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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

May 17, 2022; 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Frank Divilio

Laura E. Price

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

2

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's get ready to

4 get started. I want to welcome everybody this

5 evening. So if we could please stand.

6 Mr. Pack is not here with us tonight. And

7 I would like -- unfortunately, his father

8 passed away. And I would like to give the

9 family a little bit of silence and give him a

10 prayer for that, please.

11 And then after that, Vice President Leshner

12 will be giving the prayer and then we're going

13 to do the Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag.

14 So let's do a moment of silence for

15 Mr. Pack's father, please.

16 (Moment of Silence, Prayer, and Pledge of

17 Allegiance)

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner. I

19 appreciate that. Okay.

20 We got an agenda before us tonight,

21 May 17th. Are there any additions, deletions,

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1 or corrections to the agenda, Council? Okay.

2 Hearing none, the chair moves that the agenda

3 be accepted as unanimous consent. Okay.

4 We'll go now to the minutes now, Council,

5 of April 26th before us. Are there any

6 additions, deletions, or corrections to the

7 minutes? Okay. Hearing none, the chair moves

8 that the agenda be accepted as unanimous

9 consent.

10 Next on the agenda is disbursements of

11 May 17th. We've had time to review all that.

12 Does the Council see any additions, deletions,

13 or corrections to the disbursements? If not,

14 hearing none, the chair moves that the

15 disbursements be accepted as unanimous consent.

16 Okay.

17 So up tonight we got National Safety

18 Boater Week. And if you guys want to come on

19 up here, that would be great.

20 Madam Secretary, when they get up here,

21 would you please read the proclamation into the

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1 record, please.

2 SECRETARY: National Safe Boating Week,

3 May 21st through 27, 2022.

4 Whereas, many residents and visitors

5 annually enjoy recreational boating, including

6 fishing, water skiing, waterfowl hunting,

7 sailing, canoeing, and kayaking in the waters

8 within and surrounding Talbot County.

9 And whereas, on average, 650 people die

10 each year in boating-related accidents in the

11 United States, 75 percent of which are caused

12 by drowning.

13 And whereas, the vast majority of

14 boating-related accidents are caused by human

15 error or poor judgment, and not by the boat,

16 equipment, or environmental factors.

17 And whereas, a significant number of

18 boaters who lose their lives by drowning each

19 year would still be alive today had they worn

20 their life jackets.

21 And whereas, safe boaters have applied

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1 knowledge gained by attending the United States

2 Coast Guard approved safe boating classes. And

3 safe boaters operate vessels that have passed a

4 Coast Guard Auxiliary or US power squadron

5 vessel safety check.

6 And whereas, Talbot County recognizes the

7 year-round volunteer efforts, voluntary efforts

8 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

9 flotillas throughout Maryland in promoting safe

10 boating education and practices through

11 classroom instruction, vessel examinations, and

12 water patrols.

13 And whereas, on June 4, 1958, President

14 Dwight D. Eisenhower established National Safe

15 Boating Week. And in 1995, the date for

16 National Safe Boating Week was changed to the

17 full week before Memorial Day weekend each

18 year.

