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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

June 25, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Keasha N. Haythe

Lynn L. Mielke

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I want to welcome</p> <p>4 everybody. We'll go ahead and get started with</p> <p>5 the meeting. If everybody would go ahead and</p> <p>6 stand up, and we're going to say the prayer and</p> <p>7 Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag.</p> <p>8 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Go ahead and get</p> <p>10 started on the agenda. Appreciate everybody</p> <p>11 being here tonight. Council has had the agenda</p> <p>12 before us. Is there any additions, deletions,</p> <p>13 or corrections to the agenda, Council?</p> <p>14 MS. HAYTHE: No.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Hearing none, the</p> <p>16 chair moves that the agenda be accepted as</p> <p>17 unanimous consent.</p> <p>18 Next on the agenda is the minutes. And</p> <p>19 the Council has had time to take a look at the</p> <p>20 minutes of May 14th before us. Is there any</p> <p>21 changes to the minutes?</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. There you go. Just</p> <p>2 sit in the seat there. Then you'll all come up</p> <p>3 for pictures. If a couple of people could sit</p> <p>4 in the chairs and then go stand behind that,</p> <p>5 that would be great.</p> <p>6 MS. BROWN: You got to give us directions.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: I see that. There you go.</p> <p>8 There we go. That was very easy.</p> <p>9 Okay, Madam Secretary.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Certificate of Recognition,</p> <p>11 the 60th Anniversary, Talbot Agriculture and</p> <p>12 Education Center.</p> <p>13 Whereas, 2024 marks the 60th anniversary</p> <p>14 of the establishment of the Talbot Agriculture</p> <p>15 and Education Center located at 10659 Hiners</p> <p>16 Lane in Easton. And since its founding in</p> <p>17 1964, the mission of the Talbot Agriculture and</p> <p>18 Education Center has been to strengthen and</p> <p>19 preserve our rural Talbot County culture by</p> <p>20 providing a safe, convenient, and economical</p> <p>21 gathering place for citizens of all ages and</p>
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<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: No.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any additions,</p> <p>3 deletions, or corrections to the minutes? I'm</p> <p>4 sorry. I lost track. I'm sorry. Okay.</p> <p>5 Hearing none, the chair moves that the minutes</p> <p>6 be accepted as unanimous consent.</p> <p>7 Disbursements of June 18th and June 25th.</p> <p>8 Council has had a chance to take a look at</p> <p>9 that. Is there any additions, deletions, or</p> <p>10 corrections to that? Okay. The chair moves</p> <p>11 that the disbursements be accepted as unanimous</p> <p>12 consent. Okay.</p> <p>13 First on the agenda tonight is a</p> <p>14 Certificate of Recognition for the Talbot</p> <p>15 Agriculture Education Center turning 60. So</p> <p>16 you guys would like to come on up?</p> <p>17 Madam Secretary, would you like to go</p> <p>18 ahead and read the certificate into the record,</p> <p>19 please.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHER: If somebody would like to</p> <p>21 speak for the group.</p>	<p>1 backgrounds to showcase and learn from our</p> <p>2 agricultural heritage.</p> <p>3 And whereas, from 1964 to 1982, the Talbot</p> <p>4 Agriculture and Education Center hosted a</p> <p>5 one-day 4H showcase. And since 1983, has been</p> <p>6 home to the Talbot County Fair, now in its 41st</p> <p>7 year.</p> <p>8 And whereas, the Talbot Agriculture and</p> <p>9 Education Center is an independently-owned,</p> <p>10 nonprofit organization managed by both youth</p> <p>11 and adult volunteers from the member</p> <p>12 organizations, including Talbot County 4H,</p> <p>13 Easton Lions Club, the Tri County Ruritan,</p> <p>14 Talbot County Farm Bureau, and Easton Future</p> <p>15 Farmers of America, FFA.</p> <p>16 And whereas, each year, Talbot County</p> <p>17 Agriculture and Education Center has hosted 4H</p> <p>18 meetings and events, agricultural meetings and</p> <p>19 trainings, and community events, and is</p> <p>20 available for rent for parties and weddings.</p> <p>21 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of</p>

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1 Talbot County, do here congratulate the Talbot
 2 Agriculture and Education Center on its first
 3 60 years of service to the Talbot County
 4 community and wish them continued success as
 5 they plan and prepare for the next 60 years and
 6 beyond.
 7 Given under our hands in the great seal of
 8 Talbot County this 25th of June in the year of
 9 our Lord, 2024.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job, Madam Secretary.
 11 Okay.
 12 Is there a motion?
 13 MS. MIELKE: So moved.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 15 MR. LESHHER: Second.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 17 second to go ahead and approve the certificate
 18 as presented. Madam Secretary, could you call
 19 the vote, please.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 2 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 4 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 6 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Your turn. Welcome.
 8 MS. BROWN: Thank you very much. Thank
 9 you for recognizing the Ag Center.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Could you introduce
 11 yourself, please.
 12 MS. BROWN: I can. My name is Linda
 13 Brown. And I wear a couple of hats in this
 14 community, and the Talbot Ag Center is one of
 15 them. I've been a 4H leader for the past 50
 16 years.
 17 So we're very excited for the youth to
 18 have a place to gather and to learn and educate
 19 and do all kinds of wonderful agricultural
 20 activities for the community.
 21 We're very excited that the Ag Center was

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1 able to acquire a nonprofit status. So that
 2 helps us in gaining some support.
 3 And we appreciate your support beyond your
 4 belief. It really makes a difference when we
 5 have support from our local county government.
 6 So we appreciate that.
 7 We are looking forward to our fair. It
 8 starts July the 11th. And this is your
 9 personal invitation to attend our opening
 10 ceremony, which starts on Thursday, the 11th,
 11 at 4 p.m., followed by a fantastic fashion show
 12 and barbecue pork dinner. So you don't want to
 13 miss that. And each day just gets better. So
 14 we invite you to come out and see our facility
 15 and join us if you will.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great, that's great.
 17 MS. BROWN: Anyone else?
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: So introduce yourself.
 19 MS. FURACE: Danielle Frase. I am the
 20 treasurer for the Ag Center and echo everything
 21 Ms. Linda said.

