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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

January 24, 2023; 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Keasha N. Haythe

Lynn L. Mielke

Dave Stepp

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

2

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sorry we're late a

4 bit here. And we're going to go ahead and get

5 started.

6 I want to welcome everybody tonight.

7 Appreciate it, you coming tonight.

8 So let's go ahead and stand. And

9 Mr. Stepp is going to do the prayer and then

10 we're going to do the Pledge of Allegiance of

11 the Flag.

12 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,

14 Mr. Stepp. Appreciate that. Good job. All

15 right.

16 Let's start off this evening with the

17 agenda. We've got January 24th before us. Are

18 there any additions, deletions, or corrections

19 to the agenda tonight, Council? Okay. Hearing

20 none, the chair moves that the agenda be

21 accepted as unanimous consent.

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1 Next is the minutes, June 10th, before us.

2 Is there any additions, deletions, or

3 corrections to the minutes? Hearing none,

4 Council, the chair moves that the minutes be

5 accepted as unanimous consent.

6 Next on the agenda is the disbursements of

7 January 17th and January 24th. They are before

8 us. Are there any additions, deletions, or

9 corrections to the disbursements? Okay.

10 Council, hearing none, the chair moves that the

11 disbursements be accepted as unanimous consent.

12 Okay.

13 The first thing on the agenda tonight is

14 an introduction. I think we have a new

15 Election Board director. Would you like to

16 come on up? Welcome.

17 MS. STAFFORD: Thank you.

18 MR. SECRIST: I'd like to introduce Tammy

19 Stafford. She's our new election director.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Joe, could you tell

21 everybody who you are? You're the big deal.

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1 Come on now.

2 MR. SECRIST: Oh, I'm Joe Secrist. I'm

3 the president of the Election Board.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I appreciate it,

5 Joe. Appreciate you being here.

6 MR. SECRIST: She lives in Greensboro,

7 which is not that far away.

8 The last four directors we've had lived a

9 fair distance away.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great. Well,

11 welcome, Tammy.

12 MS. STAFFORD: Thank you.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.

14 MS. STAFFORD: Thank you, Mr. Secrist.

15 Good evening, Council Members. I'm happy

16 to be here in front of you tonight.

17 I'm here not only to introduce myself to

18 the Council and staff of the county, but also

19 to discuss a key concern for the elections

20 office.

21 We were recently, we recently received a

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1 notice of the demolition that is scheduled for

2 January 24th on the Talbot Business Park

3 building.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: January 4th or June 4th?

5 MS. STAFFORD: January 24, 2024.

6 MR. STAMP: January 2024.

7 MS. STAFFORD: Sorry.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.

9 MS. STAFFORD: We also submitted a letter

10 in regards to the relocation of our office

11 space.

12 This is a concern for us because the

13 primary election for the 2024 presidential

14 election is scheduled for April of 2024. At

15 this time, there are no plans to move our

16 facility. And we -- excuse me. Let me start.

17 So staying in the Talbot Business Park

18 building past December 1st will cause many

19 challenges for the Election Board as we will be

20 in election mode at this time.

21 The Talbot County Business Park facility

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1 provides necessary space that we need to
 2 provide a fair and efficient election in
 3 accordance with State law. This location is
 4 not just a storage space for election
 5 equipment, it is an office space that is
 6 staffed. It is the facility where we train our
 7 election judges, we hold canvass, and we also
 8 do analytics and testing on the equipment
 9 before it goes out to the poling places.
 10 In January, we would be staffing our
 11 temporary staff to do that, to begin that
 12 process of the analytics and testing. And in
 13 February, we would begin training for our
 14 election judges. And in April, we would be
 15 holding our canvas.
 16 And if we're scheduled to stay in this
 17 building past December 1st, we would
 18 potentially be doing all that in a construction
 19 zone.
 20 It is imperative at this time that a
 21 location be identified for our office space and

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1 a plan put in place by March 2023.
 2 And I have already -- I did meet with
 3 Mr. Stamp last week and Jessica Morris to
 4 discuss my concerns and request a work session.
 5 Mr. Stamp and Ms. Morris were receptive to
 6 that, and Mr. Stamp said that we would set up,
 7 schedule a meeting for us with staff.
 8 And additionally, I am requesting that
 9 money be allocated in the FY2024 budget for the
 10 Election Board office space. Thank you.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Tammy.
 12 Mr. Stamp, you want to comment a little
 13 bit on that?
 14 MR. STAMP: Welcome, Tammy.
 15 MS. STAFFORD: Thank you.
 16 MR. STAMP: And congratulations.
 17 MS. STAFFORD: Thank you.
 18 MR. STAMP: Good to see you, Mr. Secrist.
 19 Yes, we had a very productive meeting.
 20 And we do know that the county has to provide
 21 office and functional space for our Election

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1 Board. And we did have a constructive meeting.
 2 The intention at this point in support of
 3 Council is to pull our staff together, the
 4 county engineer, our GIS representative, and
 5 the gentleman in charge of facilities, have a
 6 discussion in the next couple of weeks about
 7 options, both current, interim, and then
 8 long-term, and be able to come back to Council
 9 with a recommendation.
 10 But we recognize the challenge. I know
 11 you do as well.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 13 MR. STAMP: I have briefed you on this.
 14 And we will work with the Election Board to
 15 come up with a pretty clear plan for the 2024
 16 election so that you can function adequately
 17 and then into the future.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Stamp.
 19 Council.
 20 MS. MIELKE: No comment.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Go ahead.

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1 MR. LESHER: I think I certainly
 2 appreciate how important the security of the
 3 voting machines is and all the testing and
 4 everything that you need to do with it. I know
 5 that even if you didn't have to move out of the
 6 Talbot Business Park, where those machines are
 7 currently stored, as it is, the situation is
 8 far less than ideal because your offices are in
 9 one place and your storage of these machines is
 10 in a completely separate place. And keeping an
 11 eye on them is an issue and we need to do
 12 better.
 13 And I think this Council will do better
 14 and we will respond to your call. And I look
 15 forward to working with you and working out a
 16 solution.
 17 MS. STAFFORD: Thank you.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: And I will piggyback on
 19 that. Rest assured, we will have that location
 20 because this isn't new to us and we've been
 21 thinking about this for a while now.

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1 So we just, you know, we got things that
 2 are moving in a great, positive direction for
 3 you guys. So it's just a matter in the next,
 4 hopefully in the next four to six months we'll
 5 have something in concrete and we can take care
 6 of you guys. But rest assured, we will have
 7 you a place.
 8 MS. STAFFORD: Thank you. I look forward
 9 to it.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Thank you and
 11 welcome.
 12 MS. STAFFORD: Thank you.
 13 MR. SECRIST: Thank you very much.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Joe.
 15 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Did you have something?
 17 I'm sorry.
 18 MR. STEPP: I just, I had a few questions.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Excuse me one second.
 20 So Councilman Stepp.
 21 MR. STEPP: Thank you.

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1 So Tammy and Joe, thank you guys for
 2 actually having me out to your meeting last
 3 week. It was very informative, and
 4 congratulations on the new position. So thank
 5 you.
 6 MS. STAFFORD: Thank you.
 7 MR. STEPP: There was a couple of
 8 questions that came up that I was curious about
 9 that just out of personal knowledge.
 10 You mentioned there were issues with the
 11 ballot marking devices. Can you explain what
 12 that is and what were those issues?
 13 MS. STAFFORD: So there was the -- there
 14 was no issue with the ballot marking device.
 15 What we observed during the primary and
 16 the general election was that the ballot
 17 marking device usage was -- had increased from
 18 past elections.
 19 MR. STEPP: What is that, if you don't
 20 mind me asking?
 21 MS. STAFFORD: The ballot marking device?

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1 MR. STEPP: Yes, ma'am.
 2 MS. STAFFORD: So when a voter enters the
 3 polling place, you have two options to mark
 4 your ballot. You can mark it by hand or you
 5 can use the ballot marking device, which is
 6 essentially an electronic screen that you will
 7 mark your ballot.
 8 MR. STEPP: So the electronic version
 9 versus the paper process?
 10 MS. STAFFORD: Right.
 11 MR. STEPP: Thank you. Got you.
 12 MS. STAFFORD: You do not vote your ballot
 13 through that machine. What happens is the
 14 ballot is marked. And then a sheet of paper,
 15 it's long and narrow, it then goes into the
 16 scanner at the end of the process.
 17 MR. STEPP: Okay.
 18 MS. STAFFORD: But the issue is because of
 19 a lawsuit that the State went through, we're
 20 required to use certain language that does not
 21 give weight to one option or the other. It's

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1 the voter's choice as to which option they
 2 choose.
 3 We just observed in this election that
 4 that option was being used more than in the
 5 past.
 6 MR. STEPP: The electronic was being used
 7 more than the paper you're saying?
 8 MS. STAFFORD: Yes. The ballot marking
 9 device.
 10 We were only allocated so many machines.
 11 MR. STEPP: Okay.
 12 MS. STAFFORD: So that, in a sense, caused
 13 some lines in the polling place.
 14 This is an issue that the State is aware
 15 of. They are working on revisiting the issue.
 16 So there will be --
 17 MR. STEPP: Was it an issue of you said
 18 not having enough or was it they weren't
 19 functioning properly?
 20 MS. STAFFORD: It wasn't that they weren't
 21 functioning properly.

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1 MR. SECRIST: There just wasn't enough.
 2 MS. STAFFORD: There just wasn't enough.
 3 MR. STEPP: Okay.
 4 MS. STAFFORD: And because we don't weight
 5 one method over the other and it is the voter's
 6 choice, it just created the lines that some may
 7 have experienced during the election process.
 8 MR. STEPP: Yeah. That was what kind of
 9 led to my second question. You mentioned there
 10 was post election maintenance coming up in the
 11 meeting.
 12 And I was just wondering if that was as a
 13 result of those issues you were mentioning?
 14 MS. STAFFORD: No. We do post election
 15 maintenance on all the equipment once --
 16 there's a hold on the equipment after the
 17 election.
 18 MR. STEPP: Okay.
 19 MS. STAFFORD: And then we have
 20 requirements that are given to us by the State
 21 to perform on the equipment after the election.