19 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of

20 Talbot County, do hereby proclaim the week of

21 May 21st through 27, 2022, as Safe Boating Week

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1 in Talbot County and urge all those who boat to
 2 practice safe boating habits and wear a life
 3 jacket at all times while boating.
 4 Given under our hands in the great seal of
 5 Talbot County this 17th day of May in the year
 6 of our Lord 2022.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.
 8 Good job.
 9 Is there a motion and second to approve
 10 this proclamation?
 11 MR. LESHER: So moved.
 12 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary, we
 14 got a motion and second. Could you call the
 15 roll, please.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 19 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 21 MR. LESHER: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 2 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Welcome, guys. We
 4 really appreciate it. Are you Mr. Reed?
 5 MR. CAREY: Yes, Mr. Carey.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup. Welcome.
 7 MR. CAREY: Thank you very much. Thank
 8 you for having us here tonight. Thank you for
 9 helping us to support safe boating here in
 10 Talbot County.
 11 My name is Reed Carey. I'm the public
 12 affairs officer for the Coast Guard Auxiliary
 13 flotilla here in Easton. I'm very honored to
 14 be joined tonight by Boatswain's Mate Second Class
 15 Tyler Laski, Edward Burke, who is a fellow
 16 Auxiliarist and the commander of the Coast
 17 Guard Auxiliary flotilla in Easton, and
 18 Officer Nathan Bradley, who is an officer with
 19 the Department of Natural Resources Police.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.
 21 MR. CAREY: We're thrilled that you're

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1 supporting us and supporting us and joining us
 2 in supporting safe boating.
 3 Recreational boating is an activity
 4 enjoyed by over 100 million Americans, and
 5 obviously Talbot County has fantastic beautiful
 6 opportunities for boating.
 7 However, it's an activity that does have
 8 risks. In the year 2020, there were over 5,000
 9 boating accidents and more fatalities than
 10 usual. There were 767 fatalities in 2020.
 11 Here in Maryland alone, there were 148 boating
 12 accidents and six deaths.
 13 It's clear that during the COVID-19
 14 pandemic, as recreational boating has
 15 increased, the risks have increased. Between
 16 2019 and 2020, the rate of boating accidents
 17 increased from 5.2 per 100,000 registered boats
 18 to 6.5 per 100,000 registered boats, which is a
 19 25 percent year over year increase.
 20 Safe boating requires preparation. The
 21 Coast Guard estimates that human error accounts

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1 for most boating accidents, and simply wearing
 2 a life jacket could prevent 86 percent of
 3 boating fatalities.
 4 Simple procedures such as carrying
 5 emergency equipment, emergency distress and
 6 communications equipment, wearing your life
 7 jacket, attending a safe boating course,
 8 participating in free boating safety checks,
 9 and staying sober while boating substantially
 10 decreases risks to boaters.
 11 Safety Boating Week has been recognized
 12 nationally since 1958 and traditionally now is
 13 the week before Memorial Day weekend. It's a
 14 great time to remind boaters who are getting
 15 back on the water to be safe.
 16 And Coast Guard and the Department of
 17 Natural Resources will be out there keeping us
 18 safe. And we're thrilled that Talbot County is
 19 joining us as well. Thank you.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. Would you
 21 guys like to say anything?

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1 MR. LASKEY: I got nothing. We're here to
 2 help.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, I really appreciate
 4 it.
 5 Ms. Price.
 6 MS. PRICE: Just thank you very much for
 7 your awareness of this. And in this county in
 8 particular, with either the most miles of
 9 shoreline or the second most miles of shoreline
 10 and the beauty that we have here, obviously
 11 boating is a big thing here. And so it's very
 12 important that you brought the awareness to be
 13 safe while you're out there having a good time.
 14 So thank you.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 16 Mr. Divilio.
 17 MR. DIVILIO: So I grew up here water
 18 skiing and wade boarding and playing in the
 19 different rivers around. I certainly know the
 20 hazards and have seen plenty of dangerous
 21 activity out on the water.

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1 So I appreciate the work that you guys do
 2 to keep us safe while we're out there.
 3 And I also know that the best way for
 4 people to cherish the Chesapeake Bay are to be
 5 in it, tasting it, playing in it, and really
 6 enjoying it. So I want to see people out
 7 there.
 8 On the boater safety, give Mr. Leshler a
 9 little prop. The Chesapeake Bay Maritime
 10 Museum started their boater safety class
 11 tonight. And they run that Tuesday through
 12 Thursday this week, July 19th through the 21st,
 13 and August 23rd through 25th. So anyone born
 14 after '72 has to have boater safety, which I
 15 think is extremely important for anyone to
 16 have.
 17 It's very easy to get lost out there, and
 18 the basic boater safety class teaches you how
 19 to be a lot safer.
 20 So appreciate all that you do and The
 21 Maritime Museum as well being a good part.