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1 MS. BROWN: Well, thank you.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Well, that's great.
 3 Okay. Council.
 4 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah. Ms. Linda, you know
 5 you are treasured in this community and all the
 6 great work that you do. So congratulations on
 7 the 60th year.
 8 And it's always hot during the fair.
 9 MS. BROWN: Yes, ma'am.
 10 MS. HAYTHE: But I manage to get out and
 11 get those good funnel cakes out there. That is
 12 like my favor thing for the fair.
 13 But congratulation. The youth are so
 14 certainly blessed to have you and the work that
 15 the 4H does. So thanks for coming in and
 16 congratulations.
 17 MS. BROWN: Thank you.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
 19 MS. MIELKE: I'd like to reinforce what's
 20 been said.
 21 I was fortunate to attend the annual

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1 banquet for the FAA, which was wonderful. And
 2 it's great to see you continuing and the
 3 education for the youth continuing to keep
 4 farming and agriculture a big part of our
 5 community because it's so important. So thank
 6 you.
 7 MS. BROWN: Thank you.
 8 MR. LESHER: I always look forward to the
 9 fair and look forward to attending the opening
 10 ceremonies. Thank you very much.
 11 But I realize that that is just the
 12 culmination of the year, the time that you get
 13 to show off everything that you're doing with
 14 4H. And clearly, that is, that is an ongoing,
 15 that a year-long effort. And you're having an
 16 impact on lives here, shaping character,
 17 shaping the future of these young folks. So
 18 thank you for all you're doing along those
 19 lines.
 20 MS. BROWN: Thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. And just to add with

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1 my colleagues. Really appreciate all you guys
 2 do. You got a lot of people. We got Mel back
 3 here, who put his heart and soul into a lot of
 4 this stuff.
 5 And I think, are you going out this year?
 6 SPEAKER: I'm the immediate past president
 7 of the Ag Center.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: That's what I thought.
 9 And like I say, with all the youth and the
 10 kids and stuff, it's really a pleasure being
 11 out there and every year going out there. And
 12 all you guys do, all you do with the farm
 13 animals and everything. It's really special.
 14 So appreciate you doing that every year.
 15 And looking forward to this year. That's for
 16 sure.
 17 So come on up, and we'll take a picture.
 18 MS. BROWN: All right. Thank you.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Watch your step.
 20 MS. BROWN: Give us more directions.
 21 MS. HAYTHE: Who would like this?

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1 MS. KILMON: All right. If you guys want
 2 to just scoot this way a little bit.
 3 Conner is going to take first.
 4 One more. All right. Looks good, guys.
 5 MS. HAYTHE: Congratulations.
 6 MR. STAMP: Congratulations.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That was great.
 8 So okay. Next on the agenda is a request
 9 from the public schools for budget transfer.
 10 So Sarah, you want to come on up.
 11 MS. JONES: Thank you.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.
 13 MS. JONES: Good evening.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.
 15 MS. JONES: So this is my yearly trek to
 16 the Council where we come and talk about
 17 category transfers that we see a need for.
 18 And you should have had in your packets
 19 last week a request giving some detail as to
 20 the different categories.
 21 As you know, you approve a budget for us

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1 each year, and it's by category. So we have
 2 roughly ten categories that we usually use of
 3 the available categories. And we find we have
 4 some savings in some and some opportunities to
 5 get ahead on some expenses on others.
 6 So one of the reasons we come to you at
 7 this time of year is because we're wrapping up
 8 our year this week and also because we recently
 9 got our final budget appropriation from you.
 10 We had an opportunity to work through the
 11 difference between that appropriation and what
 12 we had put in our budget and figured out how to
 13 sort of manage or FY25 budget. And some of
 14 that hinges on us being able to do some
 15 prepayments in FY24. So that is really what
 16 I'm here to talk to you about.
 17 I'll go here and just kind of look at this
 18 list. Basically, we have savings in three
 19 categories. And I'll kind of hover over them
 20 with the mouse.
 21 Instructional salaries, we have a savings

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1 of about \$850,000, which seems like a lot.
 2 It's a less little than three percent of that
 3 budget. It is a lot in dollars. I mean don't
 4 get me wrong. I don't take that lightly, but
 5 we did have savings in instructional salaries.
 6 We also had savings in special education
 7 of about \$400,000. That is from that very hard
 8 to predict non-public placements, where we're
 9 placing a small number of our students in
 10 specialized educational environments. Some of
 11 them can be extremely expensive, and we had
 12 some savings in that area. That could due to
 13 one child, two children, three children. It
 14 just kind of depends on the circumstances when
 15 we're setting our budget and then what actually
 16 comes to fruition. So we had savings there.
 17 And we had also anticipated needing to
 18 transfer \$100,000 out of our operating fund
 19 over to our capital projects fund. But the
 20 White Marsh roof came in significantly under
 21 budget. We did not need to make that transfer.

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1 So we had some savings.
 2 So that is where our savings are coming
 3 from.
 4 What we would like to do with those
 5 savings is disburse them among some different
 6 categories. For example, we need \$25,000 in
 7 administration to cover some additional legal
 8 costs. Actually, our legal costs are very much
 9 in line with prior year legal cost. I think I
 10 was just very optimistic when I was budgeting
 11 and had budgeted a lower amount.
 12 We need \$45,000 in our mid level
 13 administration. That's our category that
 14 covers all of our principals, assistant
 15 principals, and curriculum supervisors and
 16 directors. And we had one transfer. So we had
 17 an overage, will have an overage in our salary
 18 line.
 19 And then want to do some additional
 20 professional learning, get that committed to
 21 right before the end of the year.