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1 MR. STEPP: Okay. And then the last thing
 2 that I heard you say in the meeting, too, there
 3 was a manual audit coming up of the 2022
 4 election.
 5 I understand that's just standard
 6 practice. That's coming up on you mentioned
 7 February 8th at ten a.m.?
 8 MS. STAFFORD: February 8th at ten a.m.
 9 at --
 10 MR. STEPP: Is it a public access?
 11 MS. STAFFORD: That is open the public.
 12 MR. STEPP: Okay. Thank you.
 13 MS. STAFFORD: And it will be posted on
 14 our website for the time and location.
 15 MR. STEPP: Okay.
 16 MS. STAFFORD: Which the location will be
 17 at the Talbot County Business Bark.
 18 MR. STEPP: The Business Center. Okay.
 19 Thank you.
 20 MS. STAFFORD: Thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Anybody else? You

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1 good?
 2 MS. HAYTHE: No.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Thank you,
 4 guys. We really appreciate it.
 5 MS. STAFFORD: Thank you.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next up is the
 7 Neighborhood Service Center. IS Marilyn here?
 8 There she is.
 9 Hey there. How are you?
 10 MS. NEAL: Good evening.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.
 12 MS. NEAL: Doing well. Glad to be here.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.
 14 MS. NEAL: Thank you for the invitation.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.
 16 MS. STAFFORD: So for those that don't
 17 know, I'm Marilyn Neal, the director of the
 18 Neighborhood Service Center. And we are here
 19 to provide a presentation to reintroduce
 20 ourself to the new Council members.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's good.

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1 MR. LESHHER: Ms. Neal, you have a soft
 2 voice. If you could just make sure we could
 3 all hear you.
 4 MS. NEAL: Is that better?
 5 MR. LESHHER: Thank you.
 6 MS. NEAL: Okay.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Good. That's good.
 8 MS. NEAL: Don't let the slides scare you.
 9 I'm going to skim through them.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 11 MS. NEAL: Okay. So I wanted to take time
 12 to say that we have been, since 1969, providing
 13 stabilizing services to those less fortunate in
 14 Talbot County. I think we were designated a
 15 community action agency by Talbot County by the
 16 late Mr. Herbie Andrew.
 17 Since then, the county has continued to be
 18 an influential part of our success.
 19 At this time, we have several programs
 20 that are to eliminate poverty. The barriers
 21 are arrear assistance. We provide

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1 complimentary baskets to the community for
 2 holidays. Three years ago, we implemented a
 3 mobile food pantry. We -- that serves all of
 4 the small towns in Talbot County.
 5 We also provided COVID relief through
 6 grant funding, such as CARES one, ERAP one and
 7 two.
 8 We provide food through our food pantry,
 9 heating assistance through Emergency Services
 10 as well as Maryland Energy Assistance Program.
 11 We work with eviction prevention through first
 12 month's rent, security deposit.
 13 We do, we have worked with some of our
 14 veterans and, of course, the low income
 15 community to provide or our partners to provide
 16 home repairs as well as auto repairs, heating
 17 assistance.
 18 We just started a two-gen program two
 19 years ago that works with the whole family,
 20 that works with every generation in a
 21 household, which many times is the grandmother,

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1 the mother, and the child. So we look at the
 2 whole family so that hopefully we're able to
 3 stop that poverty with the child.
 4 We have a responsible fathers program.
 5 That is working with fathers that are exiting
 6 incarceration. This year we are also going to
 7 be partnering with Easton High School to work
 8 with teen fathers. That's a new addition to
 9 that program.
 10 And we have our youth program and after
 11 school program.
 12 We work with temporary hotel placements,
 13 rapid rehousing. What rapid rehousing is is
 14 where we take homeless individuals. Sometimes
 15 we may -- they may be in shelter or in a hotel,
 16 but we move them into permanent housing. We
 17 monitor them for up to six months. And it can
 18 be longer because, as we know, sometimes things
 19 just don't go as planned. But we move them
 20 from homelessness to self-sufficiency.
 21 And we have a rent pay program, which we

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1 pay the bills of some of our clients that have
 2 mental incapacities.
 3 Next, please.
 4 MS. MORRIS: If you just scroll, you
 5 should get to the next slide.
 6 MS. NEAL: Okay. I didn't know you left
 7 it for me, Jessica.
 8 MS. MORRIS: There you go.
 9 MS. NEAL: Okay. So next I would like to
 10 introduce our elected officials. We have, for
 11 our board, our board is a tripartite board. So
 12 it's one-third elected officials, one-third
 13 from the private sector, and one-third from low
 14 income.
 15 And so our elected officials are the
 16 Honorable Ron Engle, the Honorable Megan Cook,
 17 the Honorable Keasha Haythe, who just joined
 18 us, Sheriff Joe Gamble, and Senator Johnny
 19 Mautz.
 20 Our community representatives are Shanika
 21 Brooks, Lucie Hughes, Crystal Miller, Darnell

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1 Thomas, who is in the audience with me in
 2 support. And we have one vacancy in that
 3 sector.
 4 Private sector. We have as our chairman
 5 Frank Divilio, we have Marvin Frazier, Lonnie
 6 Green, and Kate LaMotte. We have one vacancy in
 7 that sector as well.
 8 So in FY22, the Neighborhood Service
 9 Center served 2,599 unduplicated individuals,
 10 which equaled 1,358 households served.
 11 Out of those, 47.29 percent had Medicaid
 12 insurance, and 20 -- I'm going to have to look
 13 at mine for this one. And 35.71 percent was up
 14 to 50 percent of the poverty level. Eighteen
 15 percent of those were disabled.
 16 We served 38.09 percent men and 61.91
 17 percent were women.
 18 The household demographics. 1,133 were
 19 black or African American, and 1,036 were
 20 white. The other ones were made up of multiple
 21 races.

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1 Of those served, I'll give you the large
 2 numbers, which we had 147 were full-time
 3 employed and 181 were retired. 2.89 percent of
 4 those individuals were veterans.
 5 10.08 percent were Hispanic and
 6 9.12 percent were without health insurance.
 7 So our customers are always working unless
 8 they're coming to us homeless. It's a
 9 requirement of our grants that they be
 10 employed. That changed a little bit during
 11 COVID because there was a lot of flexibility in
 12 the grants that we received.
 13 So as you can see, 234 had income from
 14 employment. Employment and non-cash benefits
 15 were 132. The 625 came to us non-cash
 16 benefits, which meant that they weren't
 17 working, receiving any financial assistance.
 18 And then the households that we served,
 19 the largest percent are single individuals,
 20 followed by a parent and a single child, and
 21 then two adults and no children. And I'm

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1 skimming through, but this slide will be found
 2 on our website.
 3 So I'm going to go down to housing by
 4 household. The largest services we have are
 5 renters, which is 670. And then those that own
 6 their homes are 363. And those individuals
 7 would have been served by the Maryland Energy
 8 Assistance Program, the ones that own their
 9 homes. We cannot service individuals outside
 10 of renters, which I wish that would change.
 11 But I don't have the power to do that, which is
 12 where Talbot County funds come in very useful
 13 to us because it helps us fill gaps.
 14 So source of insurance. As you can see,
 15 most of the people we serve do have insurance.
 16 Medicaid is 1,142 and Medicare is 643. And
 17 then it just goes, trickles down to the other
 18 sources.
 19 Income, the largest source of income by
 20 those we serve are on Social Security.
 21 And then customers served by educational

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1 levels. So 30 percent of the individuals
 2 served were from grades zero to eight. 5.01
 3 percent have an education of ninth grade to
 4 12th, and these are 24 and plus in age.
 5 13.37 percent high school graduates, 2.09 have
 6 GEDs, 1.07 have some secondary education, and
 7 1.19 percent has two or four years of college.
 8 So 76.78 percent is unspecified. So
 9 unfortunately, we do have clients that we serve
 10 that have a college degree.
 11 And FYI (sic.) 2022 impacts of services.
 12 The most services, we did 1,358 case
 13 management, eviction prevention counseling 400,
 14 mobile food pantry 426, home and auto repairs
 15 994, and heating assistance 994, landlord
 16 tenant mediation 625, utility payments 982.
 17 And those are the largest numbers of the
 18 services that we provided.
 19 And then there's a breakdown of all the
 20 towns in Talbot County that we serve. But in
 21 the Town of Easton was 71.9 percent of the

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1 clients that we served. And then this just
 2 breaks down a little bit in more detail of in
 3 Bozman, for example, the largest number we
 4 served there was heating assistance of seven
 5 households and the mobile food pantry was six
 6 household.
 7 Then you look at Cordova, which was 54
 8 households for utility payment and 57 for
 9 housing assistance. Those were the largest
 10 areas there.
 11 For Claiborne, our largest area there is
 12 food pantry, which is only five individuals.
 13 And we served one ERAP client there. And ERAP
 14 is an acronym for Emergency Rental Assistance.
 15 So the heating assistance for Talbot
 16 County was the largest service we provided,
 17 followed by utility payment, the ERAP program,
 18 mobile food pantry, and holidays baskets.
 19 McDaniel, the largest service was first
 20 month's rent.
 21 And Newcomb was a tie between heating

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1 assistance and utility payment.
 2 Neavitt was heating assistance was the
 3 largest service we provided there.
 4 Oxford, the largest service we provided
 5 was heating assistance.
 6 Queen Anne, utility payments and ERAP were
 7 both at six households.
 8 Royal Oak, the largest was heating
 9 assistance and utility payments.
 10 Sherwood was our CARES program and utility
 11 payment.
 12 St. Michaels was heating assistance,
 13 mobile food pantry were the largest services.
 14 And Tilghman, the largest services were
 15 heating assistance and utility payments.
 16 The Town of Trappe, the largest was
 17 heating assistance and the ERAP program.
 18 Wittman, heating assistance and utility
 19 were the largest served.
 20 Wye Mills was ERAP. Emergency rental
 21 assistance was largest service provided in that

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1 jurisdiction.
 2 So as you can see, we are all throughout
 3 Talbot County with our services.
 4 Last year, our services totaled
 5 \$4,373,676. Unfortunately, we wish that number
 6 was so much lower. But it's going to take a
 7 village to make that happen.
 8 So that money was spent to help combat
 9 poverty, to help kids excel academically,
 10 COVID-19 relief, hunger solutions, energy and
 11 heating assistance, and to build a strong and
 12 healthy community.
 13 We had 1,215 volunteer hours with 40
 14 volunteers. Anyone looking for somewhere to
 15 volunteer, please come and see me.
 16 And I won't go through all of our 2022
 17 partners. But as you can see, we have a long
 18 list of partners. And we can't do what we do
 19 without any of them.
 20 So does anyone have any questions for me?
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, thank you, Ms. Neal.