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1 Thank you.
 2 MR. LESHER: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.
 3 And of course, we know that even though
 4 it's not mandatory for those of us who are born
 5 before that date, it's still good practice.
 6 So thank you for all you do to promote
 7 boating safety.
 8 I do, too, like Mr. Divilio, find myself
 9 out on the water with some frequency. I
 10 remember an incident some years ago where I was
 11 just out there with my kids. And a DNR officer
 12 came along and gave them each I think it might
 13 have been ice cream coupons because he observed
 14 them to be wearing life jackets. Just that
 15 positive reinforcement.
 16 You know, I've also seen the tragic side
 17 of this. I've personally known a couple of
 18 people who have not just been injured but lost
 19 their lives out on the water. And everything
 20 that we do to save a life, everything that you
 21 do to promote safety and save lives out there

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1 is so important to us, and especially in a
 2 county like this where we have so many
 3 opportunities to get on the water.
 4 Thank you for the really important work
 5 that you do.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Like my colleagues said,
 7 born and raised here and on the water, too, all
 8 the time.
 9 And not only during the day, but you guys
 10 are sort of emergency services, too. You know,
 11 people are at night, too. So at the strike of
 12 an emergency, you're there at night, too. And
 13 people don't really -- they think during the
 14 day and then everybody goes to sleep at night.
 15 But you guys are still working. So I really
 16 appreciate that, too, because it's very
 17 important because there's a lot of boats on the
 18 water at night, too.
 19 But anyway, appreciate everything and
 20 thanks a lot for protecting Talbot County.
 21 We got something for you. If you guys

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1 would come on up front, that would be great.
 2 Guys, stand up.
 3 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you. Really
 4 appreciate it.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot.
 6 MR. CAREY: Thank you.
 7 MS. PRICE: Thank you very much.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: I appreciate it.
 9 MR. LASKEY: Appreciate the support.
 10 Thanks a lot.
 11 MR. LESHER: Thank you.
 12 MR. LASKEY: Thank you, too.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great.
 14 Really appreciate their help protecting us.
 15 That's for sure. Okay.
 16 Next up on the agenda is the presentation
 17 of a letter of interest for FY23 Community
 18 Block Grant that Mary Kay is going to tell us
 19 about.
 20 MS. VERDERY: Good evening. Thank you
 21 very much. So the Maryland Community

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1 Development Block Grant program is a
 2 federally-funded program designed to assist
 3 counties and municipality government with
 4 activities directed toward neighborhood
 5 revitalization, housing opportunities, economic
 6 development, and improve public facilities and
 7 services.
 8 The Maryland Community Development Block
 9 Grant program is administered by the Department
 10 of Housing and Community Development.
 11 CDBG funds are provided primarily as gap
 12 funding and must meet a national and Maryland
 13 objectives.
 14 The CDBG applications are accepted on a
 15 competitive basis both at the county and the
 16 State level.
 17 This year we received four local nonprofit
 18 organizations' letters of interest seeking
 19 Council consideration. Of those, two projects
 20 were found to be a better fit and referred to
 21 other sources for potential funding.

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1 So we have forwarded to you a list for
 2 consideration of partnership for two
 3 organizations. The first is Habitat for
 4 Humanity. They are seeking \$100,000 to
 5 rehabilitate a historic home located in the
 6 Town of Easton at 122 South Locust Lane. And
 7 the funds would be used to support the
 8 demolition, stabilization, interior and
 9 exterior habilitation of an existing
 10 single-family home located in this historic
 11 area known as The Hill.
 12 The second application is for Building
 13 African American Minds, BAAM. They are seeking
 14 \$400,000 toward construction of an academic
 15 center located at 31 Joe White Street in
 16 Easton. The new three-story state-of-the-art
 17 facility will be located in the Town of Easton
 18 in a low to moderate income area. And the
 19 facility will continue to provide after school
 20 and summer school programs and will expand
 21 programming to offer a workforce development

