



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

January 23, 2018

Present – President Jennifer L. Williams, Vice President Corey W. Pack, Dirck K. Bartlett, Chuck F. Callahan, Laura E. Price, County Manager R. Andrew Hollis and Assistant County Attorney Mary O’Donnell. County Attorney Anthony Kupersmith was absent.

- I. Agenda – The Agenda of Tuesday, January 23, 2018 was brought forward for approval. At Mr. Pack’s request, the Minutes of Tuesday, January 9, 2018 were removed from the agenda. Ms. Williams then requested and received Council’s unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda of Tuesday, January 23, 2018, as amended.
- II. Disbursements – Ms. Williams requested and received Council’s unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, January 16, 2018, and Tuesday, January 23, 2018.
- III. Presentation by Talbot County Agricultural Community - Craig Zinter, District Manager, Talbot Soil Conservation District; Ed Heikes, Member, Board of Directors, Talbot County Farm Bureau; Shannon Dill, Extension Educator – AGNR, University of Maryland Extension – Talbot County; John Barga, County Executive Director, U.S. Department of Agriculture/Talbot County Farm Service Agency – Mr. Heikes reviewed various local Farm Bureau policy initiatives forwarded to the State and national Farm Bureau organizations including, support for the establishment of an agricultural program at Chesapeake College; support for the retention of current agricultural zoning and table of land uses on the local level; support of legislation to allow Maryland hunters and farmers who are taking deer related to crop damage and who wish to have the deer processed and donated to charity, to be able to take a tax credit on their Maryland tax return to cover the cost of the processing; and a request that the federal government double the budget allocation for the market access program to help the public appreciate the poultry industry and its importance to rural sustainability and the foreign market development program. Mr. Zinter briefed the Council on recent changes to the cost share portion for cover crops which had resulted in a 30% decrease in cover crop applications; Talbot County farmers planted approximately 40,000 acres, or almost one-half the tillable acreage in the county, in cover crops. He stated that the Agricultural Cost Share Program for Best Management Practices (BMPs) was not fully funded by the State in 2016; as such, several BMPs that received approval have not yet been implemented. It is hoped that funding will be included in this year’s budget. Mr. Barga updated the Council on the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) which provides revenue, price loss payments, and disaster assistance programs to eligible producers. He stated that the program also provides guaranteed loans to farmers and ranchers, including socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Ms. Dill briefed the Council on the upcoming 66th annual Talbot County Corn Club dinner at which time the yields for this year’s crop will be announced. Ms. Dill stated that they are the highest on record in the history of the Club, the longest continuous corn club in the country. Dr. Ronald Ritter will be the featured speaker on the topic of weed resistance to chemicals. Ms. Dill then gave a brief outline of several legal initiatives at the State and federal levels which will impact farmers and noted upcoming events sponsored by the agricultural community over the next several months. Council discussion ensued with the representatives as the various topics were brought forward. Representatives from the Talbot County agricultural community will continue to update the Council on a regular or as-needed basis.
- IV. Presentation on Oyster Futures Research Program – Elizabeth North, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Horn Point Laboratory, Cambridge – Dr. North utilized a PowerPoint presentation to outline the goals of the Oyster Futures Research Program, a “consensus solutions”

process for developing fishing regulations and restoration policies. She stated that the Program is funded by the National Science Foundation and is comprised of stakeholders from the managerial, scientific, environmental, and fisheries sectors for the purpose of making recommendations via consensus to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. She stated that the recommendations, which are based on science, are used to determine the best means of developing fishing regulations and restoration policies related to oysters which are important for clean water, food and jobs. Council discussion ensued with Dr. North.

V. Introduction of Legislation:

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EXECUTION OF A LEASE OF APPROXIMATELY 9,600 SQUARE FEET OF SPACE AT THE TALBOT COUNTY BUSINESS CENTER, 28712 GLEBE ROAD, EASTON, MARYLAND 21601, FURTHER DESCRIBED AS TAX MAP 25, PARCEL 58, TO EASTON UTILITIES COMMISSION, FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR WITH BASE RENT OF THIRTY-EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$38,000) PER YEAR was read into the record by Mr. Hollis and brought forward for introduction. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Pack, Ms. Price and Ms. Williams as Resolution No. 257. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 N. Washington St., Easton, Maryland 21601.