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1 We wanted to do an additional \$80,000 in
 2 other instructional cost, and that's really
 3 additional instructional software from next
 4 year's budget. We'd like to prepay that this
 5 week.
 6 \$75,000 in student services. Same thing,
 7 we'd like to prepay some softwares.
 8 Also, we are charged with instructing all
 9 students whether they're able to come to school
 10 or not. So we have a certain number of
 11 students that due to various health reasons
 12 stay home or are in the hospital. We service
 13 those students. Those costs have gone up and
 14 will be over budget this year. So we need some
 15 additional money to cover the cost of our
 16 teachers that are handling that work.
 17 By transferring \$500,000 into
 18 transportation, we can prepay many of our bus
 19 lease payments that would have been in our FY25
 20 budget.
 21 By transferring \$350,000 into our plant

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1 and operations department, we would be able to
 2 cover -- we have some overages there. We do
 3 have some repairs, but we'd also be able to get
 4 a little bit ahead on some of our supplies and
 5 cover some additional contracted services we'd
 6 like to commit to, this week, to get done over
 7 the summer.
 8 We'd like to transfer in \$100,000 in plant
 9 maintenance to cover some overages. And we
 10 would like to transfer into fixed charges
 11 \$600,000.
 12 So we have the OPEB contribution had been
 13 in our FY25 budget. So we want to prepay that.
 14 We actually want to put some additional savings
 15 into, from this year, into an OPEB
 16 contribution. We're just trying to make
 17 headway there because we're very far behind on
 18 that liability. And then we want to do some
 19 prepaying or some prefunding of our health
 20 insurance.
 21 So that is really our request.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's good.
 2 Mr. Leshner.
 3 MR. LESHER: I certainly want to applaud
 4 the prepayment. I mean in the county
 5 budgeting, we do the same thing. We identify
 6 expenses that are eligible for prepayment. The
 7 bus leases.
 8 I particularly want to applaud you for
 9 doing the OPEB payment on that.
 10 And even though it's a small item, the
 11 software all makes sense.
 12 Whatever we're transferring out of
 13 instructional salaries, it always raises an
 14 eyebrow because, of course, that savings comes
 15 from vacant positions. These are faculty
 16 positions that weren't hired that, therefore,
 17 weren't in the classroom.
 18 And what can you -- certainly this has
 19 been a tough hiring environment. It's been a
 20 tough environment for everybody. It's been a
 21 tough hiring environment for education. So the

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1 fact that some of these positions went unfilled
 2 is hardly surprising.
 3 But, and particularly with math and
 4 science, I understand that that's been
 5 difficult.
 6 But I'm curious what the plan is to fill
 7 those positions for the coming year so that we
 8 don't see that loss in that direct student
 9 contact.
 10 MS. JONES: Sure. Well, I think we have a
 11 few things we're doing to address it.
 12 We did have previously in a grant-funded
 13 position, and now starting FY25 a
 14 locally-funded position, a director of
 15 recruitment and retention. So we have someone
 16 fully focused on recruiting and retaining.
 17 And that person will be part of the HR
 18 department reporting to our new assistant
 19 superintendent for support services and
 20 something, who -- and so we'll have all those
 21 people sort of in place by July 15th.

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1 And July 15 is the date by which the
 2 teachers need to let us now if they're not
 3 going to be returning.
 4 So summer is a huge, you know, sort of
 5 on-boarding time. We're actively interviewing.
 6 I mean it's hard to get a conference room at
 7 the Education Center right now because there's
 8 so many interviews going on. So I think we're
 9 trying to do that.
 10 I think a little bit of the savings are a
 11 reflection of us having grant availability this
 12 year. So you know, we don't ever want to
 13 use -- to not use grant funding. So if money
 14 frees up in a grant and it's appropriate to
 15 charge a teacher or part of a teacher's salary
 16 there, we're going to use that money. So
 17 sometimes that happens, there's like a change
 18 in a grant throughout the year where somebody
 19 frees up. So that's a little bit of that.
 20 DR. PEPUKAYI: Yeah. I was going to jump
 21 in. I mean not to take advantage of any other

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1 county's misfortune, but coming from a
 2 superintendent's meeting, hearing all of the
 3 layoffs some of my neighboring counties are
 4 doing.
 5 We are, you know, actively reaching out
 6 and seeking for those positions, seeing of the
 7 interest to come here.
 8 Secondly, what Sarah alluded to,
 9 July 15th. We're just waiting because that is
 10 the date when teachers officially can let us
 11 know what their intent is.
 12 However, we have a lot of dominoes taking
 13 place right now, a lot of movement physically
 14 and within our staffing for the summer.
 15 And so I'm just excited about what the
 16 fall holds for us with some new positions that
 17 we have and some shifts within our organization
 18 so that we can tend to our priorities.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 20 MS. JONES: I think just one other thing
 21 is we talked a lot during the budget cycle

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1 about bringing those new mentors for new
 2 teachers on and how -- what we've seen is
 3 that's been very helpful for retention of
 4 newly-hired staff. So we're hoping to continue
 5 to see that trend and we fully expect that.
 6 DR. PEPUKAYI: And I also just would like
 7 to thank you for your partnership, starting
 8 early with our conversations about what we're
 9 doing, being transparent with the needs that we
 10 have to meet. So just appreciate that and
 11 looking forward to that in the future.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good.
 13 MR. LESHER: Thank you. It's comforting
 14 to know that you're being intentional about
 15 ensuring that those positions will get filled,
 16 that you have some -- the manager in place to
 17 recruit and retain.
 18 We know that the success of the schools is
 19 one of our most powerful economic development
 20 tools, that when the schools succeed, it helps
 21 all the other businesses, everybody else who is

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1 looking to hire in this community, it helps
 2 them succeed as well.
 3 So thank you. And understand that the
 4 broader community importance of that.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,
 6 Mr. Leshner.
 7 MS. MIELKE: It's quite clear that these
 8 are challenging times for you all. And I have
 9 to commend you for your perseverance and your
 10 diligence to address these issues which
 11 confront us. Thank you. Much appreciated.
 12 MS. HAYTHE: I will echo what my
 13 colleagues said. Certainly thank you for being
 14 proactive and looking at those schools that
 15 have had layoffs.
 16 One question that I have that's completely
 17 off from the budget is is it true that Easton
 18 Elementary lost about 20 teachers this year?
 19 DR. PEPUKAYI: No.
 20 MS. HAYTHE: No. Because you said
 21 July 15th --