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1 You do such a great job.
 2 Council.
 3 MS. HAYTHE: No. But I look forward to
 4 working with you now that I'm a part of the
 5 board. So great board meeting yesterday, my
 6 first meeting. So I look forward to --
 7 MS. NEAL: Thank you.
 8 MS. HAYTHE: -- helping you where needed.
 9 MS. NEAL: We look forward to having you.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Mielke.
 11 MS. MIELKE: I just want to express thanks
 12 to the Neighborhood Service Center for all you
 13 do and keeping Talbot County safe and secure.
 14 MS. NEAL: Thank you.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.
 16 MR. LESHNER: Ms. Neal, you gave us a lot
 17 of very granular data, but it did emphasize the
 18 point certainly that while you are located
 19 physically in Easton and serve a lot of
 20 residents in Easton, you're serving people all
 21 over the county and an indispensable resource

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1 with aid that simply can't be found with other
 2 sources, so like utility assistance. There are
 3 maybe no other options for a lot of these
 4 folks.
 5 MS. NEAL: And that is true. I always, I
 6 always say where programs stop, community
 7 support and the support of the Council picks
 8 up. Because if you are one cent over what the
 9 federal government says you can spend, you
 10 can't help that person. And if you're one cent
 11 over, you still need help.
 12 Thank you so much.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Ms. Neal,
 14 there's one thing I want you to do next time,
 15 is bring Mr. Darnell.
 16 MS. NEAL: Up here with me?
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Absolutely.
 18 MS. NEAL: Okay.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: You bring him up here next
 20 time.
 21 MS. NEAL: Okay.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, Darnell. Thanks for
 2 coming, buddy.
 3 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, Chuck. Appreciate
 4 it.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We're going to move
 6 forward here. And next is a presentation of
 7 the Bellevue Museum project. If you would like
 8 to come up. Welcome.
 9 MR. De SHIELDS: Good evening.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.
 11 MR. De SHIELDS: Mr. Callahan, thank you
 12 for allowing us and the other Council to speak
 13 with you regarding our exciting project.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir.
 15 MR. De SHIELDS: That we have going on in
 16 Bellevue.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, yeah. Could we start
 18 off by introducing you guys?
 19 MR. De SHIELDS: Yes. My name is Dennis
 20 De Shields. And this is Mr. Philip Logan, who
 21 is from Preservation Green. He's our architect

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1 and also is with the Water's Edge Museum as
 2 well.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great. Well,
 4 welcome.
 5 MR. De SHIELDS: This prominent, just
 6 speaking about this picture, for me it's very
 7 inspirational. We see where the community is
 8 getting together and helping each other to
 9 work.
 10 The fourth person on the left is my
 11 great-great-grandfather. And the boat that
 12 they're working on was named after his wife,
 13 Ms. Naomi as well.
 14 Our purpose is to honor and to inform.
 15 And very recently, we were -- the Bellevue
 16 community was threatened with erasure of its
 17 heritage in terms of with development that was
 18 insensitive to the needs of the community as
 19 well. Why it's important for us to honor the
 20 community of Bellevue, was a self-sustaining
 21 African American maritime community. They were

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1 also the early environmental stewards in terms
 2 of for farming and also for fishing as well.
 3 And there are many notable accomplishments
 4 of the Bellevue residents. There is a high
 5 percentage of college graduates, entrepreneurs,
 6 members who served in the military. And these
 7 are things that we don't know a lot about. And
 8 this is one of the reasons why it's important
 9 for this exposure to be brought forth.
 10 And as everyone knows about the Turner
 11 family, and this was one of Maryland's few
 12 African American-owned seafood companies in the
 13 Maryland community.
 14 Who is going to benefit from this? The
 15 Bellevue community, economic tourism, as well
 16 as students of all ages.
 17 This is a picture of the inside of the
 18 proposed museum. As you can see, it's a very
 19 small museum with a very small footprint. This
 20 is one of the last commercial structures of the
 21 Bellevue community. The only other structure

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1 that serves the public is the St. Luke's
 2 Church. So of the two, this is the last
 3 remaining commercial structure that we have in
 4 the Bellevue community.
 5 There's such a rich history in the
 6 Bellevue community that our purpose of the
 7 museum is to tell that story to all that are
 8 willing to listen to the story. We also want
 9 to make Bellevue a culture heritage destination
 10 and not just a pass-through from going to
 11 Oxford to St. Michaels as well.
 12 We were recently featured, the community
 13 of Bellevue was recently featured on MPT, also
 14 was on a podcast. And there is an upcoming PBS
 15 documentary which will also feature the
 16 community of Bellevue that I believe is coming
 17 out in April.
 18 Economic tourism also would benefit from
 19 the museum. It's located on the Chesapeake
 20 County Country All American Road. It's walking
 21 distance from the Oxford Bellevue Ferry. And

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1 we have a collaboration with the Water's Edge
 2 Museum, which is located in Oxford. And they
 3 celebrate the African American founding fathers
 4 of the Eastern Shore as well.
 5 It's also going to be an important
 6 heritage site on the Eastern Shore. And most
 7 importantly, it's going to be free admission
 8 for everyone.
 9 As you can see, this is what the current
 10 building looks like. It used to be a
 11 restaurant called Picks Place. It's not a very
 12 large structure, as you can see. But it is in
 13 a state of disrepair at this point.
 14 Who also benefits are students of all
 15 ages. We, again, will have a collaboration
 16 with the Water's Edge Museum. Because of the
 17 small size, we are looking at using technology
 18 to, number one, to be able to portray the
 19 message through the building. And also, with
 20 that, we would also have engagement with the
 21 younger community.

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1 Also because of the size, we have to be
 2 creative. And we were looking at rotating the
 3 exhibits that we have in order to keep people
 4 engaged in the project as well.
 5 We also plan on doing education and
 6 environmental stewardship.
 7 And this year, we hosted the Washington
 8 College Vernacular Architect Field School,
 9 which we had 11 African American students.
 10 Most of them were post graduate students. So
 11 we had college students, students working on
 12 their masters, and also students who were
 13 working on their PhDs.
 14 On the right is Dr. Sharapa, who is in
 15 charge of the program. And through this
 16 program, we were fortunate enough to have with
 17 us our new managing director for the Water's
 18 Edge Museum and the Bellevue Passage Museum,
 19 Ms. Monica Davis. If you can raise your hand
 20 for us.
 21 And right here is a satellite picture of

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1 Bellevue. And the circles represent houses
 2 that were listed on the Maryland Inventory of
 3 Historic Places. I will tell you that
 4 approximately 90 percent of those homes are no
 5 longer there or they are in a state of
 6 disrepair. And this gives us even more urgency
 7 of telling the story of the Bellevue history as
 8 well before the culture is lost.
 9 And I'm going to turn it over to Philip,
 10 who will discuss the concept plans.
 11 MR. LOGAN: First of all, thank you very
 12 much. And I want to thank the De Shields
 13 family. There are representatives here. You
 14 all know the colonel, Dennis' father, who was a
 15 landmark in himself as a Tuskegee historian.
 16 And a lot of information that has been
 17 collected and will be part of this museum is
 18 information that he's collected over the years.
 19 What we have done is work collaboratively
 20 with Talbot County Planning and Zoning, with
 21 and De Shields family, and actually the

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1 community of Bellevue.
 2 And also the parks, under with working
 3 closely with Preston, and we've looked at ways
 4 to make this an important feature and also
 5 build upon the master plan for Bellevue.
 6 And working with an individual property
 7 that is privately owned, which is in the
 8 smaller left, upper left side here. We
 9 realized that the property was too small to
 10 really present the museum in its best light.
 11 So working with the park, we then located the
 12 museum in the arrow, the cursor is pointing at
 13 it. So that is the actual size and shape of
 14 the old museum building that Dennis was
 15 pointing out.
 16 We've pushed that out into the park land.
 17 And so that it is a sign post essentially as
 18 people enter by car from St. Michaels down the
 19 Bellevue Road, as well as when you see it from
 20 the ferry, when you come along the road.
 21 This is a blowup of the site plan, which

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1 now engages the private property and the museum
 2 site. We have features such as a kitchen
 3 garden, which will become a teaching garden as
 4 well as a teaching composting. We will be
 5 adding outdoor classroom spaces. And the idea
 6 is to engage the parkland that is not very well
 7 used at this point, but we want to improve it
 8 by also adding -- repaving the existing
 9 basketball court, looking at ways to improve it
 10 as well as create the environment for the
 11 museum.
 12 The old museum building will be restored
 13 to, again, convey the history of what was
 14 there. Working with technology, create digital
 15 replicas and information. And the gallery,
 16 which is the support space, which is the upper
 17 left, would hold all the tangible artifacts,
 18 whether it's prints, photographs, artifacts
 19 from the Turner legacy. And also have staff on
 20 the upper level.
 21 We have received strong support from at a

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1 State level. And actually at a national level,
 2 we've been receiving a lot of support and
 3 recognition, as Dennis has mentioned.
 4 We have grant money that is in place and
 5 in-kind contributions are in place.
 6 We wanted to present this to you to show
 7 you the direction that we're going. We have
 8 the support of the parks. I believe you
 9 received a letter from Preston as well.
 10 And is there any other, anything that I
 11 missed?
 12 MR. De SHIELDS: No, I think. Thank you.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys. Good job.
 14 Really good job.
 15 MS. HAYTHE: I'm going first?
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: You're going first. It's
 17 your town. Come on now.
 18 MS. HAYTHE: So Dr. De Shields, this is a
 19 great project. And of course, having my
 20 grandfather a waterman in Bellevue and growing
 21 up there, I certainly loved the presentation.