VI. Eligible for Vote:

Resolution No. 250, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN (“CWSP”) TO CREATE A NEW SEWER SERVICE AREA COMPRISED OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND IN THE VILLAGES OF BOZMAN AND NEAVITT DESIGNATED AS “TIER III-B” IN THE 2016 TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (“COMPREHENSIVE PLAN”) AND CERTAIN ADDITIONAL PARCELS OF LAND DESIGNATED AS “TIER III-C” AND “TIER IV” IN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (COLLECTIVELY, THE “ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES”); TO CLASSIFY AND MAP THE ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES AS “S-1” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS; TO APPROVE A CAPITAL PROJECT TO EXTEND SANITARY SEWER SERVICE FROM THE REGION II WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IN ST. MICHAELS TO SERVE THE ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES; TO PURSUE GRANT FUNDING AND LOW-INTEREST LOANS TO FUND THE PROJECT; TO REQUIRE OWNERS OF THE ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES TO PAY CONNECTION AND SERVICE CHARGES, AS ESTABLISHED FROM TIME TO TIME, AND TO CONVEY EASEMENTS TO THE COUNTY FOR ACCESS, MAINTENANCE, AND REPAIR OF INDIVIDUAL SYSTEMS; AND TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO THE EXTENSION OF SEWER TO THE ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES, , was read into the record by Mr. Hollis and brought forward for discussion. Mary Kay Verdery, Planning Officer, stated that the Planning Commission had previously reviewed Resolution No. 250 as originally drafted but had then been asked by the Council to review the proposed amendments for consistency with the 2016 Comprehensive Plan pending adoption of Bill No. 1378. Ms. Verdery stated that the Planning Commission reviewed Amendment No. 1 and voted 3 – 0 to support the amendment and that the amendment is consistent with the 2016 Comprehensive Plan; the Planning Commission voted 3 – 0 that Amendment No. 2 is consistent with the 2016 Comprehensive Plan as amended under Bill No. 1378; and voted 4 – 1 to support Amendment No. 3. Council discussion ensued with Ms. Verdery and Anne Morse, Director, Talbot County Office of Environmental Health, and County Engineer Ray Clarke regarding connection to sewer under various scenarios.

At Ms. Williams’ request, Mr. Hollis read a summary Amendment No. 3 into the record as follows:

Amendment 3: The proposed amendment clarifies the Council’s intent that the expansion of sewer service to properties mapped Tier IV under the Comprehensive Plan is not for the purpose of new growth and development.

Upon motion by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Ms. Price, Amendment No. 3 was brought forward for vote. The Council approved Amendment No. 3 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Ms. Williams – Aye
Ms. Price - Aye
Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Hollis read a summary of Amendment No. 2 into the record as follows:

Amendment 2: The proposed amendment creates a process for certain Tier IV properties that abut the proposed sewer line to petition to be included in the proposed sewer service area, to comply with State and local law. Such properties are mapped Tier IV under the Comprehensive Plan. For Tier IV properties added to the sewer service area through the petition process, the amendment limits the sewer connection to improvements within 200 feet of the right-of-way or road in which the sewer line is laid.

Mr. Bartlett, proposer of Amendment No. 2, gave a brief explanation of his intent for introducing the amendment. Council discussion ensued with Assistant County Attorney, Mary O'Donnell, regarding the difference in language between Amendment No. 1 and Amendment No. 2. Mr. Bartlett made a motion to amend Amendment No. 2 to include the changes cited in Amendment No. 1. Discussion again ensued with Ms. O'Donnell as to the differences between the amendments and Mr. Bartlett subsequently withdrew Amendment No. 2 from the table.

Mr. Hollis read a summary of Amendment No. 1 into the record as follows:

Amendment 1: The proposed amendment adds certain Tier IV properties that abut the proposed sewer line to the proposed new sewer service area, as required by State and local law. Such properties are mapped Tier IV under the Comprehensive Plan. The amendment limits connections of such abutting Tier IV properties to one sewer connection per tier map parcel, unless the property owner pays the entire cost of each additional connection. The amendment also adds requirements for connection to the system and clarifies that the connecting property owners will be responsible for the costs of the sewer expansion.