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1 DR. PEPUKAYI: July 15th. And I'm hoping
 2 by July 15th there's not a mass exodus, but
 3 that number is not that high that I recall.
 4 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. Good.
 5 DR. PEPUKAYI: That would have been
 6 brought to my attention.
 7 MS. HAYTHE: Good. Yeah. Somebody had
 8 mentioned that. And I said well, while they
 9 are here, I'm just going to go ahead and ask
 10 the question.
 11 Good. All right. Good. Thank you.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Well, thank you,
 13 guys.
 14 It's great. It really is great working
 15 with you guys. We had a great year with you
 16 and working with the budget, and really
 17 appreciate all your hard work. That's for
 18 sure.
 19 MR. LESHER: So we need to move for
 20 approval.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

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1 MR. LESHER: I will move approval of the
 2 categorical budget transfers as requested.
 3 MS. MIELKE: Second.
 4 MS. HAYTHE: Second.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 6 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 7 vote.
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 11 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 13 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 15 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, guys.
 17 MS. JONES: Thank you so much.
 18 DR. PEPUKAYI: Thank you.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda
 20 is introduction of legislation. Madam
 21 Secretary, could you go ahead and read the bill

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1 into the record, please.

2 SECRETARY: A bill to authorize the

3 replacement and improvement of the cart bridge

4 at the ninth hole at the Talbot County Hog Neck

5 Golf Course.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Martha, you want to

7 come on up?

8 MS. SPARKS: Good evening, Council.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.

10 MS. SPARKS: Martha Sparks, finance

11 director.

12 This was somehow missed in our numbering

13 for our first introduction of capital enabling

14 legislation. So we are presenting this to you

15 tonight.

16 We also will come forward to Council with

17 more capital enabling legislation once the

18 Talbot County Public Schools, the School Board

19 has to decided those capital projects that they

20 wish to select for the \$1.5 million in funding

21 that Council has approved for them in the FY25

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1 budget.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other questions?

3 Okay. That will be a show of hands.

4 MR. LESHHER: This is to sponsor.

5 Sponsored by Callahan, Leshher, Mielke, and

6 Haythe.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you

8 announce the bill number and the public

9 hearing.

10 SECRETARY: Yes. This will be known as

11 Bill Number 1575, and the public hearing will

12 be on Tuesday, July 23rd, at 5:30 p.m.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Martha, thank you.

14 I appreciate it.

15 Okay. We're running a hair early. Want

16 to do a couple of county manager things?

17 MR. STAMP: Certainly. Thank you,

18 Council.

19 Under county manager report this evening,

20 we have board and committee appointments. The

21 first one is the Animal Control Board. We're

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1 requesting the reappointment of Karla

2 Weiland-Cherry to serve on the Animal Control

3 Board.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is there a motion?

5 MR. LESHHER: I'll move for the appointment

6 of Karla Weiland-Cherry.

7 MS. HAYTHE: Second.

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

9 a second. Madam Secretary, could you call the

10 vote.

11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

13 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.

14 MR. LESHHER: Aye.

15 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

16 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

17 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

18 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

19 MR. STAMP: The next is the Golf Board.

20 We're requesting the appointment of Dana Eggert

21 to serve on the Golf Board.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

2 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve.

3 MS. MIELKE: Second.

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

5 second to put somebody on the --

6 MR. STAMP: Dana Eggert.

7 MR. LESHHER: Dana Eggert.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. On the Golf Board

9 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

12 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.

13 MR. LESHHER: Aye.

14 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

15 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

16 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

17 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

18 MR. STAMP: The next is the Talbot Family

19 Network Board of Directors. Requesting the

20 reappointment of Berenice Orellana from the

21 private sector and the appointment of Katie

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<p>1 Fox, representing Talbot County Public Schools</p> <p>2 on the, if approved, the Talbot Family Network</p> <p>3 Board of Directors.</p> <p>4 MR. LESHER: I'll move both appointments</p> <p>5 to the TFN.</p> <p>6 MS. HAYTHE: I'll second.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>8 could you call the vote.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>12 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>14 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>16 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>17 MR. STAMP: And finally, under board and</p> <p>18 committee appointments. This is the Tourism</p> <p>19 Board. Requesting the appointment of</p> <p>20 Commissioner David Wojciechowski, who is a</p> <p>21 St. Michael's representative, to that board.</p>	<p>1 the electrical service for the transformer to</p> <p>2 service the main and north wing sections of the</p> <p>3 Talbot County Courthouse and State's Attorney</p> <p>4 building.</p> <p>5 There are sufficient funds in the budget</p> <p>6 for this project.</p> <p>7 And Brian is here to add anything</p> <p>8 additionally or answer any questions relative</p> <p>9 to this request.</p> <p>10 Good evening, Brian.</p> <p>11 MR. MOORE: Good evening, Council. Brian</p> <p>12 Moore, Talbot County Facilities Maintenance and</p> <p>13 Roads Department.</p> <p>14 Clay kind of summarized it. This is a</p> <p>15 project I really don't want to do, kind of</p> <p>16 forced to do. But it's a necessary that we</p> <p>17 have to do.</p> <p>18 As a project to replace the courthouse</p> <p>19 chiller, it's ongoing. We're coordinating this</p> <p>20 project because the Town of Easton is upgrading</p> <p>21 the electrical metering in the courthouse so</p>
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<p>1 I tried real hard not to mess that name</p> <p>2 up.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: You did well.</p> <p>4 MR. LESHER: I'll move for the appointment</p> <p>5 of David Wojciechowski.</p> <p>6 MS. HAYTHE: I'll second.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you</p> <p>8 call the vote.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>12 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>14 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>16 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>17 MR. STAMP: The next item, I'll bring</p> <p>18 Brian Moore up. Brian.</p> <p>19 Facility maintenance is requesting Council</p> <p>20 approval to award a contract to Fluharty's</p> <p>21 Electric in the amount of \$65,324 to upgrade</p>	<p>1 they can remotely read the meter. And the</p> <p>2 meter is going to be moved from the courthouse</p> <p>3 basement to the transformer location.</p> <p>4 In the process of summarizing and scoping</p> <p>5 the project out, they are concerned about the</p> <p>6 electrical feeds from the transformer to the</p> <p>7 building are not sufficient during heavy loads.</p> <p>8 They've put some recording devices on it. And</p> <p>9 when the chiller is running at full capacity,</p> <p>10 which is like a 90-degree day, that the loads</p> <p>11 are close to the point of overloading the</p> <p>12 system.</p> <p>13 The old meter had more capability to</p> <p>14 handle that. The new one will not.</p> <p>15 So as part of this project, we'll going to</p> <p>16 be replacing the electrical feed from the</p> <p>17 transformer which feeds the main courthouse,</p> <p>18 what I call the north wing, and the State's</p> <p>19 Attorney building.</p> <p>20 We will have to do some coordination</p> <p>21 because the power is going to be cut to those</p>