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1 And we definitely have to preserve the African
 2 American history in Bellevue.
 3 So kudos to all of you and your team. Of
 4 course, I'm a little biased. I think Doc and
 5 Doc are amazing contributors to our community
 6 here in Talbot County. Doc Mary back there
 7 hiding and Dr. Dennis here.
 8 So thank you for this project.
 9 MR. De SHIELDS: Thank you.
 10 MS. MIELKE: Thank you for all you do.
 11 This is an exciting project because I've
 12 always, as an American studies major and a
 13 graduate of Washington College, I am very
 14 cognizant of historic places.
 15 And I always considered Bellevue to be the
 16 Tulsa of Talbot County, and it deserves
 17 preservation. And what you're doing is just
 18 fabulous.
 19 I'm so glad to be able to support that.
 20 And you're working with a great guy, Phil,
 21 that's going to, Philip, that's going to help

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1 you get there.
 2 So I'm really excited about the project.
 3 MR. De SHIELDS: Thank you.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.
 5 MR. LESHNER: I, too, am encouraged by what
 6 I see here. And thank you. A couple of
 7 questions.
 8 The building that you're proposing to move
 9 to this site, I guess it's moving all of about
 10 a block.
 11 MR. De SHIELDS: Yes.
 12 MR. LESHNER: You mentioned its past as a
 13 restaurant. Is this the building that started
 14 as the Valiant Cash store?
 15 MR. De SHIELDS: No. From my
 16 understanding, now, I'm learning. Every day is
 17 a new learning experience for me.
 18 But it formerly was near Dawson Street.
 19 And it was attached to a home, and they served
 20 as a restaurant for the watermen. But the name
 21 of the restaurant, from my understanding, was

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<p>1 called Picks Place.</p> <p>2 And so the building and the home were</p> <p>3 separated. And then it was moved down the</p> <p>4 block and was kind of sitting on blocks for</p> <p>5 maybe about 20 years. And then it was moved to</p> <p>6 its current site, which is just a temporary</p> <p>7 site for it right now.</p> <p>8 MR. LESHER: So it's been moved twice</p> <p>9 already. This will be a third move. So</p> <p>10 there's nothing sacred about where it sits</p> <p>11 right now in terms of --</p> <p>12 MR. De SHIELDS: No, no.</p> <p>13 MR. LESHER: -- historic preservation. We</p> <p>14 like to preserve things in place when that's</p> <p>15 possible.</p> <p>16 You said that, of course, this site that</p> <p>17 it's on is too small to serve the purpose. So</p> <p>18 that's the rationale for moving it.</p> <p>19 MR. De SHIELDS: Yes. And also it will</p> <p>20 give more visibility to the public and also</p> <p>21 protect the, just the community itself in terms</p>	<p>1 with Preston. And glad to be behind you guys</p> <p>2 and to help you.</p> <p>3 MR. De SHIELDS: Thank you for your</p> <p>4 support. Thank you.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's move on to the</p> <p>6 county manager report. Mr. Stamp.</p> <p>7 MR. STAMP: Good evening.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.</p> <p>9 MR. STAMP: Mr. Council President and</p> <p>10 Members of the Council, under your county</p> <p>11 manager report this week, we'll start off with</p> <p>12 board and committee appointments.</p> <p>13 The first is a Mental Health Work Group.</p> <p>14 We're requesting Council approval to appoint</p> <p>15 Chunk Callahan as the Council liaison to the</p> <p>16 Mental Health Work Group.</p> <p>17 MR. LESHER: I'll move to approve.</p> <p>18 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Got a motion and</p> <p>20 second to put me on the Mental Health Board</p> <p>21 here. Madam Secretary.</p>
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<p>1 of giving them privacy, too, by moving it.</p> <p>2 MR. LESHER: Thank you very much.</p> <p>3 MR. De SHIELDS: Thank you.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>5 MR. STEPP: And I'll echo the thanks. And</p> <p>6 working with Preston, as the liaison to the</p> <p>7 Parks and Rec Board, I kind of got a little</p> <p>8 heads-up of what you guys were planning. And</p> <p>9 it was great to hear. It's really neat to see</p> <p>10 it all now in a drawing and on color,</p> <p>11 especially as it relates to where it's going to</p> <p>12 be located in the park and everything.</p> <p>13 So it looks absolutely wonderful. Great</p> <p>14 cause. Great way to preserve our history and</p> <p>15 looking forward to seeing what comes of it.</p> <p>16 MR. De SHIELDS: Thank you very much.</p> <p>17 MR. STEPP: Thank you.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, guys. And</p> <p>19 like my colleagues said, we're really excited</p> <p>20 about your project. And anything we can do.</p> <p>21 And seems like you guys are working really well</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>4 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>8 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>10 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>11 MR. STAMP: The next will be the</p> <p>12 Short-Term Rental Review Board. Requesting</p> <p>13 Council approval to reappointment Michelle</p> <p>14 La Rocca to the Short-Term Rental Review Board.</p> <p>15 MR. LESHER: I'll move to approve.</p> <p>16 MR. STEPP: Second.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Got a motion and</p> <p>18 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>19 vote, please.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p>

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
 2 MR. STEPP: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 4 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 6 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 8 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 9 MR. STAMP: The next is requesting Council
 10 approval to appoint Mr. Tad DuPont as the Town
 11 of St. Michaels representative on the Tourism
 12 Board.
 13 MR. LESHER: I'll move to make the
 14 appointment.
 15 MS. MIELKE: Second.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 17 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 18 vote, please.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

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1 MR. STEPP: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 3 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 5 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 7 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 8 MR. STAMP: Next, I'll ask the Emergency
 9 Services director, Mr. Brian LeCates, to come
 10 forward, please.
 11 Brian, as he's coming forward, he's going
 12 to be requesting Council's approval to be a
 13 signatory to a mutual aid firefighting and
 14 emergency medical services hazardous materials
 15 and special operations assistant mutual aid
 16 compact between Talbot County and Calvert
 17 County, Maryland.
 18 And give the floor to you for any details.
 19 MR. LeCATES: Thank you, Mr. Stamp.
 20 And good evening, everyone.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.

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1 MR. LeCATES: So this is a pretty
 2 boilerplate Memorandum of Understanding for
 3 mutual aid agreement between Emergency
 4 Services.
 5 For many years, we have been providing
 6 this service and Calvert County has been
 7 providing this service to us. So anytime there
 8 is a water rescue box or if there's a boating
 9 accident or medical emergency on a boat,
 10 multiple counties or multiple boats respond to
 11 that because we always have some challenges
 12 when we're on the water.
 13 So this is just formalizing that is all it
 14 is.
 15 We do have the support of the volunteer
 16 fire departments, because that's who it affects
 17 directly because they are the ones with the
 18 water access. So this is just between the
 19 Talbot County volunteer fire departments,
 20 Emergency Services for the dispatch component
 21 and the EMS component. And we're just

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1 requesting Council's support for the Memorandum
 2 of Understanding as a signatory as well.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 4 MR. STAMP: One other thing, I'll take
 5 this opportunity before you vote on this, is
 6 just to recognize not only our Emergency
 7 Services Department, but our dispatchers who
 8 receive 911 calls for emergencies in an area of
 9 the county where there are no street signs.
 10 And it can be quite complicated at times. They
 11 do an outstanding job.
 12 But also to recognize our partners, the
 13 Coast Guard, our volunteer fire departments who
 14 have the rescue boats, and also our watermen
 15 that oftentimes go out to assist as well.
 16 So it's a collaborative effort, and we run
 17 a number of life threatening calls out in that
 18 area along with Calvert County because, you
 19 know, in trying to find those locations, it's
 20 sometimes a group effort. So they do a good
 21 job. Just wanted to share that.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate that. You good?
 2 So do we have a motion to go ahead?
 3 MR. STEPP: I'll make a motion.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 5 MS. MIELKE: Second.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 7 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 8 vote.
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
 12 MR. STEPP: Aye.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 14 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 16 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 18 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. There you go, Brian.
 20 MR. LeCATES: Thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job.