The Council approved Amendment No. 1 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Ms. Williams – Aye
Ms. Price - Aye
Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye

Resolution No. 250, as amended, was brought forward for vote. Upon motion by Mr. Bartlett, and no objection of the Council, a full reading of the Resolution was waived. Prior to the vote, Council members made the following comments:

Mr. Bartlett – Mr. Bartlett stated that after all the back and forth on this matter, and hopefully with a positive vote, we can put this matter to rest and go after the money to bring sewer service to the citizens of Bozman and Neavitt in

a sensible way. He stated that he was not thrilled with the abutting issue, but it is a legal issue which we can't ignore. He stated that, in his opinion, he thought he had a better amendment that would solve the legal issue, but apparently that can't move forward tonight, so he is supportive of Amendment No. 1. Mr. Bartlett thanked the staff for their work on Resolution No. 250 and Bill No. 1378.

Mr. Pack – Mr. Pack expressed his appreciation to the Planning Commission, Public Works Advisory Board, and staff for their work on Resolution No. 250 and Bill No. 1378. He stated that, in his opinion, this is a good day; we were able to compromise and move this project forward and that in years to come we will see that this project was important to the livelihood and the residents of the areas of Bozman and Neavitt. Mr. Pack concluded his comments by stating that, in his opinion, this is a good test case as the County moves forward in the future with other connections to various necks in the county.

Ms. Price – Ms. Price concurred with Mr. Pack's statement about the project being a test case and stated that she agreed with limiting the scope of the project. She stated that, in her opinion, if all goes well, we'll be able to expand sewer service to other rural necks in the county; if there are bumps along the way, they can be ironed out before the next project.

Mr. Callahan – Mr. Callahan expressed his appreciation to the residents of Bozman and Neavitt for their patience while the County works to move forward with helping the residents with their plans for the future of their villages. Mr. Callahan expressed his appreciation to County Engineer Ray Clarke for reaching out to the neighborhoods and the personal phone calls to citizens for this project. He pledged Council's support to Mr. Clarke and the citizens as the project moves forward.

The Council approved Resolution No. 250, as amended, by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Ms. Williams – Aye
Ms. Price - Aye
Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye

Resolution No. 250, as amended, is effective immediately.

- VII. Request for Approval to Establish "Safe Stations" in Talbot County – Brian LeCates, Acting Director, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services; Fredia Wadley, M.D., Talbot County Health Officer – Dr. Wadley briefed the Council on the "Safe Station" concept; the setting up of specific locations throughout a jurisdiction which enables those seeking help for drug addiction to come to the designated location without fear of legal reprisal. Dr. Wadley outlined the "Safe Station" set-up in Anne Arundel County which designated each of its fire stations and police stations as available 24/7 for individuals who walk in desiring treatment; a crisis intervention team responds, a professional assessment is completed and the individual is referred for the appropriate level of treatment. Dr. Wadley stated that Anne Arundel County reports getting more individuals into treatment, the stays in treatment are longer and robberies have decreased since their "Safe Station" program was initiated. Mr. LeCates briefed the Council on the proposal to establish "Safe Stations"

in Talbot County and requested Council’s consideration of same. He stated that the St. Michaels Police Department has volunteered their facility to serve the Bay Hundred area “Safe Station”; the County’s 911 Center on Port Street would serve as the “Safe Station” for the Easton area; details are still being worked out with the Town of St. Michaels. Mr. LeCates stated that individuals seeking assistance would be able to do so from a call box adjacent to a secure vestibule at each location. Representatives of Mid Shore Behavioral Health and Eastern Shore Crisis Response Services provided statistical information on the increase in opioid use, the increased number of calls for assistance, and expressed support for the establishment of “Safe Stations” in Talbot County. Council discussion ensued with the various representatives. The Office of Law will review any Memorandums of Understanding between participating partners. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council granted permission for the County’s 911 Center on Port Street to be used as a “Safe Station” by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Ms. Williams – Aye
Ms. Price - Aye
Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye