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1 buildings to do the work. And that's the
 2 project in a nutshell.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions,
 4 Council?
 5 MS. MIELKE: No questions.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 7 MR. LESHHER: This is, as usual, the lowest
 8 responsible and responsive bidder?
 9 MR. MOORE: Yes, yes. Solicited prices.
 10 And a lot of detail went into getting the
 11 prices, and there's a lot of moving parts and
 12 availability of the equipment. So we want to
 13 go and get moving on that because there's a
 14 lead time on some of the equipment.
 15 MR. LESHHER: It's always nice to see that
 16 a local firm gets the contract to be that low
 17 bidder. So thank you.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, Council. Is there a
 19 motion?
 20 MS. MIELKE: So moved.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and second.

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1 MS. HAYTHE: Second.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Madam Secretary,
 3 could you call the vote, please.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 7 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 9 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 10 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 11 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Brian.
 13 MR. MOORE: Thank you.
 14 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Brian.
 15 Next, Council. You want me to do another
 16 one?
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, sure.
 18 MR. STAMP: Next, Council, I'll ask Brian
 19 LeCates, Emergency Services director, and
 20 Geneva Schaffle, emergency management
 21 coordinator, to come up.

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1 The director of DES is requesting Council
 2 approval to award the contract to Tetra Tech in
 3 the amount of \$62,059 to rewrite the county's
 4 continuity of operation plan.
 5 This project will be paid using emergency
 6 management preparedness grant funds.
 7 And both Geneva and Brian are here to add
 8 any additional information or answer any
 9 questions relevant to this matter. Thank you.
 10 MR. LeCATES: Thank you, Clay.
 11 Good evening.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.
 13 MR. LeCATES: So I think Clay has pretty
 14 much summarized it.
 15 We're requesting permission to procure
 16 using 100 percent grant funds for the
 17 continuity of operations plan for county
 18 government to make sure that we can stay
 19 operational if something were to happen.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions,
 21 Council?

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1 MS. MIELKE: Nope.
 2 MR. STAMP: I will just say this is a
 3 timely effort because we did learn a lot
 4 through the COVID experience.
 5 One instance, everybody, I think everybody
 6 in their plan decided to go to the Community
 7 Center for their alternative location. And
 8 that wasn't very well coordinated, was it?
 9 So there's a lot of lessons learned in the
 10 last few years that we'll commit to doing
 11 things different in the future. So that's
 12 good.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good. We got a
 14 motion on the floor?
 15 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve.
 16 MR. LESHHER: Second.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 18 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 19 vote.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 2 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 4 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 6 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 8 MR. LeCATES: Thank you, all, for your
 9 support. Appreciate it.
 10 MS. SHAFFLE: Thank you.
 11 MR. LeCATES: Have a good evening.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, both.
 13 MR. STAMP: You want to keep rolling?
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Is it one more or two more?
 15 MR. STAMP: Two more.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Let's go ahead and
 17 get you done.
 18 MR. STAMP: Okay. Martha, would you
 19 please come forward.
 20 Martha, your finance director, she's going
 21 to be presenting to you for your approval

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1 fourth quarter budget transfers, and
 2 specifically the remaining contingency funds.
 3 And I'll let her have the floor to
 4 continue with that.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Welcome.
 6 MS. SPARKS: Thank you so much. Martha
 7 Sparks, finance director.
 8 This is the second fourth quarter transfer
 9 request that I've brought before Council. This
 10 is in accordance with section 615 of the Talbot
 11 County Charter, which states that transfers
 12 between agencies of the county government and
 13 within the same fund of the current expense
 14 budget may be made only during the last quarter
 15 of the fiscal year and only on the
 16 recommendation of the county manager with the
 17 approval of Council.
 18 So the listing that I provided to you
 19 focuses on a budget transfer of the remaining
 20 contingency funds to a contribution to the
 21 county's investment in the Maryland Association

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1 of Counties, MACo, other post employment
 2 benefits, OPEB, fund. Talbot County provides
 3 post retirement health care benefits under the
 4 Talbot County retiree plan.
 5 Investment in the MACo OPEB fund mitigates
 6 the liability associated with providing future
 7 benefits to our retirees.
 8 There is also an adjustment related to
 9 moving some additional operating appropriations
 10 between categories, similar to what the School
 11 Board just came to you and asked for.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions,
 13 Council?
 14 MR. LESHNER: No questions. Just a
 15 comment.
 16 As I commented to the school personnel, I
 17 want to applaud the move to continue to fund
 18 our OPEB obligations. This will ensure that we
 19 have funding for our retirees? health care
 20 benefits and not an uncertainty in that
 21 category. Paying as we go, as we always have