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1 MR. LeCATES: You guys have a good
 2 evening.
 3 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Brian.
 4 I'll ask that Ray Clarke, your county
 5 engineer, come forward. Ray is here tonight to
 6 ask Council's support awarding Bid Number 22-08,
 7 an open-ended architectural engineering
 8 services. Recommendation to award to initiate
 9 architectural design services and renovation,
 10 in addition to the county Public Safety
 11 Complex. Ray will speak to you about details.
 12 MR. CLARKE: Council, just for your
 13 information, we did hire Davis, Bowen & Friedel
 14 under an open engineering services agreement to
 15 do I guess the best fits space analysis of the
 16 building that was purchased in Marys Court for
 17 the Sheriff's Office as well as the Department
 18 of Emergency Services and laid out those floor
 19 plans.
 20 So the objective here is to take those
 21 floor plans that were developed and ultimately

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1 now put forth the necessary plans for the
 2 building renovation, i.e., the walls and
 3 whatnot, and then submit that to the Town of
 4 Easton as quickly as we can.
 5 Again, we're trying to look at trying to
 6 get occupancy for this building possibly by the
 7 end of this year or by July.
 8 One of the things I would say, right now
 9 we're looking at two phases. The other phase
 10 now would also be building the addition, which
 11 includes the sally port, and in addition, for
 12 Emergency Services, on the second floor of
 13 where that sally port is going to go. And that
 14 is actually something that may take a little
 15 longer, which is one of the reasons we're
 16 trying to get this done as quickly as we can.
 17 As you all are aware of, we have the
 18 Business Center I guess that will be closing
 19 down. And efforts will be made to go ahead and
 20 demolish that Business Center for the airport.
 21 So that's one of the reasons --

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds great.
 2 MR. STAMP: Just to add, I want to thank
 3 Council for your support. The previous Council
 4 did authorize and we purchased the Avon Dixon
 5 Building on Mary's Court. It's a fairly new
 6 building.
 7 It will house the Sheriff's Office on the
 8 first floor and it will house Emergency
 9 Services and the future 911 Center on the
 10 second floor.
 11 It's exciting. Both the Sheriff and
 12 Director LeCates are very excited about the
 13 opportunity to be able to serve the community
 14 in that facility.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. Okay.
 16 So is there a motion?
 17 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Second?
 19 MR. LESHNER: Second.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,
 21 there's a motion and second to approve Bid

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1 22-08. If you could call the vote, please.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
 5 MR. STEPP: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 7 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 9 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 10 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 11 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 12 MR. CLARKE: Thank you.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ray. Good job.
 14 MR. STAMP: And Brian, could you come up
 15 one more time if you don't mind.
 16 The final item I have for you tonight,
 17 Council, is your consideration to support the
 18 Eastern Shore legislative delegation, support
 19 them in submitting a bill for consideration in
 20 the State Legislature that would authorize
 21 emergency medical technicians to participate in

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1 the Law Enforcement Retirement Program. This
 2 is a program within the State retirement
 3 system, which all county employees participate
 4 in the State retirement system.
 5 You may recall that last year, the
 6 paramedics were shifted over to that retirement
 7 program. However, the emergency medical
 8 technicians were not able to participate in
 9 that program because of the details or
 10 eligibility regulations. So the bill would
 11 actually open it up to EMTs.
 12 I asked Brian to come up specifically.
 13 Half of his EMS division are EMTs and the other
 14 half are paramedics.
 15 So Brian, I don't know if you want to say
 16 anything with regards to support for this.
 17 MR. LeCATES: Thank you. So this was a
 18 game changer for us last year to be able to get
 19 into the LEOPS, or Law Enforcement Officers
 20 Pension System, with at least half of our EMS
 21 staff.

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1 Our desire is to get all of the staff in
 2 eventually. So it changes from a 30-year
 3 retirement to a 25-year retirement.
 4 At the end of 25 years in the EMS
 5 industry, your body is worn out from picking
 6 people up on a daily basis. Increased call
 7 volumes. They're picking up more and more
 8 folks all the time.
 9 We're trying to leverage some newer pieces
 10 of equipment that assist us with lifting, but
 11 we still ultimately have to lift those folks
 12 up. We have a lot of back injuries and things
 13 of that nature.
 14 So for us to be able to change our
 15 retirement to an earlier retirement and get
 16 those folks out of there before they truly
 17 become permanently injured, which we have had
 18 to retire some folks on permanent disability
 19 because they've gotten hurt on the job.
 20 So this is really a key thing for us and
 21 something that we really want to pursue. So

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1 that's only from the one side of the employees.
 2 The managerial side of this, it's a lot
 3 easier to attract folks when you have a better
 4 retirement and retain them. So when we talk
 5 about recruitment and retention, this is a key
 6 piece to it.
 7 When we saw our LEOPS go into effect for
 8 our paramedics, we were all of a sudden able to
 9 attract paramedics that we weren't able to
 10 attract before. So we really want to get this
 11 for our EMTs and ultimately for our dispatch
 12 folks, but that may be down the road.
 13 MR. STAMP: Just point of clarification.
 14 The bill would authorize the county, if you so
 15 decide, this will be enabling legislation. So
 16 it would enable the county to participate. But
 17 then that decision would be made by you as part
 18 of the FY24 budget process, at which time we
 19 could bring you all the fiscal aspect of the
 20 request.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. You

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1 know, you said is best. Retention and
 2 recruitment. I mean this is huge.
 3 MR. LeCATES: Yes. Agreed.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: And we've been needing this
 5 for years. That's for sure.
 6 MR. LeCATES: Yes.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: So is there a motion?
 8 MS. MIELKE: So moved.
 9 MR. STEPP: Second.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any comments? Okay.
 11 There's a motion and second to go ahead and put
 12 the EMTs in the LEOPS program.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
 16 MR. STEPP: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 18 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 20 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

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1 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go.
 3 MR. LeCATES: Thank you.
 4 MR. STEPP: Thank you, Brian.
 5 MR. STAMP: Council, thank you very much.
 6 That completes your county manager report for
 7 this week.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job, Mr. Stamp.
 9 Okay.
 10 Next on the list here is public comment.
 11 And we have three or four people that want to
 12 come on up.
 13 So Mr. Leshner, you want to go ahead and
 14 call the first name up.
 15 MR. LESHNER: We'll start from the sign-up
 16 list with James Smullen.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Stepp, you want
 18 to go ahead and do timing for us?
 19 MR. STEPP: Sure.
 20 MR. SMULLEN: When do you intend to start
 21 the timer?

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Not yet.
 2 MR. STEPP: Got some setup involved.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. We got a little
 4 setup there. No problem.
 5 MR. SMULLEN: I bring this before you
 6 tonight. These were comments from people who
 7 were at the rally on Saturday.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 9 MR. SMULLEN: I'm bringing -- I brought
 10 copies for the Council.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.
 12 MR. SMULLEN: Thank you. Thank you for
 13 giving me your time tonight.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.
 15 MR. SMULLEN: My name is James Smullen.
 16 Oh, timing.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Before we start, are you
 18 representing yourself or are you
 19 representing...
 20 MR. SMULLEN: I'm representing myself.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We'll give you three

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1 minutes. And I'll be a little flexible with
 2 that. So don't go too long.
 3 MR. SMULLEN: Two weeks ago tonight, this
 4 room was full, overflowing with supporters of
 5 reset Lakeside.
 6 On behalf of all, one person orderly read
 7 a serious three-minute statement requesting
 8 introduction and adoption of specific
 9 legislation.
 10 Instead, we received a response that you
 11 had a very nice meeting with the Town of
 12 Trappe. Maybe you will hear and respond to the
 13 voices tonight.
 14 On Saturday, over 100 people rallied on
 15 this courthouse lawn in support of reset
 16 Lakeside and inscribed a few messages on this
 17 board.
 18 Another rally is scheduled for
 19 February 4th, and we will have many more
 20 messages inscribed at that rally.
 21 Having learned not only that Ms. Haythe

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<p>1 apparently intends not to support our 2 legislation, but also that consequently no 3 other members intend to introduce it, these are 4 the messages composed by your constituents in 5 support of reset Lakeside. 6 Let's have an open vote. Take a stand on 7 transparency. La Trappe Creek is distressed. 8 Effluent from 150 more houses with this 9 existing sewer plant should not be allowed. We 10 deserve transparency. The voters have spoken. 11 Keep your promise. 12 Keisha, stand by your word. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Excuse me. I want to stop 14 you right there, and I want to make myself 15 crystal clear. 16 You do not use Council's names in this 17 opening comments. 18 MR. SMULLEN: These are not my comments. 19 These are from other people. I'm bringing 20 them -- 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Well, don't read our</p>	<p>1 a new Trappe. Name of person who I cannot 2 mention, what's with it. You promised to reset 3 Lakeside. I voted you because of this. Ditto, 4 ditto, ditto. Please vote the reset, do what 5 you need to do. Vote for reset and make 6 Lakeside work for everyone in the county, not 7 just Trappe. Please take a vote and help 8 protect our county. Vote to reset Lakeside. 9 Please vote to reset Lakeside. Bring it to a 10 vote. Vote on reset Lakeside. Vote reset. 11 You promised. Take it to a vote. Vote on it. 12 Vote now. Vote reset. Vote, vote, vote, vote. 13 Thank you for your time. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. 15 Appreciate it. 16 MR. SMULLEN: We'll be back after the next 17 rally. 18 By the way, we'll be here every month. 19 We're not going away. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem. You're 21 welcome.</p>
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<p>1 names. 2 MR. SMULLEN: Show some integrity. You 3 made commitments. Do the right thing. Because 4 it is the right thing to do for 38,000 citizens 5 of Talbot County. What happened to your 6 backbone? Vote to reset. Please vote. The 7 residents of Talbot deserve a vote. A promise 8 made is a debt unpaid. Ditto. You pledged to 9 serve, now serve and vote. Please stop the 10 additional water pollution pouring into La 11 Trappe Creek. Do the right thing, rescind 281. 12 Let's have some transparency. County Council, 13 vote on it. It's your job. Vote or be voted 14 out. Please be thoughtful. Ignoring this 15 crucial issue do not make it go away. Ditto. 16 We have transparency. Will present our 17 fragile -- will preserve our fragile 18 environment. We want transparency. Please 19 remember the facts, remember your word. 20 Remember you're voting for our grandchildren. 21 Transparency, clean hands, sensible growth for</p>	<p>1 MR. SMULLEN: We worked hard. We were a 2 significant portion of the voting block, and we 3 intend to stick with this. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: We'll be here, too. Okay. 5 Okay. Mr. Leshner, next one. 6 MR. LESHNER: Next is William Turner. 7 MR. STAMP: I'll give them to them. 8 Great. Thank you. 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Welcome. How you 10 doing? Are you representing yourself? 11 MR. TURNER: No. I'm representing myself. 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. 13 MR. De SHIELDS: My name is William 14 Fitzhugh Turner. 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 16 MR. De SHIELDS: I live at 402 Bay City 17 Street, Stevensville, Maryland. But I'm not a 18 come hither or chicken necker. I was born in 19 Easton in 1952. My family been here a while 20 before me. 21 And I grew up in Easton on a farm in</p>