- VIII. Presentation on Proposed Frederick Douglass Park – Preston Peper, Director, Parks and Recreation; Cassandra Vanhooser, Director, Economic Development & Tourism – Mr. Peper utilized a PowerPoint presentation to provide a conceptual view of the location for the new County park and briefed the Council on how the proposed location for the new park came to be on the County’s property on Lewistown Road. Ms. Vanhooser stated that the County’s Lewistown Road property (66.96 acres), and the adjacent 107 acres, donated by the family of George and Naomi Moore, is located on Tuckahoe Creek, just one mile from the birthplace of Talbot County’s most notable son, Frederick Douglass. Ms. Vanhooser stated that, in her opinion, the location offers a wonderful opportunity to tell the story of Frederick Douglass through interpretative signage while also providing a great asset to the community for the viewing of wildlife. Ms. Vanhooser outlined several financial resources available for the project and stated that engagement with the community and project partners will help envision the next phase of the project. She requested Council’s consideration to name the park the *Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe*. Council discussion ensued. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved the name of the new park as recommended by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Ms. Williams – Aye
Ms. Price - Aye
Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe will take place on Wednesday, February 14, 2018.

IX. County Manager’s Report:

- A. Request from Frederick Douglass Honor Society - Requested Council approval for a \$15,000 contribution to the Frederick Douglass Honor Society to assist them with their year-long celebration of Mr. Douglass’ 200th birthday; funding for the request will come from franchise fees paid to the County each year by the County’s cable provider, part of which are designated for educational purposes. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Pack, the Council approved the request by voting 5 - 0 as follows:

Ms. Williams – Aye
Ms. Price - Aye
Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye

- B. Bid No. 17-16, GRASS CUTTING SERVICES – PARKS, BALL FIELDS AND LANDINGS - TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND – Requested Council approval of the recommendation of the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to award Bid No. 17-16 to the lowest, qualified bidder, Riverside Lawn Service, in the sum of \$41,999.00 for the 2018 season. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Pack, the Council approved the award by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Ms. Williams – Aye
Ms. Price - Aye
Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye

- C. Bid No. 17-17, PORTABLE SANITARY CHEMICAL TOILET SERVICE, TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND – Requested Council approval of the recommendation of the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to award Bid No. 17-17 to the low bidder, Pierson Comfort Group, LLC in the sum of \$19,044.50 for the 2018 season. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Pack, the Council approved the award by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Ms. Williams – Aye
Ms. Price - Aye
Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye

- D. Bid No. 17-18, REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS – “TALBOT COUNTY ROADSIDE DITCH MANAGEMENT MANUAL”– TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND - Requested Council approval of the County Engineer’s recommendation to award Bid No. 17-18 to the Center for Watershed Protection for roadside ditch manual consulting services. The project will be funded by a grant from the Maryland Department of the Environment; no County funds are required. Upon motion by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Pack, the Council approved the award by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Ms. Williams – Aye
Ms. Price - Aye
Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye

- E. Bid No. 16-01, TALBOT COUNTY BIOSOLIDS UTILIZATION FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS - TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND (4th Request) – Requested Council approval of the County Engineer’s recommendation to utilize a portion of the remaining grant funds for Bid No. 16-01 for the purchase of a Zimmatic two-pivot spray irrigation system in the sum of \$40,620.00. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved the purchase by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Ms. Williams – Aye
Ms. Price - Aye
Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye

- F. Talbot County Board of Appeals – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Paul Shortall and Frank Cavanaugh to three-year terms as regular members on the Talbot County Board of Appeals; said terms will expire on February 11, 2021. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, the Council approved the reappointments by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Ms. Williams – Aye
Ms. Price - Aye
Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye

- G. Talbot County Tourism Board – Requested Council reappointment of Harold Klinger to a four-year term on the Talbot County Tourism Board as an at-large member; said term will become effective March 10, 2018 and will expire on July 1, 2022; requested the appointment of Waitman Vanorsdale to a term on the Tourism Board as a representative of the hotel/motel sector; said term will expire on July 1, 2021. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved the reappointment and appointment respectively, by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Ms. Williams – Aye
Ms. Price - Aye
Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye

X. Council Comments:

Ms. Price - No comments.