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1 had to do in the past.
 2 MS. SPARKS: That's correct. It is a very
 3 good mitigation plan for us.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other comments?
 5 MS. MIELKE: No.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 7 MR. LESHNER: I'll move to approve the
 8 fourth quarter budget transfers as proposed.
 9 MS. HAYTHE: Second.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 11 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 12 vote.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 16 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 18 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 20 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

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1 MS. HAYTHE: Thanks, Martha.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Martha.
 3 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Martha.
 4 And finally, Council, we'll ask Ray Clarke
 5 to come forward, your county engineer. Ray is
 6 here to seek approval to enter an easement
 7 agreement.
 8 And I'll let him share the request and
 9 I'll fill in any --
 10 MR. CLARKE: Council, this is basically an
 11 easement agreement with the Nolans that are on
 12 Mount Pleasant.
 13 And this is to allow us to directional
 14 drill for the Resolution 250 project for sewer.
 15 And what we're going to do is go across their
 16 property below grade. Probably be averaging
 17 about seven to eight feet and then we'll drop
 18 down to about 40 feet. And then we go on to
 19 Broad Creek and then we come up on Scott's
 20 Lane.
 21 So we ended up having to work out an

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1 easement agreement with the Nolans ultimately.
 2 They have two lots. We'll be providing them
 3 basically with sewer to their two lots, as well
 4 as the necessary force mains and whatnot to tie
 5 them in once they're ready to move forward with
 6 them.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds good. Any comments
 8 or questions?
 9 MS. HAYTHE: No, no questions.
 10 MR. LESHHER: Just congratulations. I know
 11 that this is a really important step. We've
 12 got a lot of constituents down in the Bozman
 13 Neavitt area who are waiting for these hookups.
 14 And that this is a vital link to make that
 15 happen.
 16 I know that you've been working hard to
 17 get to this point. So thank you for your
 18 efforts and congratulations.
 19 MR. CLARKE: My staff has helped. We will
 20 thank also the county attorney as well. So we
 21 appreciate it.

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1 MR. LESHHER: I'll move to approve the
 2 easement agreement.
 3 MS. MIELKE: Second.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 5 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 6 vote.
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 10 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 11 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 12 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 13 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 14 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
 16 MR. STAMP: Just want to recognize Ray for
 17 all his work. I know Council certainly
 18 recognizes that he puts in more than 40 hours a
 19 week to accomplish the many tasks at hand.
 20 So thank you, Ray.
 21 Council, that completes your county

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1 manager report for the week. Thank you.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job. Okay.
 3 So we'll go ahead now and start the public
 4 hearing. Madam Secretary, could you go ahead
 5 and read the first one please, Resolution 358.
 6 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 358, a
 7 resolution to formally close Segars Corner Road
 8 as a county road and authorize the conveyance
 9 thereof to the underlying fee simple owners.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great.
 11 Mr. Thomas, you want to go ahead and do a
 12 little overview of that, please.
 13 MR. THOMAS: Yes. So Segars Corner Road
 14 is a very short road. It's about less than a
 15 quarter-mile long. It is an alternate
 16 connector for Lewistown Road and Coveys Landing
 17 Road.
 18 And this road is in poor condition and is
 19 going to require significant expense to be
 20 properly upgraded and maintained to the status
 21 of county roads.

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<p>1 So this resolution was brought forward at</p> <p>2 Mr. Moore's request. And it proposes to</p> <p>3 abandon the road and convey the underlying land</p> <p>4 to the property owners on either side.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds great.</p> <p>6 Okay.</p> <p>7 At this time, I'm going to go ahead and</p> <p>8 open it up to the floor. You'll have three</p> <p>9 minutes to speak about this and five minutes if</p> <p>10 you're representing an organization at this</p> <p>11 time. Okay.</p> <p>12 So anybody over here to my left want to</p> <p>13 come up and speak about 358?</p> <p>14 Over here to my right, anybody want to</p> <p>15 come up and speak about 358? Okay.</p> <p>16 Seems like nobody is coming up. All</p> <p>17 right, then.</p> <p>18 Okay. At this time, we can go ahead and</p> <p>19 close that, Madam Secretary, can't we?</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Yes, you can.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We'll go ahead and</p>	<p>1 into the future.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds great. Is</p> <p>3 there a second?</p> <p>4 MS. MIELKE: Second. Well, there's no</p> <p>5 motion.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: Just call.</p> <p>7 MS. HAYTHE: Madam Secretary, could you</p> <p>8 call the vote.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>12 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>14 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>16 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>18 MR. THOMAS: Aye.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>20 could you go ahead and read 359 into the</p> <p>21 record.</p>
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<p>1 close that.</p> <p>2 And then at this time, it's ready to be</p> <p>3 voted on, correct? We can make a motion?</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Yes. And vote on it.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: So is there a motion?</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: We don't need a motion. I</p> <p>7 think we can --</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: We can vote on it?</p> <p>9 MR. LESHER: -- discuss if needed and call</p> <p>10 for the vote. This seems to be an</p> <p>11 uncontroversial matter.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.</p> <p>13 MR. LESHER: To close this road. I think</p> <p>14 it won't cause any serious inconvenience to</p> <p>15 anybody. We have not heard any objection to</p> <p>16 it.</p> <p>17 I'm certainly satisfied that this is the</p> <p>18 right way to go forward from the county.</p> <p>19 And thank you to our department head for</p> <p>20 proposing to do this and save the Roads</p> <p>21 Department some funding, some effort, and costs</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 359, a</p> <p>2 resolution to place a question on the ballot at</p> <p>3 the November 2024 General Election to amend</p> <p>4 section 614 of the Charter of Talbot County to</p> <p>5 allow, but not require, the County Council of</p> <p>6 Talbot County to add up to one cent per \$100 of</p> <p>7 assessed value above the revenue cap for an</p> <p>8 additional five years beginning July 1, 2026.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Madam</p> <p>10 Secretary.</p> <p>11 Mr. Thomas, you want to just give us an</p> <p>12 overview of what we're trying to achieve here?</p> <p>13 MR. THOMAS: Yes. Pursuant to section 614</p> <p>14 of the county Charter, as of July 1, 2021,</p> <p>15 revenues derived from property taxes included</p> <p>16 in the constant yield tax rate certification</p> <p>17 issued by SDAT shall not increase more than two</p> <p>18 percent from the previous year.</p> <p>19 In 2020, the Council adopted Resolution</p> <p>20 288 for the purpose of placing a question on</p> <p>21 the 2020 ballot to allow, but not require, the</p>

