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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

April 19, 2022; 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Frank Divilio

Corey W. Pack

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

2

3 MR. CALLAHAN: I want to welcome

4 everybody. Appreciate it.

5 Tonight is a special legislation day to go

6 over the budget stuff tonight.

7 So let's stand and hear the prayer from

8 Mr. Leshner. And then we'll stand for the

9 Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag.

10 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.

12 Appreciate it. Okay.

13 So next on the agenda would be the agenda

14 of April 19th before us. Are there any

15 additions, corrections, or deletions to the

16 agenda? Okay. Hearing none, I move that the

17 agenda be accepted as unanimous consent.

18 Then we'll sort of move on to the

19 disbursements, the disbursements of April 19th.

20 Are there any additions, deletions, or

21 corrections to the disbursements? Okay.

Page 3

1 Hearing none, the chair moves that the

2 disbursements be accepted as unanimous consent.

3 Okay. Madam Secretary, do you want to

4 start us off, read the legislation into the

5 record.

6 SECRETARY: An act to establish the

7 2022-2023 annual budget and appropriation

8 ordinance.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right.

10 Ms. Nagle, you want to come on up? Ken, you

11 want to come on up?

12 MR. DAVIS: Sure.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: That would be great.

14 MR. STAMP: I'll go ahead and start off

15 and then I'll hand it off to Joye.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. No problem.

17 MR. STAMP: Thank you, President Callahan,

18 Members of the Council. Thank you for all your

19 hard work working with us and staff to put

20 together a budget for FY23.

21 As we get ready to go into this, I would

Page 4

1 like to recognize Joye and Ken for their work,

2 Jessica for her work, and, of course, your

3 support.

4 I think we've put together a budget that

5 is modest, yet it is well positioned for some

6 uncertain times we're in right now.

7 But I'd like to read a statement and then

8 we'll hand it off to Joye if you don't mind.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. One thing. Is

10 Ms. Price with us by chance?

11 MS. MORRIS: Not at the moment. She might

12 be able to join in a few minutes.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Just let me know.

14 MS. MORRIS: Okay.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

16 MR. STAMP: Thank you.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

18 MR. STAMP: So the FY23 proposed budget

19 has been developed to maintain core services to

20 provide for workforce stability, investment in

21 capital projects, addressing infrastructure,

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1 and improvements in public safety, education,

2 and our general services.

3 It closely mirrors the FY22 funding levels

4 and maintains a healthy fund balance in order to

5 be optimally positioned for future economic

6 uncertainty, such as we're seeing with current

7 inflationary pressures, escalating fuel and

8 commodity costs, and the possibilities of

9 delays or disruptions in supply chains.

10 The proposed budget continues to support

11 the operational strategy, investing in

12 personnel, processes, and projects, which are

13 key elements in effectively providing public

14 safety and general services.

15 The capital improvement program is

16 centered on our community pillars of public

17 safety and health, infrastructure, environment,

18 education, and economic stability.

19 There are 20 capital improvement program

20 projects in this year's budget. And they

21 include funding for projects in the areas of

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1 each.

2 Again, this is a modest yet strategic

3 budget to maintain services while meeting

4 challenges and maintaining a reserve to protect

5 us for economic uncertainties.

6 So with that, I would like to turn it over

7 to your finance director to continue on with

8 the presentation. Thank you.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.

10 MS. NAGLE: Okay. Good evening, County

11 Council Members, employees, and members of the

12 public.

13 It is my pleasure to introduce the fiscal

14 year 2023 general fund budget.

15 I would like to start with a high-level

16 overview.

17 Is that not close enough? Thank you.

18 MR. DAVIS: Am I driving?

19 MS. NAGLE: Are you driving, Ken? Am I

20 driving?

21 MS. MORRIS: You'll have to drive. So you

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1 just click to get to the next.

2 MS. NAGLE: Okay. Thank you.

3 The general fund budget request for fiscal

4 year 2023 is \$112,607,000, and is essentially

5 flat with the fiscal year 22 budget of

6 \$112,816,000.

