305(b)(10)	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action
Update on lawsuit (Complaint for Writ of Mandamus)	GP § 3-305(b)(7) and (8)	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action
Legal advice on Open Meetings Act complaints received regarding Talbot Family Network	GP § 3-305(b)(7)	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action
Legal advice on discharge permit for Trappe Wastewater Treatment Plant and tentative determination by Maryland Department of the Environment	GP § 3-305(b)(7)	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action
To discuss proposal for possible acquisition of property in Easton	GP § 3-305(b)(3)	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action
For legal advice litigation involving Angel Enterprises	GP § 3-305(b)(7) and (8)	Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Laura Price, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas, Andy Meehan	Council direction to file response in Court

CASH STATEMENT 7/20/2021

BALANCE 7/13/2021	33,790,550.75
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 7/9/2021	(119,581.13)
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 7/12/2021	(3,747.95)
STATE REPORT 6/2021	(650.50)
BRF FEE RETURN APR-JUN 2021	(60,967.56)
AGRICULTURAL TRANSFER TAX 6/2021	(14,170.00)
RETURNED PAYMENT US TAX PAYMENT	(7,475.92)
DEPOSITS	5,665,813.36
CHECKS	(537,285.18)
VOIDED CHECK(S) #348534, 348628, 352139	7,828.96
BALANCE 7/20/2021	<u>38,720,314.83</u>

INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.04%	20,500,000.00
BAYVANGUARD BANK			10,182,744.32
TOTAL INVESTED			<u>30,682,744.32</u>
PETTY CASH BALANCE			<u>12,275.00</u>
<u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>			<u>69,415,334.15</u>

CASH STATEMENT 7/27/2021

BALANCE 7/20/2021	38,720,314.83
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TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 7/09/2021	(697,732.14)
PENSION DED PPE 7/09/2021	(40,178.35)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 7/09/2021	(18,880.43)
DEFERRED COMP PPE 7/09/2021 PLAN 401(A)	(6,884.95)
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 7/15/2021	(183,970.58)
USDA/RD MTHLY BOND PYMT #97-08	(1,304.00)
WELLS FARGO GOLF EQUIP LEASE PYMT 7/2021	(4,092.00)
SALES & USE COMMUNITY CENTER DUE 7/20/2021	(10.62)
SALES & USE HOG NECK GOLF COURSE DUE 7/20/2021	(997.39)
SALES & USE ROADS DUE 7/20/2021	(1,551.24)
DEPOSITS	9,990,888.36
CHECKS	(912,679.83)
VOIDED CHECK(S) #352076	39,992.00
BALANCE 7/27/2021	46,882,913.66

INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.04%	20,500,000.00
BAYVANGUARD BANK			10,182,744.32
TOTAL INVESTED			<u>30,682,744.32</u>
PETTY CASH BALANCE			<u>12,275.00</u>
<u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>			<u>77,577,932.98</u>