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1 Trappe, in Oxford, Blue Field, in Oaklands,
 2 back in Easton. I've been here most of my
 3 life. I've worked here. I'm an appraiser and
 4 that sort of thing, but I'm here to talk about
 5 the proposed new plant that they're going to
 6 put in at Trappe that's going to go down into
 7 the, go towards the Choptank River side.
 8 When I was a little kid, you see a picture
 9 there on the front of my two grandchildren,
 10 two, three years old on the Choptank River at
 11 Lloyd's Landing about a half mile up from Miles
 12 Creek, where the Miles Creek flows into the
 13 Choptank River. I grew up there, played in the
 14 river there.
 15 I grew up Bloomfield. When I was six
 16 years old, I was told I could stop wearing a
 17 life jacket when I could swim from Bloomfield
 18 over to Holiday Island and back. So we all
 19 jumped in when I was ready. And my mother and
 20 father and brother and sister, we swam across
 21 and swam back and I didn't have to wear a life

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1 jacket anymore.
 2 As I grew up sailing and motorboating, at
 3 15 we had a motorboat that we could water ski
 4 behind, but Dad said we had to catch the crab.
 5 We had to earn the money to pay for the gas.
 6 So my younger brother and I got up at 4:30
 7 in the morning. I got a license from Talbot
 8 County, and I was a waterman running 1,000-foot
 9 trout line. And we water skied all afternoon
 10 and we ate crabs in the evening. And sold them
 11 over at the carry out in Oxford.
 12 About 15 years ago, I had a cut on my hand
 13 and it wouldn't go away. Finally I went to the
 14 medical place, and they said, first question
 15 they had for me when they looked at it, they
 16 said have you been swimming in the rivers. And
 17 I said no, I don't think so. And she said
 18 well, we got a lot of problems with the water.
 19 And that's why I'm here.
 20 Right now, and I've talked with Mr. Abbott
 21 that runs the Easton wastewater treatment

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1 plant, they test for phosphates, nitrates, and
 2 biohazards.
 3 I want to add I also work here. I have a
 4 apiary on the farm. And I'm raising bees. My
 5 bees, and I've mentioned at the hearing with
 6 the Department of the Environment that I'm
 7 concerned about my bees flying over to the
 8 sewage treatment plant.
 9 And the problem is that they are not
 10 testing for P-FABs which are permanent
 11 chemicals. And I've got a little bit of
 12 information on that in there about P-FABs.
 13 They're not testing for them, but they are very
 14 bad. And they're in the fish. And if you eat
 15 fish that have P-FABs in them, which they all
 16 do today, then you're getting them into you and
 17 you don't expel them.
 18 And then we have this new problem, which
 19 is very new. It's more out of the college and
 20 universities, our pharmaceuticals. When you
 21 take medicines, depression or aspirin or

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1 whatever you're taking, it goes through your
 2 system and back out in the water. And there is
 3 nothing being tested, nothing being done to
 4 clean them out.
 5 Now, the EPA is working on new programs.
 6 The State of Maine has started making it
 7 illegal to use spray irrigation unless you test
 8 it for P-FABs. California is working on it.
 9 North Carolina, there's all kinds of studies on
 10 it.
 11 And 45 years ago, Talbot County said Route
 12 50, let's make a divide. I think it was 45.
 13 I've been appraising longer than that. On the
 14 west side, we'll build houses. On the east
 15 side, we're going to keep that farmland and
 16 we're just going to try not to have anything
 17 get into the Choptank River because it's
 18 important, it's a very important river.
 19 I think it was ten years ago, Talbot
 20 County said you know what, Easton is growing
 21 too much. Let's put a green line around Easton

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1 and stop growth going out further.
 2 Talbot has been ahead in protecting the
 3 environment.
 4 Now, I'm going to ask you step a little
 5 bit ahead. And I think reset, the reset
 6 Lakeside is part of the venue so that you can
 7 go back and say we want this new plant, this
 8 brand new sewerage treatment plant to not expel
 9 P-FABs and pharmaceuticals into our waters.
 10 Be the first ones. You can do it. I'm
 11 asking you to do it, please.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 13 MR. TURNER: These are my grandsons.
 14 They're three years old. I worry about them
 15 going into the water today. And what about my
 16 great-grandsons or what about their grandsons?
 17 You are making history in protecting our
 18 waters. And if you think that Trappe is going
 19 to do a good job of this new plant, then look
 20 at what they've been doing with the plant
 21 they've got. They haven't done a good job.

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1 Don't give them the opportunity to do a new one
 2 because you may end up owning it or Talbot
 3 County may end up running that one like you
 4 have to do with St. Michaels.
 5 And you spend millions of dollars to stop
 6 houses from dumping things out of their houses
 7 all the way down to Bozman now and Tunis Mills
 8 and Bellevue.
 9 Let's keep -- let's not get it bad in a
 10 new spot. Thank you.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 12 MR. LESHER: Next is Tom Dennis.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good evening.
 14 MR. DENNIS: How are you, Mr. Callahan?
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Good.
 16 MR. DENNIS: I will respect your request
 17 of not addressing individuals by name.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate that.
 19 MR. DENNIS: By reference, I'll do it
 20 diplomatically.
 21 My name is Tom Dennis. I'm a resident of

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1 Easton in Cooke's Hope.
 2 I am a retired electric utility executive
 3 and a lobbyist of some 35 years in Washington.
 4 I spent a lion's share of my career in
 5 strategic planning, economic development, and I
 6 would like to throw out for the Council's
 7 consideration a perhaps different approach to
 8 Lakeside. And that is an adequate public
 9 facilities ordinance.
 10 I think we ought to be doing it as a
 11 jurisdiction. I know that you have
 12 intergovernmental problems with Trappe. That's
 13 obvious. But there are other towns in the
 14 county as well.
 15 Were I on your side of the dais, I'd be
 16 asking the following questions. What is Easton
 17 saying about the impacts? What does the
 18 medical community say about the potential
 19 impacts? What does Sheriff Gamble say in terms
 20 of the provision of public safety and a range
 21 of other services that are integral to the

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1 operation of a community that we live in?
 2 We have, luckily, on the Council someone
 3 who is involved is the utility industry who
 4 understands the provision of that service. And
 5 we have a gifted attorney who has been involved
 6 in these pursuits, as well as someone involved
 7 in economic development. And I would assume
 8 that all of you -- and we have a developer who
 9 has seen the other side of this.
 10 We've got to get on with the business of
 11 planning. And the idea that the Council has no
 12 role I think is inappropriate. You have a very
 13 important role to play. You got communities
 14 here. There are going to be impacts.
 15 We have a program that the Congress has
 16 enacted that will provide the largest injection
 17 of financial capital that this State has ever
 18 seen in terms of infrastructure and money for
 19 climate. And this is the fastest growing area
 20 in the State. So we need to be looking at
 21 this.

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1 So I would commend you to consider the
 2 pursuit of a adequate public facility
 3 ordinance. I think it's overdue. Even Trappe
 4 could have them and other communities as well.
 5 This differs from an impact fee in a
 6 substantial way. So I hope you would consider.
 7 Thank you for the opportunity to share
 8 some ideas.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,
 10 Mr. Dennis. Appreciate it. Okay.
 11 MR. LESHER: Those are all the names that
 12 have signed up in advance.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, okay. That's all the
 14 names that are on the list.
 15 Yes, ma'am, come on up.
 16 MS. duPont: Thank you.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, ma'am.
 18 MS. duPont: And I apologize for not
 19 having signed up.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.
 21 MS. duPont: I'll be quick.

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1 Thank you, all.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
 3 MS. duPont: I will be -- I'm sorry. Do
 4 you need my name and address?
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, ma'am.
 6 MS. duPont: Susan duPont, 6870 Travelers
 7 Rest Circle.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 9 MS. duPont: Easton.
 10 My first thing is to congratulate those of
 11 you who are just elected and welcome. And
 12 thanks to all of you as you start your terms to
 13 serve the county citizens.
 14 I really am going to be shorter than I
 15 intended to be because so many people have
 16 already said what I would say.
 17 Plenty of questions to ask, and I'll
 18 include that in a letter and then hope that I
 19 can get answers from you all about it.
 20 But I, too, believe that doing a reset for
 21 Lakeside provides us all sorts of opportunities

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1 to slow down and work with Trappe, work with
 2 each other, and that you all going forward with
 3 take care of the 38,000 of us and going forward
 4 in the future to the not-yet-even-born
 5 great-grandchildren.
 6 Thank you.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. duPont. I
 8 appreciate it. Okay.
 9 Anybody else on this side? Yes, ma'am.
 10 Come on up.
 11 MS. OTTE: I, too, apologize for not
 12 signing up.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: That's okay.
 14 MS. OTTE: I will try to be brief. My
 15 name is Monica Otte, and I live in
 16 St. Michaels.
 17 And I just wanted to do a quick follow-up
 18 on a comment that a previous speaker made
 19 talking about the spray irrigation wastewater
 20 treatment plant that we learned a lot about at
 21 the work session, which I thought was very

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1 helpful.
 2 But I think we all learned a lot about
 3 spray irrigation plants in a not-so-great way
 4 last year because, as the Council knows, The
 5 Preserve at Wye Mills, a development up in Wye
 6 Mills, has a spray irrigation plant. It's been
 7 in operation for over 15 years. And during
 8 that 15 years, was never able to stay in
 9 compliance with pollutant discharge
 10 limitations.
 11 So last year, the county had to take it
 12 over.
 13 Now, the HOA had been running it. And
 14 from what I understand, they did their best,
 15 they spent a lot of money, but they just
 16 weren't able to get it into compliance.
 17 And I mean now that the county is taking
 18 this over, I mean this is a good thing going
 19 forward that, you know, we expect now that the
 20 plant will be upgraded so it can comply, but
 21 unfortunately, we've got over 15 years of

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1 excess pollutants having been discharged in
 2 that area and gone into the ground water and
 3 into tributaries going out into the Bay. And
 4 this is nitrogen, it's fecal coliform and other
 5 pollutants.
 6 So here we are with the spray irrigation
 7 plant in Trappe. So we don't want to have this
 8 same problem down the road. And construction
 9 is underway. I don't think it has to stop.
 10 But it seems like this is a good opportunity
 11 for the county to take a hard look and make
 12 sure this issue doesn't come before us in ten
 13 or 15 years again. We have another plant of
 14 this type and other problems with pollutants.
 15 Because even if you can fix it ten or 15 years
 16 from now, you still have the potential that
 17 there's been harmful discharges.
 18 So thank you very much for your time.
 19 Appreciate the opportunity to speak.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot. I appreciate
 21 it, too. Okay.