7 A total of \$33 million is included in the

8 budget to support capital projects as well as

9 capital outlay equipment related projects.

10 \$6 million of these projects are funded by

11 revenues from operations. We anticipate

12 funding the remainder with federal or State

13 grants or through the issuance of long-term

14 debt.

15 Operating expenses for fiscal year 23

16 increased 7.7 percent from the fiscal year 22

17 budget. And that's less than the most recent

18 evaluation of the inflation rate of

19 8.5 percent.

20 The budget is funded in part with revenues

21 of \$14.3 million from the prior year fund

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1 balances.

2 The budget includes a one-cent increase to

3 the property tax rate above what has been

4 allowed by the tax cap as approved by county

5 voters in November 2020. It also includes a

6 one-cent education supplement to support Talbot

7 County Public Schools' important initiatives.

8 The rate tax for unincorporated areas of

9 the county is set at 68.20 cents per \$100 of

10 assessed value, compared with fiscal year 22

11 budget of 65.65 cents. And that's an increase

12 of 3.9 percent from the fiscal 22 rate.

13 Public safety is a top priority for the

14 county and continues to be a top priority in

15 this budget.

16 To give you some additional budget

17 highlights that address the use of county

18 funds, we will continue the expansion of 24/7

19 paramedic unit in the northern end of the

20 county, improving the response time to help

21 county citizens.

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1 The budget includes funding enhancements

2 to support volunteer fire departments,

3 addressing operating costs, and to support

4 training and retention efforts.

5 The budget includes enhanced support for

6 the Sheriff's Department. Capital projects for

7 fiscal 23 include the acquisition or

8 construction to house a Sheriff's Office and

9 the Health Department.

10 We are fully funding the State-mandated

11 commitment to Talbot County Public Schools, as

12 well as some additional supplemental and

13 capital requests. The mandate increases the

14 budget from last year's budget, fiscal 22, by

15 \$2.2 million. In addition, this budget funds

16 1.4 million in supplemental and capital

17 requests from the schools.

18 This budget invests in the improvement to

19 roads, culvert replacements, as well as the

20 extension of sewer services.

21 There are investments in information

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1 technology for improvements in efficiency,  
 2 transparency, and data security.  
 3 As I mentioned before, this budget, the  
 4 operating budget increases less than inflation.  
 5 It provides the ability for paramedics to  
 6 join LEOPS, which is the Law Enforcement  
 7 Officers Pension System. And that will help  
 8 with recruitment and retention.  
 9 To address inflationary and retention  
 10 issues, the budget includes a cost of living  
 11 and step increases for eligible Talbot County  
 12 employees.  
 13 There are 13 new positions in this budget,  
 14 nine are public safety related and the other  
 15 positions will improve operations and permits,  
 16 inspections, planning and zoning, roads,  
 17 Circuit Court, as well as the county's ability  
 18 to communicate with the public.  
 19 We can talk, yeah, to the revenues. This  
 20 is a summary of, shows the summary of revenues  
 21 and expenditures for the county, a comparison

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1 of fiscal year 23 to fiscal year 22.  
 2 Again, as I mentioned before, the expense  
 3 budget is \$112,607,000. The expenditures are  
 4 broken as shown.  
 5 Public schools, excluding debt service, is  
 6 about \$50.2 million. Other county operations,  
 7 the expense level is 55.6. Totaling, for total  
 8 operating expenses come in at \$105,781,000.  
 9 And property tax revenues fund 45 percent  
 10 of this budget. Income taxes and other  
 11 revenues fund 42 percent of the expense budget,  
 12 and 13 percent of expenses will be funded using  
 13 the prior year fund balances.  
 14 We used 14.3 million from the prior year  
 15 fund balance to support this budget. This  
 16 helps moderate the need to increase property  
 17 taxes.  
 18 Higher than budgeted taxes collected  
 19 during fiscal year 22 related to real estate  
 20 transactions and local income taxes have helped  
 21 keep the fund balance healthy.