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1 program for youth and the community.
 2 So we're seeking Council consideration for
 3 the support. And once the county selects a
 4 project or projects, a review and comment
 5 period will be conducted to include a public
 6 hearing, which is tentatively scheduled for
 7 May 24th, next Tuesday, at a Council meeting,
 8 during which the Council will hear the public
 9 as well as have a resolution presented
 10 authorizing submission of the application.
 11 Applications are due to DHCD by June 15th.
 12 And we also noted that at the State level,
 13 this is a competitive basis. So DHCD will
 14 score the projects independently of the county
 15 and base those on factors to include the public
 16 purpose, the benefit to low to moderate income
 17 persons, project impact, project management,
 18 and readiness to proceed, and local commitment
 19 and leveraging of funds.
 20 So these two applicants, it has been a
 21 pleasure working with these organizations.

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1 They have been very responsive to information
 2 that we've asked for. And it's a lot of work
 3 to get these CDBG applications together and a
 4 lot of information. And either way, we wish
 5 them both the very best.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So Madam Secretary,
 7 do we have to do any action tonight?
 8 MR. DIVILIO: So do we want to do these
 9 together or separate, because I'll make a
 10 motion that we send the letters in support for
 11 the two CDBG applicants?
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 13 MS. PRICE: I'll second that.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 15 second to send both up for...
 16 MS. VERDERY: It's a partnership, okay.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 21 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 2 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 4 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds good.
 6 MS. VERDERY: Thank you very much. I
 7 guess I'll see you next Tuesday.
 8 MR. DIVILIO: Are you keeping track of how
 9 much grant dollars you help bring into the
 10 county and facilitate?
 11 MS. VERDERY: We have an ongoing tab and a
 12 list of the projects. We have approximately
 13 ten projects that are active right now. We're
 14 working on the two that were approved last year
 15 for the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource
 16 Center and Mid-Shore Pro Bono. And we also
 17 have the two ERAP, ERAP One and Two, that are
 18 millions of dollars that are helping our local
 19 citizens.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: I think the community would
 21 be shocked at how much you've done that's gone

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1 through your little office there. And I know I
 2 am. And I'm very impressed and appreciative of
 3 it.
 4 I think that that might end up being an
 5 untold story. So I would make sure to keep
 6 track of that, if the county staff can do
 7 something.
 8 MS. VERDERY: Thank you.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. Thank you.
 10 MS. VERDERY: Thank you very much. I'll
 11 see you next Tuesday.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I think you were
 13 right, Mr. Divilio. That's a good point.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Sorry about that.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good to bring up.
 16 Madam Secretary, we've got eligible for
 17 vote. Would you please read Bill 1498 into the
 18 record.
 19 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1498, an act to
 20 establish the 2022-2023 annual budget and
 21 appropriation ordinance.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 2 MS. PRICE: So there is an amendment that
 3 we discussed last week. So ask Ken to give an
 4 update on that and then we'll introduce the
 5 amendment.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Right. Thank you.
 7 MR. DAVIS: Sure. Thank you. Would you
 8 like me to go just straight to the amendment or
 9 would you like a recap of the proposed budget
 10 or the highlights?
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: I'd say let's do a recap so
 12 everybody knows.
 13 MR. DAVIS: Sure, sure, absolutely.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Short and sweet.
 15 MR. DAVIS: Short and sweet. I'll hit the
 16 major highlights.
 17 So the FY23 proposed general fund budget
 18 is approximately 112.6 million, which is
 19 essentially flat as compared to the FY22
 20 budget.
 21 The FY23 budget for operating expenses is