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1 On this side, anybody else like to come on
 2 up? Okay.
 3 How about this side, anybody would like to
 4 come on up? Yes, sir. Come on up.
 5 MR. FLOWER: Good evening, everybody. My
 6 name is Bob Flower. I live in Trappe,
 7 Maryland, in the Ferry Point area. I'm going
 8 to be short and sweet.
 9 I just think 2,500 homes in Trappe is
 10 insane. 2,500 homes in Trappe? I've got
 11 grandkids in the schools. The schools are at
 12 capacity. It's just insane.
 13 Thank you. I don't know how anybody can
 14 think otherwise.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Appreciate it.
 16 Okay.
 17 Anybody else would like to come on up?
 18 Okay. You're welcome to come on up. Anybody
 19 else? Yup, come on up.
 20 MR. POWERS: Excuse me. I had my knee
 21 replaced eight days ago.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem, no problem.
 2 MR. POWERS: I think I pushed it too soon.
 3 My name is -- there we go. My name is
 4 Chuck Powers. I live in Talbot County.
 5 I'm an engineer, 40 years, retired.
 6 Chemical engineering in wastewater plants all
 7 over the world. Did a lot of work at DC
 8 WASA, for example, places like that.
 9 I moved here permanently two years ago,
 10 although I've lived on the Eastern Shore or
 11 owned or family for over 100 years back and
 12 forth.
 13 I followed this entire Trappe Creek,
 14 Lakeside, all that. I've written letters to
 15 the previous Council and you, Chuck, and
 16 others.
 17 I followed the letter you wrote to the
 18 State about the traffic issues at certain
 19 intersections needing help.
 20 This obviously is going to add a
 21 considerable amount more traffic in certain

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1 zones.
 2 I actually went over to the State Barracks
 3 and said how is that intersection, which has no
 4 lights right now, the cross traffic and stuff.
 5 Well, there's a few homes. So it's not heavy
 6 yet. He said we've had a couple of close calls
 7 already.
 8 And then I did a study on my own of a
 9 report that the company had out in Wisconsin I
 10 believe, I forget the name, and I sent in an
 11 e-mail to you all. And I studied the
 12 gentleman's report about how safe this whole
 13 process is.
 14 And I'm a hydrologist and engineer myself
 15 and everything.
 16 And there were some fallacies in that
 17 report, such as different things about the
 18 absorption rates that on for the spray. You
 19 have the pond. When the ground freezes, where
 20 is it going to go. It's got to sit in the
 21 pond. At the end of those three months, you

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1 got to take that pond, as well as the effluent
 2 that's going to continued to be sprayed on
 3 these fields, and it overdoes it and it's going
 4 to be an issue.
 5 Recently you all probably read, Chesapeake
 6 Bay's been downgraded to a C minus. They have
 7 started to identify, and I think it's going to
 8 go on social media, who are the, you know, bad
 9 guys, you know, that were making that an issue.
 10 Well, obviously Aberdeen, Baltimore. But guess
 11 what? Talbot County is going to be added to
 12 that list. And that's a concern, too. Right?
 13 So then I studied you have where is the
 14 water going. Everybody has put a lot of effort
 15 into that. Okay. There's no doubt. But where
 16 is it coming from? Excuse the way I'm going to
 17 phrase this, but we're pissing into our own
 18 water bucket.
 19 In other words, the water is coming out of
 20 wells. That well secretion, the absorption,
 21 they call it saltwater enhancement that comes

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1 in, that's a big issue in Dorchester County
 2 right now. All the effluent is going in the
 3 ground. And those water wells, that's massive
 4 amount of wastewater with 2,500 homes. Maybe
 5 not now. That's coming out of the ground. So
 6 where is that ground getting it from? It's
 7 coming from up above. Farming issues over the
 8 years and stuff like that.
 9 There's a lot more distilleries being
 10 purchased. You know, distillers take 100
 11 percent of everything because it's got
 12 two-stage super heaters and all, not just the
 13 sand and the PVCs and the potassiums, but some
 14 of those issues that you hear about that are
 15 becoming more. There are even more chemicals
 16 we don't even know about today that's enhancing
 17 things.
 18 I just think, somebody brought it up
 19 before, that you ought to look at the whole
 20 picture and really where is this thing going
 21 because if the plant, I don't know enough about

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1 it, but if the plant is having its violations
 2 and it's already overloaded, the current one in
 3 Trappe, if the new one being built is going to
 4 spray and they're going to do this, then they
 5 have the other issues, you got safety factors.
 6 It's kind of like if you draw a picture,
 7 you know, we can't stop growth. It's going to
 8 happen, right? Population growth. But there's
 9 a planning way to do it.
 10 And if you even sat back and studied some
 11 of the cities that have very, and counties,
 12 that have very similar things to us, from
 13 California to the Carolinas, whatever, some of
 14 those have got record-breaking ways they've
 15 solved it.
 16 So maybe instead of 2,500, maybe it's
 17 1,500, maybe it's 500, maybe it's this, maybe a
 18 different type of plant with different type of
 19 treatments. But remember, where is that water
 20 coming from? It's coming from the wells.
 21 Where is the wells getting it from? Up above.

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1 Mother Nature, you know.
 2 So it's going to become an issue I think
 3 long, long term and it can be very detrimental.
 4 So all the e-mails and all I've written,
 5 no one has responded with anything like we
 6 acknowledge this, Chuck, and here is some good
 7 points.
 8 You know, you sit down with the right
 9 people with the right knowledge and the
 10 right -- you can't cheat science. Right? The
 11 truth is there just by itself.
 12 Somebody with a reasonable amount of
 13 knowledge, both sides and all, say, okay, how
 14 do we solve this proactively so that the
 15 children, the grandchildren we're talking
 16 about, all those other things. And guess what,
 17 once social media takes over and Chesapeake Bay
 18 Foundation, whoever is putting out this latest
 19 reports and stuff, start saying okay, we know
 20 it's downgraded, but why, and they start
 21 listing all these places that are downgrading

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<p>1 it, that won't go well with anybody. Right?</p> <p>2 So just an overall thing I just think --</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate it.</p> <p>4 MR. POWERS: More way to look at.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot. I appreciate</p> <p>6 it.</p> <p>7 Anybody else like to come on up? Okay.</p> <p>8 Let's go ahead and close Council comment.</p> <p>9 Next would be -- close the public comment. I'm</p> <p>10 sorry. And Council comments.</p> <p>11 And why don't we start with Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>12 MR. STEPP: Sure.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.</p> <p>14 MR. STEPP: Been a busy two weeks since</p> <p>15 our last meeting. Met with several of our</p> <p>16 leaders as well as our boards throughout the</p> <p>17 county.</p> <p>18 Just to name a few, we had a meeting with</p> <p>19 the Board of Education. Learned a lot about</p> <p>20 what's coming down from the State and what's</p> <p>21 going to be tasked to this Council to make a</p>	<p>1 tonight. I've heard from you on e-mail. I've</p> <p>2 heard from you outside of the meeting. I've</p> <p>3 heard from you on the phone.</p> <p>4 You're part of the considerable public</p> <p>5 attention that's been focused on the Lakeside</p> <p>6 project and on the past Council's action to</p> <p>7 grant water and sewer access to the property, a</p> <p>8 move subsequently approved by the Maryland</p> <p>9 Department of the Environment.</p> <p>10 In particular, I and other Council members</p> <p>11 have been asked to introduce specific</p> <p>12 administrative resolution recognizing the</p> <p>13 Talbot County Planning Commission's authority</p> <p>14 to determine consistency of amendments to the</p> <p>15 comprehensive water and sewer plan, the</p> <p>16 procedure by which this was accomplished, and</p> <p>17 asking Maryland Department of the Environment</p> <p>18 as a consequence to suspend its permit issued</p> <p>19 November 1, 2022, just this past November, for</p> <p>20 the project's wastewater discharge.</p> <p>21 I spent considerable time with the Office</p>
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<p>1 lot of that happen.</p> <p>2 And also met with the Board -- I</p> <p>3 personally went to the Board of Elections</p> <p>4 meetings. Had some of my questions earlier</p> <p>5 just to clarify some of the things from there.</p> <p>6 Had a wonderful meeting with the Parks and</p> <p>7 Rec Board. A lot of great things going on out</p> <p>8 to the Community Center.</p> <p>9 For those of us who are in the hockey</p> <p>10 family world, we should have ice this week,</p> <p>11 which is a huge win.</p> <p>12 Also going to start seeing construction of</p> <p>13 the new gym over there as well pickle ball</p> <p>14 courts eventually going to follow. So a lot of</p> <p>15 great things happening out to the Community</p> <p>16 Center.</p> <p>17 And yeah. All things good. So thank you.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thanks a lot.</p> <p>19 Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHER: Yeah. Thank you. I've heard</p> <p>21 from a lot of you. I've heard from you</p>	<p>1 of Law, with members of Talbot Integrity</p> <p>2 Project, and with other outside interested</p> <p>3 parties.</p> <p>4 I've also contacted Maryland Department of</p> <p>5 the Environment to assess the impact or effect</p> <p>6 of such an administrative resolution.</p> <p>7 In short, it is now my understanding that</p> <p>8 there would be no impact. Allow me to explain.</p> <p>9 First, because Maryland Department of</p> <p>10 Environment has now issued its final permit for</p> <p>11 the project, as a consequence the wastewater</p> <p>12 infrastructure is now partially constructed.</p> <p>13 And it seems quite clear that the project has</p> <p>14 vested interests and that the permit cannot be</p> <p>15 rescinded by Maryland Department of the</p> <p>16 Environment.</p> <p>17 Furthermore, it has become clear to me</p> <p>18 that any claim that the Planning Commission's</p> <p>19 October 2021 reversal of its May 2020 finding</p> <p>20 of consistency with the Comprehensive Plan</p> <p>21 could not have been effective because of its</p>

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1 timing. Had the Planning Commission made this
 2 reversal or reconsideration of its decision
 3 before the County Council approval of
 4 Resolution 281 in August of 2020, the
 5 comprehensive water and sewer plan amendment
 6 would have died there and then.