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1 This slide shows the composition of  
 2 general fund expenditures. You can see that  
 3 45 percent of general fund expenses relate to  
 4 public schools, and about 48 percent relate to  
 5 our county operations.  
 6 Thanks, Ken.  
 7 This slide shows capital projects for  
 8 fiscal year 23. You can see that we have many,  
 9 as Mr. Stamp alluded to earlier, we have 20  
 10 different projects. \$20 million of these  
 11 projects are related to public safety and  
 12 health and are related to acquisition of new  
 13 facilities for public safety and health.  
 14 1.8 million is to expand broadband to most  
 15 community members.  
 16 The budget includes about \$7.1 million in  
 17 highway and street projects, and about half a  
 18 million dollars in capital projects are related  
 19 to the school system.  
 20 This final slide shows the fund balance  
 21 that we project to be remaining after at the

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1 end of fiscal year 23.  
 2 Again, we need to use 14.3 million to  
 3 balance the budget for fiscal year 23, but you  
 4 can see that what is remaining is a healthy  
 5 fund balance. The availability of a healthy  
 6 fund balance will help the County maintain  
 7 services if we encounter increased costs or  
 8 revenues during those uncertain times.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Good job.  
 10 MS. NAGLE: Thank you.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Ken, you want to say  
 12 anything? You good?  
 13 MR. DAVIS: I just appreciate Joye's  
 14 leadership through this exercise, this being  
 15 our first year through our first budget cycle  
 16 with Talbot County government.  
 17 We certainly learned a lot about the  
 18 county, the process, what's involved in the  
 19 budget cycle. And we look forward to even a  
 20 more efficient and effective process going  
 21 forward.

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1 And we appreciate the support of the  
 2 Council as we work through this.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Absolutely. It was a  
 4 pleasure working with you two. You worked very  
 5 hard day and night. And Joye and Ken, I mean  
 6 you know you're very professional.  
 7 I enjoyed seeing you work. I enjoyed  
 8 learning from you. You guys have brought us to  
 9 a whole nother level, and I really appreciate  
 10 your heart and dedication for all that stuff.  
 11 So Council.  
 12 MS. NAGLE: We appreciate those comments.  
 13 Thank you.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Pack.  
 15 MR. PACK: Very nicely done, Ms. Nagle,  
 16 very nicely done for your first one.  
 17 This budget, as you pointed out, is a flat  
 18 budget. The numbers may be somewhat  
 19 eye-popping to Talbot County citizens to see  
 20 \$112 million budget. They saw one last year,  
 21 they're seeing one again this year.

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1 But to look at comparison year to date,  
 2 it's about even. We're not spending outside of  
 3 our limits.  
 4 The one thing that I always try to do as  
 5 part of this Council is to see if we could pay  
 6 for our schools with our property tax. If  
 7 we're bringing in X number of dollars in  
 8 property tax, see how that can balance off in  
 9 covering your school expenditures. And we're  
 10 pretty much right on target.  
 11 Forty-five percent of the budget is made  
 12 up of property tax. The school expenditures  
 13 come in at 45 percent. So for me, that's what  
 14 I like to see as a healthy give and take, to  
 15 see that you're still able to raise the revenue  
 16 to cover your schools, which is the lion's  
 17 share of your budget, through the property tax  
 18 revenues.  
 19 I think the citizens have given Council  
 20 the ability to go above the cap by that one  
 21 cent. It's showing dividends already. And I