Mr. Bartlett - Mr. Bartlett expressed his sympathy to the family of Lee Denny who recently passed away. He stated that Mr. Denny was a real fixture in Talbot County when he was the head of GM Giant and the various other ventures he had. He stated that, in his opinion, Mr. Denny was a generous man who gave a lot of his time, effort and money to various organizations in Talbot County and he will be sadly missed.

Mr. Callahan - Mr. Callahan stated that he was very proud of the Council, and in his opinion, it was a big night for two reasons, approval of Resolution No. 250 which will provide sewer to the people in Bozman and Neavitt who need it, and establishing the “Safe Station.” He stated that he is proud to be a part of it. Mr. Callahan concluded his comments by stating that the Council had been on the fire department banquet tour, and that he appreciates the fire departments inviting us, they are a lot of fun and that the departments are doing a lot of great things.

Mr. Pack - Mr. Pack offered get well wishes to several staff members who were not in attendance due to illness and asked for a round of applause for Mr. Hollis as he has had to juggle several different jobs due to the absences. He stated that he hoped they hurried back as they are

needed to keep the meeting moving along each week. Mr. Pack thanked Mr. Callahan and the other members of the Council for their support of the 12th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Basketball Classic on Monday, January 15th. He stated that more than 134 middle school students from the surrounding area took the day to recognize Dr. King. He stated that he was glad to be able to again touch the lives of these young people to keep the dream of the dreamer alive so that they can recognize what he did for the nation. Mr. Pack again expressed his appreciation to his colleagues for the passage of Bill No. 1378 two weeks ago and Resolution No. 250 this evening. He reiterated his previous statement that, in his opinion, it is a pinnacle mark for the county.

Ms. Williams: Ms. Williams echoed Mr. Callahan’s comments regarding Resolution No. 250. She stated that members of the Council had a nice evening on Friday in Oxford and on Saturday in Trappe at the fire department dinners. She stated that last night the Council was out at the Agricultural Center for, in her opinion, a wonderful dinner and to hear from the agricultural community about what they are doing. She encouraged everyone to go take a look at the recently renovated facility which is available to rent for parties, weddings, etc. Ms. Williams concluded her comments by thanking Mr. Hollis for filling in for those who were out sick.

XI. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene in Open Session at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 and immediately adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of legal, personnel, and real estate matters and at 6:00 p.m. for the regularly scheduled meeting by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Ms. Williams - Aye
Ms. Price - Aye
Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Pack - Aye
Mr. Callahan- Aye

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The transcript of the January 23, 2018 County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the County Manager during regular office hours.

XII. On Tuesday, January 16, 2018 a Closed Session of the Talbot County Council convened at 6:45 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room and County Council Conference Room. Upon motion by Mr. Callahan, seconded by Mr. Pack, the Council met in Closed Session by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye
Ms. Price - Aye
Ms. Williams – Aye

In accordance with General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(1)(i) (7)(8) the purpose of the Closed Session was for personnel matters to discuss a personnel matter at Planning and Zoning; and for a legal matter for legal advice regarding a Board of Appeals decision in the Angel Enterprises Limited Partnership case. The Closed Session ended at 7:30 p.m.

- XIII. On Tuesday, January 23, 2018 a Closed Session of the Talbot County Council convened at 4:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room and County Council Conference Room. Upon motion by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council met in Closed Session by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Pack – Aye
Ms. Price - Aye
Ms. Williams – Aye

In accordance with General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(1)(i) (3)(7)(8) the purpose of the Closed Session was for personnel matters to discuss appointments to various County boards and committees; for a legal matter for legal advice regarding the Clayland Farms Enterprises LLC case; and for a real estate legal matter for legal advice regarding completion of the Bonfield Road Construction District. The Closed Session recessed at 6:00 p.m. and reconvened at 8:15 p.m. The Closed Session ended at 8:25 p.m.