7 The Planning Commission is a gatekeeper.
 8 And without this finding of consistency, the
 9 amendment cannot proceed to the next level of
 10 government. That being first County Council.

11 But since the Planning Commission's action
 12 not only post-dated Council's approval, it did
 13 not come until after Maryland Department of the
 14 Environment's approval of the resolution, it,
 15 therefore, could not have had any effect.

16 Asking the Council to take action to
 17 rescind to reverse itself or simply to
 18 recognize the Planning Commission's action
 19 could not have had an effect after Resolution
 20 281 had proceeded past the next level of
 21 government to the State, to Maryland Department

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1 of the Environment.

2 However, we should recognize that Maryland
 3 Department of the Environment in the
 4 limitations of its final permit dealt a
 5 significant setback to the Lakeside
 6 development, which is conversely a significant
 7 win for those who have concerns about the
 8 project's scale and potential environmental
 9 impact.

10 I have stated to supporters that I have
 11 not proceeded with an introduction of the
 12 requested resolution because I did not have
 13 majority support. And that is true.

14 Now, I cannot articulate the rationale of
 15 other Council members. But while seeking their
 16 support, I have received this additional
 17 analysis that has led me to the conclusion that
 18 the requested administrative resolution would
 19 now at this point of time not have the desired
 20 effect.

21 My record on environmental protection and

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1 on growth management policies is crystal clear.
 2 It's time that we recognize what can be
 3 and cannot be accomplished and set a vision for
 4 what we must do moving forward.

5 As suggested tonight, an adequate public
 6 facilities ordinance is I think just one piece
 7 of that solution, but not the only one that I
 8 intend to work on in moving this process
 9 forward and setting a vision for this county.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.
 11 Appreciate it.

12 Ms. Mielke.

13 MS. MIELKE: Yes. I have been working
 14 with Pete on this issue of the reset.

15 And to the reseters, one thing that I see
 16 is that there was a major win, as he
 17 references, by MDE in slowing down the process.
 18 And I think I would like to look at the glass
 19 as half full and to take that win and then
 20 continue to work with that so that down the
 21 road, the very stages that they talk about, we

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1 have input into it. And I think that that's
 2 the best thing to do.

3 And I concur and talked with Mr. Leshner
 4 about where we stand with this. So we're still
 5 committed, I'm still committed to keeping an
 6 eye on this development and having the county,
 7 to the extent of its ability, to continue to
 8 have input and the control that it can have
 9 over the future development.

10 And I intend to work on that, whether that
 11 may involve -- it's still in the process. I
 12 have mentioned that I was working on an
 13 alternative resolution that might codify what
 14 I've just said. So that's still in process.

15 So I just want to make it clear that we
 16 haven't given up on the issues that are
 17 presented there, and we're still exploring them
 18 and want to do what we can to preserve our
 19 environment and to preserve the integrity of
 20 Talbot County as a wonderful place to live.

21 Thank you.

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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Mielke. 2 Ms. Haythe. 3 MS. HAYTHE: So first and foremost, I want 4 to thank Preston and staff and the partners 5 that held the MLK Classic basketball 6 tournament. I believe that was last week. 7 I also want to thank Cassandra and staff 8 and the partners for the Business Resource Fair 9 that was held on Saturday. That was a great 10 event bringing community together to share 11 resources for entrepreneurs. 12 And lastly, I want to address the comments 13 by Mr. Smullen. 14 So first and foremost, I just want to 15 correct, as I have many e-mails that have come 16 to me regarding reset Lakeside. No promises 17 was made by myself to any organization or any 18 individual when I was running for office. 19 In fact, I want to put on the record and 20 be clear to the Talbot County community that I 21 was, in fact, harassed and bullied by Mr. Dan</p>	<p>1 coming up here and talk to us about Lakeside. 2 And I've said that for the last year and a half 3 or so that this has been going on. 4 So the young lady over here that was 5 talking about the Preserves, I think that this 6 Council is showing that how important this 7 county really is by taking that situation over. 8 That you're right, that was a bad situation. 9 Okay. 10 But that was a neighborhood. Everybody 11 has got to understand that was a neighborhood 12 that didn't know how to take care of it. So 13 now the county is taking care of that. 14 Now we're dealing with a municipality. 15 And we're going to be, just like we did a few 16 weeks ago, we're going to be beside them, we're 17 going to help them, and we're going to need 18 your guys' help. That's what we're going to 19 do. We're all going to work together. 20 This reset thing, as Mr. Leshar said, and 21 this resolution is not going to happen. It's</p>
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<p>1 Watson to the effect that I had to seek an 2 attorney and send a cease and desist before the 3 election, as well as contacting Sheriff Gamble 4 because I was feeling threatened and a fear for 5 my life. 6 Sheriff Gamble was copied on the e-mail 7 that I sent to Mr. Watson because he was 8 calling me late at night, texting, and 9 e-mailing. 10 So I just want to put this out to the 11 reset committee and anyone that's working with 12 him as a part of this group just to give you 13 the truth. 14 I stand by my ordination as a minister in 15 this community. I do not lie, will not lie, 16 and will not ever compromise the word of God. 17 Thank you. 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Haythe. 19 Appreciate it. 20 So I'll go ahead and wrap this up. 21 First of all, I really appreciate you guys</p>	<p>1 not going to happen. 2 So let's pull together, and like 3 Mr. Dennis said, let's think of the 4 opportunities. Let's think of the -- try to 5 work this thing out. 6 We're trying, in a year or so, the 7 Comprehensive Plan is going to be relooked at. 8 I'm all for relooking. We're going to have 9 public input. We're going to have workshops. 10 This isn't something that the Council is 11 going to ignore. 12 Mr. Leshar, you done a good job. You did 13 a really good job. I know that was tough. I 14 know during the election, that it was tough and 15 you promised. Okay. But your promises, this 16 Council is going to be taking care of the 17 county. We're going to do the best we can. 18 And I commend you for coming up here and 19 doing that because it takes people like 20 yourself sometimes to take a couple of steps 21 back and relook at this. And I commend you for</p>

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1 that.

2 So you best believe that the gentleman

3 comes up here and says he's not going away, we

4 don't want you to go away. We want to work

5 with you. But we got to do it respectfully.

6 And we don't need these really bad e-mails

7 on how bad we are. Okay. Because we all were

8 elected, and we're doing a job here. And we

9 want to do the job for you guys. We want to

10 work for you guys.

11 And I'm reversing. You've got to work

12 with us and we've got to work with you. But

13 helping and being disrespectful in doing these

14 demonstrations and stuff, that's not helping

15 your cause at all. It really isn't.

16 We all know it. The whole Talbot County

17 knows it.

18 So that being said, I want to commend

19 Council. I think we all need to move on. And

20 not only that, that we have to deal with that.

21 I've got phenomenal staff here that has to deal

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1 with that. I've got a lawyer up here that's

2 spent many, many, many hours on this. Okay.

3 So we need to move on on the better side of

4 this.

5 So let's work together on this. Anybody

6 wants to call me. I know I owe you a call,

7 Mr. Dennis. And I appreciate that. I just

8 haven't talked to you yet, and I will get with

9 you. I appreciate you calling me.

10 So being that's said, let's move on.

11 Mr. Leshner, you want to go ahead and tell us

12 what's going on with the next meeting.

13 MR. LESHER: The County Council's next

14 legislative meeting will be held on Tuesday,

15 February 14th, at six o'clock p.m. The Council

16 will be convening in open session at 4:30 p.m.

17 and then adjourning into closed session to

18 discuss real estate, legal, and personnel

19 matters as listed on the statement for closing

20 that meeting.

21 The County Council will be meeting on

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1 Tuesday, January 31st, at 3:30 p.m. at a work

2 session with the Public Works Advisory Board to

3 review the 2023 report of the review and update

4 the county's comprehensive water and sewer

5 plan. The meeting is open to the public and

6 will be held here in the Bradley Meeting Room.

7 At five o'clock p.m., the Council will be

8 meeting with Department of Social Services

9 Board of Directors for orientation. That

10 meeting will be held at the Department of

11 Social Services building located at 301 Bay

12 Street, Easton.

13 On Friday, February 3rd, the County

14 Council will be touring the county's

15 repurposing facility located at 28128

16 St. Michaels Road in Easton.

17 On Tuesday, February 7th, the County

18 Council will be touring the Talbot County Free

19 Library St. Michaels Branch at

20 four o'clock p.m., followed by a meeting with

21 elected officials from Easton, Oxford, Queen

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1 Anne's, St. Michaels, and Trappe at

2 five o'clock p.m. The meeting will be held at

3 the St. Michaels Library and is also open to

4 the public.

5 We're going to be busy.

6 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn

7 this meeting and reconvene as noted?

8 MS. HAYTHE: So moved.

9 MR. STEPP: Second.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and

11 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the

12 vote, please.

13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

15 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

16 MR. STEPP: Aye.

17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.


18 MR. LESHER: Aye.

19 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

20 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

21 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

1 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thanks a lot for
 3 coming. Appreciate it.
 4 (Meeting concluded at: 7:41 p.m.)
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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 Notarial Seal this 30th
 day of January, 2023, in Easton, MD.
 14
 15 
 16 _____
 Diane Houlihan
 Notary Public
 17
 18
 19
 20 My commission expires September 16, 2025
 21

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