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1 think it will pay off continually in the long  
 2 run, because we do have State mandates we have  
 3 to cover regarding our schools.  
 4 And looking at what the Council focused on  
 5 this year regarding those capital projects,  
 6 which is something that we have been ringing  
 7 the bell about for the last couple of years,  
 8 that we have aging buildings in the county,  
 9 particularly our Health Department. And being  
 10 able to now push that go button and go out and  
 11 secure them space I think is a big plus for  
 12 this Council.  
 13 We knew that we were on the clock, so to  
 14 speak, when it comes to our Sheriff's  
 15 Department over at the Business Center. And  
 16 now having a plan in place to get them a  
 17 permanent place for residence also I think is a  
 18 big plus on the budget as well.  
 19 There's a number of other things I can  
 20 point out, but I will stop there.  
 21 Overall, I would say that I am satisfied

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1 with the budget. I will be introducing it  
 2 tonight. I think that the Council hit the  
 3 points that it needed to hit.  
 4 Keep in mind that we do have some aging  
 5 infrastructure in place. Ray Clarke is not  
 6 here, but he's going to be a very busy man, as  
 7 if he wasn't already. But with all the repairs  
 8 that we have to do and the other extensions,  
 9 our Public Works Department is going to be very  
 10 busy over the next year and several years to  
 11 come.  
 12 So and that's just the price of doing  
 13 business. Things go bad, things age over time,  
 14 and they have to be replaced.  
 15 So and the last point I will make and then  
 16 I'll shut up is the fund balance. I mean we're  
 17 still able to keep \$3.6 million of fund balance  
 18 still there. And this is not even -- although  
 19 we used \$14 million of it and you don't want to  
 20 keep on doing that as a strategy, but still  
 21 able to take \$14 million away from the fund

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1 balance and still have over \$30 million left is  
 2 a big plus. So I think many counties would  
 3 have liked to have this luxury to have that  
 4 much money set aside for emergency needs.  
 5 So it's good, good budget, good  
 6 presentation. Ken, thank you as well.  
 7 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.  
 9 Mr. Leshner.  
 10 MR. LESHNER: Well, I, too, want to thank  
 11 staff for bringing us through this process with  
 12 the clarity that you did. And I feel that  
 13 we've got understanding around the table of  
 14 what the high level issues are and the  
 15 important decisions that we're making,  
 16 proposing to make with this budget.  
 17 Just emphasize a few points. And I, too,  
 18 want to thank my fellow Council members because  
 19 this is both -- we've gotten this to the point  
 20 of introducing what is both a modest, flat  
 21 budget and a fiscally conservative one.

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1 This keeps the county in good, healthy  
 2 financial shape while funding some really  
 3 important priorities.  
 4 It does reward our employees. It does  
 5 help us recruit and retain our excellent staff  
 6 in an environment where hiring is challenging.  
 7 Hiring is really challenging. Hiring is  
 8 challenging in every field. And this addresses  
 9 it across the board.  
 10 But there's a particular emphasis in here,  
 11 as we committed to the public, on public safety  
 12 in what we are doing to fund new positions.  
 13 And the retirement system in public  
 14 safety, this is an important step forward.  
 15 That's what we committed to when we asked the  
 16 voters to allow for that extra penny, and that  
 17 is where the funding is going. And this is a  
 18 Council that has kept its commitment to the  
 19 voters on that point.  
 20 So thank you, all. I think we're at a  
 21 very good point with this.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Vice  
 2 President.  
 3 MR. DIVILIO: So as my last budget cycle,  
 4 I would like to take the time to thank Joye and  
 5 Ken for putting together a great presentation,  
 6 being excellent resources and in coming in new.  
 7 And now I'm going to take a dig at  
 8 somebody. This is -- I love the budget cycle.  
 9 It's all encompassing, and there's a lot of  
 10 things where you have to say yes, I absolutely  
 11 want this but we can't do it right now or we're  
 12 going to have to scale it down or what if we  
 13 combine it with this department.  
 14 And that was one of the greatest benefits  
 15 of having Angela with a long tenure. She would  
 16 know about a van that a department hadn't been  
 17 using for a few years and she'd stick it onto  
 18 somebody else who needed it.  
 19 And for you guys to step right in without  
 20 that long experience and do such a great job, I  
 21 really want to compliment you on how quickly