- XIV. Work Session with Emergency Services Advisory Board - The Talbot County Council held a work session with Wayne Dyott, Chairman, and members Debbie Timms, Steve Mroczek, Jack Harrald, Brian LeCates, and Scott Mergenthaler, on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room. The Board presented a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) of the Board as follows: Strengths - longevity, a collaborative spirit, a variety of participants, and expertise; Weaknesses – membership not representative of whole community; lack of skills in zoning, IT, and budgets; lack of public participation in meetings and no professional grant writers; Opportunities – retention of personnel; Threats – Extreme events are getting worse which affect the elderly population more; approximately one third of Talbot County’s population is age 60 or older. Council discussion ensued with the representatives as the various items outlined in the SWOT Analysis were brought forward. The Board members offered their expertise to the Council for any projects for which the Council wanted to assign them. The Emergency Services Advisory Board will continue to update the Council on a regular or as-needed basis.
- XV. Work Session with Department of Public Works Staff and Representatives from George, Miles, & Buhr, LLC on Talbot County Health Department Feasibility Study - The Talbot County Council held a work session with Ray Clarke, County Engineer; Fredia Wadley, Health Officer; Morgan Helfrich, Lauren Wandel and Judy Schwartz from George Miles Buhr; and George Wilburt of Gipe Associates on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room. The purpose of the work session was to review the Health Department Feasibility Study commissioned by the County Council and completed by George Miles Buhr for the building located at 100 S. Hanson Street in Easton, Maryland. The Health Department building, constructed in 1965 on the old foundation of the former Hanson Street School (built 1928), contains approximately 17,000 sq.ft. and does not have a sprinkler system. The space needs analysis indicates the Health Department needs a minimum of a 25,000 sq.ft. facility for future programming needs, to include incorporating the Family Support Center (Early Head Start). The 100 S. Hanson Street site is located in the Town of Easton’s historic district and planned redevelopment overlay district, is less than one acre, and is currently zoned residential with a thirty-five foot (35 ft.) height limitation. Some of the site issues include insufficient parking and stormwater management. The Feasibility Study covered three options: renovating and/or expanding the existing building; razing the existing building and rebuilding onsite; and acquiring neighboring property to be renovated and/or constructed. Staff from George Miles Buhr reviewed the pros and cons of each option as it relates to the current and future programming needs of the Health Department. In conclusion, staff from George Miles Buhr stated it is their opinion that the current site does not support the entire programming needs requested by the Health Department. It is recommended that the Health Department evaluate whether the Family Support Center (Early Head Start) should be co-located with the

Health Department and that the County consider acquiring a new, larger site for a new Health Department facility that would better meet current and future programming needs.

- XVI. Work Session with Staff on Possible Modifications to Property Tax Revenue Cap - The Talbot County Council held a work session with Angela Lane, Finance Director and Ted Doyle, President, Talbot County Taxpayers Association, on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room. The purpose of the work session was to review possible modifications to the County’s property tax revenue cap which states in part, “...revenues derived from taxes on properties existing on the County real property tax rolls at the commencement of the County fiscal year shall not increase, compared with the previous year, by more than two percent, or by the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) percentage of change for the latest calendar year, determined by the U.S. Department of Labor, whichever is the lesser.” Ms. Lane provided a PowerPoint with an overview of the history of the tax cap in Talbot County which has been in place since 1996, the purpose and impact of the tax cap on County government, as well as how other counties in Maryland with a tax cap (Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Prince George’s and Wicomico) operate. Mr. Doyle reviewed the results of a recent survey conducted by the Taxpayer’s Association on county government. Council discussion ensued on the merits of a property tax revenue cap, possible modifications to the tax cap and the impact the current tax cap has had on current County government operations. Both the Council and Mr. Doyle agreed that the demand for services does not decrease under a tax cap, but continues to grow as the population’s needs adjust, such as for public safety. Council requested the Taxpayer’s Association draft proposed language modifying the property tax revenue cap for the Council’s review.