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<p>1 Council to add up to one cent per \$100 of</p> <p>2 assessed value above this revenue cap for five</p> <p>3 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.</p> <p>4 This ballot question was approved by the</p> <p>5 voters, and it will expire as of July 1, 2026.</p> <p>6 So the Resolution 359 proposes to extend</p> <p>7 this for an additional five years beginning</p> <p>8 July 1, 2026.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great. Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHNER: Mr. Callahan, I have an</p> <p>11 amendment to introduce to this one, which</p> <p>12 simply extends this extension from five years</p> <p>13 to seven years.</p> <p>14 And the reason that I am offering this</p> <p>15 amendment, and I spoke with Mr. Stepp, the</p> <p>16 originator of this resolution about this, the</p> <p>17 existing provision is expiring now so that we</p> <p>18 can place this on the ballot this year in a</p> <p>19 presidential year, which is when we have an</p> <p>20 uncrowded ballot and no County Council members</p> <p>21 are on the ballot, which allows us and the</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Show of hands to introduce.</p> <p>2 Yup. Okay.</p> <p>3 MR. LESHNER: So introduced by Callahan,</p> <p>4 Leshner, Mielke, and Haythe.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So now we're getting</p> <p>6 ready to open it.</p> <p>7 MR. THOMAS: So now we're going to open</p> <p>8 the public hearing.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. At this time, I'm</p> <p>10 getting ready to open to the public hearing on</p> <p>11 359.</p> <p>12 I'll give you three minutes for</p> <p>13 individuals and five minutes for an</p> <p>14 organization that wants to come up and talk</p> <p>15 about 359.</p> <p>16 So I'll start over here to my left.</p> <p>17 Anybody here to the left?</p> <p>18 I see Martha over there. I know she wants</p> <p>19 to. I know she wants it.</p> <p>20 MS. SPARKS: Do you want me to? I do have</p> <p>21 not my one cent, but I have my two cents I can</p>
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<p>1 sheriff to campaign to express the importance</p> <p>2 of this. And we've seen how important this</p> <p>3 measure is for funding public safety.</p> <p>4 And by adding another two years, rather</p> <p>5 than having this expire in a Council election</p> <p>6 year, a Gubernatorial election year, this will</p> <p>7 extend it to the next presidential election</p> <p>8 year so that we can deal -- should this need to</p> <p>9 be renewed another time, it can be done when</p> <p>10 there isn't such a crowded ballot.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So do we have to, do</p> <p>12 we need to go ahead and vote on the amendment?</p> <p>13 MR. THOMAS: Yes. You'd be introducing</p> <p>14 the amendment. And then I think you can</p> <p>15 proceed to the public hearing and then vote on</p> <p>16 the amendment and then either --</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Do the amendment first?</p> <p>18 MR. THOMAS: Just introduce it.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHNER: So we just need a show of</p> <p>21 hands.</p>	<p>1 put in.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yup.</p> <p>3 MS. SPARKS: So Council, I thought this</p> <p>4 would be a good time to revisit for the</p> <p>5 benefit, for the public's benefit the great</p> <p>6 assistance that these revenues have provided to</p> <p>7 the county for providing and augmenting public</p> <p>8 safety expenditures.</p> <p>9 So I did a, through the budget process, I</p> <p>10 did a review of the revenues. And I just</p> <p>11 looked at additional positions that we've been</p> <p>12 able to add to public safety as a result of</p> <p>13 this.</p> <p>14 And in that analysis, we had a total of 26</p> <p>15 positions that we were able to add. We were</p> <p>16 able to add another paramedics crew, another</p> <p>17 EMTs, also SROs, 911 operators. We've been</p> <p>18 able to improve our recruitment and retention</p> <p>19 of our sheriff's deputies and our Department of</p> <p>20 Corrections by helping them to get the</p> <p>21 supplemental retirement programs of CORS and</p>

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<p>1 LEOPS for our sheriff's deputies and our 2 correctional employees. 3 And each year, as we've added those 4 positions, we've spent those revenues. And the 5 Councils have voted to approve even more 6 funding and support for public safety and 7 equipment and vehicles and increased funding to 8 our volunteer fire companies. They got a very 9 good increase this year to help support them in 10 their efforts to provide their services to 11 Talbot County citizens. 12 So I just wanted to say and voice as the 13 finance director the support. I see where 14 these revenues are being spent. And they are 15 being spent in the areas that the public have 16 supported. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Martha. That's 18 very important for the public to know that 19 they're doing good things to help us. That's 20 for sure. 21 Anybody else here on my right want to come</p>	<p>1 that we have the best of the best and that we 2 address one of our core pillars as a community, 3 and that is public safety, health, and welfare. 4 So as a citizen, as a proud member of our 5 community and in service to the community, I 6 support this measure. Thank you. 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Thank you, Mr. Stamp. 8 I appreciate that. Okay. 9 At this time, do we keep -- just do the 10 roll. 11 MR. LESHER: I think this is eligible for 12 vote. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 14 MR. LESHER: So the first thing to do 15 would be to vote on the amendment. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay. Madam 17 Secretary, could you call the vote. 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 21 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p>
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<p>1 up and speak? Okay. 2 At this time, I'll go ahead and -- 3 MR. STAMP: Mr. Council President. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. 5 MR. STAMP: If it's proper for me to be 6 able to speak as county manager, but as your 7 former Emergency Services director, 8 long-serving paramedic and emergency manager, 9 it's been proud for me to serve the community 10 in this role. 11 I'd just like to share my perspective. 12 Everything that Martha said is true. 13 In the last number of years, this 14 additional funding has allowed us to see the 15 best of our services. I mean we've seen -- 16 we've stabilized our workforce. We've been 17 able to attract quality individuals as 18 paramedics, corrections officers, deputy 19 sheriff. We've advanced in technology. We've 20 enhanced our coverage. 21 So the funding has been used to make sure</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 2 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 3 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 4 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 6 MR. THOMAS: Aye. 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 8 MR. LESHER: And then we move the full, 9 the amended legislation now for a vote. 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay. Madam 11 Secretary, could you call the vote. 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 15 MR. LESHER: Aye. 16 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 17 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 18 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 19 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 21 MR. THOMAS: Aye.</p>