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1 you caught right up to speed and got here with  
 2 this.  
 3 There will always be individuals in this  
 4 community who have their own little special  
 5 interests and have absolutely no idea what it  
 6 takes to sit up here and make these decisions.  
 7 And it's disheartening to me when they run  
 8 people out of town, they challenge people who  
 9 are good citizens who are trying to make a  
 10 difference, and they'll come right up and say I  
 11 don't know anything about razor clams but this  
 12 plume sounds like a bad idea. And then they  
 13 walk out of here. And then he comes back up  
 14 when he's on race relations, and now he's on to  
 15 integrity.  
 16 So when you're putting a budget together,  
 17 when you have very limited funds and a lot of  
 18 need, Mr. Pack, I agree with everything you  
 19 said. If anything, I would adjust the ringing  
 20 the bell to sounding the alarm. We've been  
 21 sounding the alarm for a while that we needed

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1 to get out of the -- that Black and Decker is  
 2 coming down. Black and Decker left town.  
 3 And so every department, even the ice  
 4 skating rink, as big as that building is, has a  
 5 need for storage.  
 6 And I think that with this budget, we  
 7 really did an excellent job of meeting the  
 8 needs of all of the departments, helping to get  
 9 some departments a little bit further ahead  
 10 than they expected to be.  
 11 I'm proud of what we're able to do for the  
 12 staff.  
 13 And I think that when this all settles  
 14 down and looks back, this is going to be one of  
 15 those budgets that we're really proud on  
 16 because it helps the environment with cleaning  
 17 up all the sewer, it does a lot for the school  
 18 systems, it does a lot for mental health, which  
 19 is just a big challenge to everyone in this  
 20 community.  
 21 So I appreciate the time. Everybody has

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1 taken my phone calls over the last few months  
 2 and helped me try to finagle and work groups  
 3 together that just might not have seemed like a  
 4 good fit. And I think we've done it.  
 5 So I'm very proud of this budget. I'm  
 6 very proud of this Council working well  
 7 together and giving the community back what the  
 8 community needs.  
 9 There's a lot of wants that we're still  
 10 trying to get as well, but I feel very  
 11 confident the needs are being met with this  
 12 budget.  
 13 So thank you.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.  
 15 It's hard to top that. That's for sure.  
 16 Is Ms. Price, is she on?  
 17 MS. MORRIS: She has not responded. She  
 18 might still be in her other commitment.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. No problem, no  
 20 problem.  
 21 But like my colleagues said, you guys

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1 obviously hit it out of the park, especially  
 2 for your first time. And you would have never  
 3 thought it was your first time. That's for  
 4 sure.  
 5 MR. DAVIS: Thanks.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: But it was a pleasure  
 7 working with you guys. And just like we said,  
 8 there's just so many things in that budget that  
 9 are beneficial to the public. And that's  
 10 really what we tried to achieve and give them.  
 11 So being that's said, thank you. And I  
 12 appreciate all the good job you did.  
 13 And Mr. Stamp, you're just sitting back  
 14 there, too. You sort of led the charge on  
 15 this. And there was a lot here at the end that  
 16 you had to do and a little bit of stress going  
 17 on. And I can't thank you enough for stepping  
 18 in and, you know, directing and managing the  
 19 staff to do all that stuff. So you need to be  
 20 commended yourself for everything you've done,  
 21 too.

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1 And the same thing with you, Jess. You  
 2 got to run the TV and the show.  
 3 MS. MORRIS: (Inaudible.)  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Exactly. So it takes a  
 5 team. It does take a team. And we really  
 6 appreciate Susan and you and everybody pitching  
 7 in and everything you guys do.  
 8 So I appreciate it. Thank you. Okay.  
 9 You're excused.  
 10 MS. NAGLE: We're excused.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Exactly. Okay.  
 12 Next up is public comment.  
 13 MR. PACK: Are we not introducing?  
 14 SECRETARY: The budget hasn't been  
 15 introduced.  
 16 MR. PACK: Are we not introducing the  
 17 budget?  
 18 MR. STAMP: Please do.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: I was ready to leave.  
 20 MR. PACK: A big part of why we're here.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: It helps, you know. I