- XVII. Work Session with Staff to Discuss Proposal to Refinance Region II (St. Michaels) Sanitary District Debt - The Talbot County Council held a work session with Ray Clarke, County Engineer, and Angela Lane, Finance Director on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room. The purpose of the work session was to review a proposal to refinance the Region II (St. Michaels) sanitary district debt. Mr. Clarke noted that the current debt for the Region II sanitary district consists of two loans: a sewer collection system loan in the amount of \$1.59 million at 0.4% for 20-years from 2006 (current balance of \$700,000) and a loan for the upgrade of the Region II Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$8.26 million at 0.4% for 20-years from 2008 (current balance of \$3.78 million). The Maryland Department of the Environment has offered to extend the term of the Maryland Water Quality Revolving loan at 0.4% for 30 years with no additional administrative fees. This would result in the County paying approximately \$89,000 in additional interest. Ms. Lane noted while she understands the justification for the extension of the loan she is not in favor of the extension and stated it would be her preference to pay off the loan as quickly as possible. Discussion ensued about the need for new users for the Region II Sanitary District to help pay off the debt. Mr. Clarke provided a brief history on the unexpected decrease in users of the system since it was upgraded. He explained that with Council’s adoption of Resolution No. 235 and anticipated adoption of Resolution No. 250, additional users will be added to the system. Mr. Clarke noted another option could be a user rate increase of \$100/year and stated that the last sewer rate increase was in 2015. Council discussion ensued regarding the various options with Council directing Mr. Clarke and Ms. Lane to proceed with refinancing the loan through Maryland Department of the Environment and simultaneously identifying a percentage rate increase to the users of the system to help offset costs.

CASH STATEMENT 1/16/2018

BALANCE 1/9/2018	\$35,732,808.59
TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 12/29/17	(544,539.68)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 12/29/17	(14,358.73)
PENSION DED PPE 12/29/17	(34,775.32)
SECU DED PPE 12/29/17	(4,477.08)
DEFERRED COMP PPE 12/29/17 PLAN 401(A)	(2,675.17)
FLEX SPENDING BENEFITS PPE 12/29/17	(3,064.20)

Minutes – January 23, 2018

Page | 11

INTEGRA CLAIMS THRU 1/8/2018 (60,384.24)

ELECTION BOARD PPE 11/21 & 12/5/2017 (13,758.70)

STATE REPORT 12/2017 (1,384,140.10)

USDA/RD MTHLY SEWER BOND PYMT JAN 2018 (1,304.00)

RTN CHECK #1858 PETER GREGORIO (4,153.66)

DEPOSITS 1,047,705.06

CHECKS (748,978.48)

VOIDED CHECK (S) #318886 38.34

BALANCE 1/16/2018 33,963,942.63

AIRPORT ACCOUNTS

AIP42 0.00

AIRPORT ACCOUNTS TOTAL BALANCE 0.00

INVESTMENTS – CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

CERTIFICATE DATE MATURITY DATE RATE AMOUNT

PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL 1.30% 8,000,000.00

1880 BANK 10,010,416.31

TOTAL INVESTED \$18,010,416.31

PETTY CASH BALANCE \$15,570.00

GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS \$51,989,928.94

CASH STATEMENT 1/23/2018

BALANCE 1/16/2018 \$33,963,942.63

INTEGRA CLAIMS THRU 1/16/2018 (58,923.46)

SALES &USE COMMUNITY CENTER DUE 1/20/2018 (679.62)

SALES &USE HOG NECK GOLF COURSE DUE 1/20/2018 (524.68)

RTN CHECK #597 WENDY SCHASEL (366.00)

MLGIP TRANSFER (10,000,000.00)

INTEREST ON ACCTS 12/2017 32,272.57

BANK CHARGES 12/2017 (2,038.74)

DEPOSITS 514,643.37

CHECKS (340,457.91)

BALANCE 1/23/2018				<u>24,107,868.16</u>
<u>AIRPORT ACCOUNTS</u>				
AIP42				0.00
AIRPORT ACCOUNTS TOTAL BALANCE				<u>0.00</u>
INVESTMENTS – CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT				
<u>CERTIFICATE DATE</u>	<u>MATURITY DATE</u>	<u>RATE</u>		<u>AMOUNT</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		1.32%		18,000,000.00
1880 BANK				10,010,416.31
TOTAL INVESTED				<u>\$28,010,416.31</u>
PETTY CASH BALANCE				<u>\$15,570.00</u>
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS				<u>\$52,133,854.47</u>