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds great. All
 2 right.
 3 MR. LESHER: I just want to thank Council
 4 for that. I think that that's a real important
 5 move and a vote of confidence in the future of
 6 public safety that we advance that to the
 7 voters.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: I would agree.
 9 MS. HAYTHE: I agree.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: I would agree.
 11 Jess, is there a sign-up sheet?
 12 MS. MORRIS: This is nobody that signed up
 13 this evening.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Nobody. Nobody signed up.
 15 Okay.
 16 Council comments. Mr. Leshner.
 17 MR. LESHNER: We heard earlier this evening
 18 from our Talbot Agriculture and Education
 19 Center, which sponsors 4H and does, as I said
 20 earlier, that really important youth and
 21 regiment and character building.

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1 Our own county Parks & Recs Department,
 2 this is summertime. And we are running summer
 3 camp programs out at the Talbot County
 4 Community Center.
 5 I just came back from a week of scout camp
 6 with the Boy Scouts, yet another one of our
 7 communities.
 8 There are so many organizations in this
 9 community that are doing that kind of youth
 10 enrichment, youth character building, youth
 11 programming of one sort of another. This is
 12 the season when that becomes so important as
 13 schools are out.
 14 And I just want to thank all of the
 15 volunteers and all of the professionals in the
 16 organizations who are engaged in doing that.
 17 You are doing really important work in this
 18 community.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. Thank you,
 20 Mr. Leshner.
 21 MS. MIELKE: Yes. To sort of sequence

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1 from that, I just wanted to bring to the
 2 public's attention that the Easton Airport is
 3 sponsoring a summer learning activity program
 4 for kids ages 12 to 16 on air field design,
 5 paper airplane, aircraft characteristics, model
 6 rocket construction, and then a model rocket
 7 launch.
 8 For more information, you can contact
 9 eastonairport.com or you can look at our
 10 website and the information will be there.
 11 But I think this is a great opportunity
 12 for students to learn about aviation and maybe
 13 a career.
 14 MS. HAYTHE: Absolutely. Just to echo my
 15 colleagues. As Mr. Leshner said and Ms. Mielke,
 16 this is the time for our young people that are
 17 out of school right now to take advantage of
 18 these summer enrichment opportunities. So I
 19 encourage families and parents to do so during
 20 this time of year.
 21 But also next Thursday is 4th of July. So

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1 I encourage everyone to have a great 4th and be
 2 safe and celebrate with your family and friends
 3 and your loved ones.
 4 That's all I have.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. And I'll say the same
 6 thing with my colleagues.
 7 I just want to make sure that we all want
 8 to have fun at 4th of July. But you know,
 9 unfortunately, it's been really dry out there.
 10 So we just want to use common sense out there
 11 with fireworks and stuff like that.
 12 We did unfortunately put a ban on it for
 13 burns and fireworks. But like public, like
 14 personal fireworks, not the municipality
 15 fireworks. That's going to happen.
 16 So we just really want to be safe for the
 17 firefighters. We want everybody to have fun,
 18 but just use a little bit of common sense and
 19 let's wait for some rains and stuff so we can
 20 go back to our fire pits and stuff like that.
 21 So just wanted to throw that out at everybody.

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1 So just be safe.
 2 Thank you, staff, for all you do.
 3 And I did want to welcome Conner, too,
 4 from The Star Democrat. You're doing a good
 5 job. And we really appreciate all your hard
 6 work.
 7 And you know, it means a lot to us as a
 8 Council when you're writing about us, you know.
 9 That's touchy sometimes, what we say, what we
 10 don't say. And you're doing a really good job.
 11 So I really appreciate you being here and all
 12 the good work you're doing.
 13 And the same with you, Sarah, back there.
 14 Keep an eye on him. Okay. Keep an eye on him.
 15 But other than that, I appreciate
 16 everything.
 17 Mr. Leshner.
 18 MR. LESHER: The County Council's next
 19 meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 9th,
 20 beginning at 5 o'clock p.m.
 21 The Council will be convening in open

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1 session at 2:30 p.m. for a work session on the
 2 proposed Frederick Douglass bike trail in the
 3 county and then adjourning into closed session,
 4 as listed on the statement for closing that
 5 meeting.
 6 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn
 7 this meeting and reconvene as noted?
 8 MS. HAYTHE: So moved.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So we got a motion
 10 and second.
 11 MS. MIELKE: Second.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 16 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 18 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 20 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thanks a lot.

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1 Appreciate everybody being here.
 2 (Meeting concluded at: 5:53 p.m.)
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1 STATE OF MARYLAND
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and
 3 for the State of Maryland, County of Baltimore City,
 4 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot
 5 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me
 6 at the time and place herein set according to law,
 7 was interrogated by counsel.
 8
 9 I further certify that the examination was
 10 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed
 11 from my stenographic notes to the within printed
 12 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription
 13 in a true and accurate manner.
 14
 15 I further certify that the stipulations
 16 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my
 17 presence.
 18
 19 I further certify that I am not of counsel
 20 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,
 21 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way
 interested in the outcome of this action.
 AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 1st
 day of July, 2024, at Easton, MD



 Diane Houlihan
 Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2025

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