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<p>1 apologize for that. Okay.</p> <p>2 Show of hands to introduce the bill.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Is Ms. Price on, Jess?</p> <p>4 MS. MORRIS: She is not.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Okay.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>7 could you go ahead and announce the bill number</p> <p>8 and the public hearing and the date and time,</p> <p>9 please.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Yes. This will be known as</p> <p>11 Bill Number 1498. The public hearings will be</p> <p>12 held on Tuesday, May 3rd. The first one will</p> <p>13 be at two o'clock in this room, and the second</p> <p>14 one will be at seven o'clock p.m. in the Easton</p> <p>15 Elementary School cafeteria, which is located</p> <p>16 at 307 Glenwood Avenue.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great. Okay,</p> <p>18 then. Sounds good.</p> <p>19 Now we can go. Now we got public comment.</p> <p>20 Anybody over here? I know you want to get up</p> <p>21 here. Come on. Sarah?</p>	<p>1 have conversation with.</p> <p>2 So I do apologize to the family for not</p> <p>3 giving my condolences at our last meeting. I</p> <p>4 want to do so now.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.</p> <p>6 Okay. So I guess we're going to wrap</p> <p>7 everything up. Appreciate everybody being</p> <p>8 here, all the hard work.</p> <p>9 And Mr. Leshner, you want to go ahead and</p> <p>10 wrap it up for us.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHNER: The Council's next meeting</p> <p>12 will be held on Tuesday, April 26th, beginning</p> <p>13 at six o'clock p.m. The Council will be</p> <p>14 convening in open session at 4:30 p.m. and then</p> <p>15 adjourning into closed session to discuss real</p> <p>16 estate, legal, and personnel matters as listed</p> <p>17 on the statement for closing that meeting.</p> <p>18 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn</p> <p>19 this meeting and reconvene as noted?</p> <p>20 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p>
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<p>1 SARAH: No, thank you. I'm good. Thank</p> <p>2 you.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. No problem. Okay.</p> <p>4 I guess we'll do next up is Council</p> <p>5 comment. Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>6 MR. DIVILIO: I'm good for tonight. Thank</p> <p>7 you.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: You're good for tonight.</p> <p>9 Mr. Vice President.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHNER: Nothing further.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Pack.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Just only thing I have to say</p> <p>13 is very briefly. And I do apologize to the</p> <p>14 family. I did not give my condolences to the</p> <p>15 Horne family on the passing of Judge Horne. He</p> <p>16 passed recently. It was in the papers.</p> <p>17 I knew Judge Horne from my days with the</p> <p>18 State when I ran the Probation Office here.</p> <p>19 Always was a very studied man of the law, but</p> <p>20 always a quick man, a quick-witted man off the</p> <p>21 bench. Just always a delight to be around and</p>	<p>1 a second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>2 vote.</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: I second it, if you need a</p> <p>4 second.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yeah.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>9 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>15 (Meeting concluded at: 6:30 p.m.)</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p>



1 STATE OF MARYLAND  
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and  
 for the State of Maryland, County of Baltimore City,  
 3 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot  
 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me  
 4 at the time and place herein set according to law,  
 was interrogated by counsel.

5  
 I further certify that the examination was  
 6 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed  
 from my stenographic notes to the within printed  
 7 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription  
 in a true and accurate manner.

8  
 I further certify that the stipulations  
 9 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my  
 presence.

10  
 I further certify that I am not of counsel  
 11 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,  
 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way  
 12 interested in the outcome of this action.

13 AS WITNESS my hand Notorial Seal this 24th  
 day of April, 2022, at Easton, MD.

14  
 15 

16  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Diane Houlihan  
 Notary Public

17  
 18  
 19  
 20 My commission expires September 16, 2025

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