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1 increasing by 7.7 percent, which is less than
 2 the eight and a half percent increase in
 3 consumer price index.
 4 The budget includes a one-cent increase to
 5 the property tax rate to fund county operations
 6 and a one-cent educational supplement to
 7 support Talbot County Public School
 8 initiatives.
 9 And public safety is a top priority with
 10 budget increases for first responders, like the
 11 Sheriff's Department, Emergency Medical
 12 Services, and the volunteer fire departments.
 13 It also includes funding for property
 14 acquisition to house the Sheriff's Department
 15 and the Health Department.
 16 It fully funds the educational commitment
 17 an additional request from the Talbot County
 18 Public Schools, makes investments in roadways,
 19 culvert replacements, and extension to sewer
 20 systems, investment in information technology
 21 for greater efficiency, transparency, and data

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1 security.
 2 And funding for increased retirement
 3 expenses with our paramedics joining the Law
 4 Enforcement Officers Pension System to help
 5 fund their retirement.
 6 And it also includes, importantly, cost of
 7 living and step increases for all eligible
 8 employees to address inflationary and
 9 recruitment and retention issues.
 10 Also includes rate increases for our
 11 enterprise fund sanitary district. That would
 12 ensure that those costs are self-funded by
 13 revenue through the customers served.
 14 And it uses approximately 114.3 million
 15 from our accumulated fund balance, with a
 16 projected ending balance of 31.6 million for
 17 FY23 and beyond, which is a very healthy fund
 18 balance to help manage the volatility in an
 19 uncertain economy.
 20 So on to the amendments. Compared to the
 21 budget that we proposed on May 3rd, we have

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1 made -- we received requests and have made
 2 adjustments. And I'll just go through the
 3 list.
 4 First, with the Sheriff's Department,
 5 we're increasing their salaries and benefits
 6 budget from \$5,698,270 to \$5,785,601, which is
 7 a net of change of 87,331. And that's mostly
 8 related to pay scale adjustments to help them
 9 maintain market competitiveness in order to
 10 attract and retain their force.
 11 They have offset those increases partially
 12 by making concessions in their operating
 13 expense budget, reducing it from 1,124,942 to
 14 1,112,942, a net decrease of \$12,000.
 15 So for net for the Sheriff's Department,
 16 it's an increase of 75,331 to help fund mostly
 17 their personnel costs, salary adjustments to
 18 help retain their personnel.
 19 For county roads, they adjusted their
 20 capital outlay budget from 525,000 to 475,000,
 21 a net decrease of 50,000. And that's mostly

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1 related to them doing some effective shopping,
 2 finding lower cost options to purchase a big
 3 item, a bulldozer, that wasn't quite as
 4 expensive when they started getting quotes
 5 relative to what they originally budgeted.
 6 For senior services, their operating
 7 appropriation increased from \$562,284 to
 8 \$587,284, a net increase of 25,000. And that's
 9 related to their increase, more than expected
 10 increase in personnel costs.
 11 For the Health Department, we made
 12 adjustments to their budget, which is really
 13 just a clerical adjustment. The original
 14 budget was \$12,000 for school health and
 15 \$885,308 for addictions program. Those two
 16 line items were transposed in the original
 17 budget. Fortunately, we don't need quite that
 18 much money for the addictions program. That
 19 money is going to school health. So those two
 20 line items were adjusted where the school
 21 health program is increased by \$873,308 and the

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<p>1 similar reduction to the addictions program. 2 So no net change in the Health Department. It 3 was just a clerical transposition error. 4 And then employee benefits line item was 5 decreased by, well, from \$855,102 to \$802,771. 6 That decrease as intended mostly is absorbing 7 the market adjustment for the Sheriff's 8 Department and their increase in personnel 9 costs. So that was an amount that was reserved 10 principally for that and other employee benefit 11 related items. 12 So net, all these adjustments, there is no 13 net change to the budget as originally 14 presented on May 3rd. 15 Working down to -- sorry. One more item. 16 For the capital budget, that's increasing for 17 county facilities for the new facility for the 18 Health Department from 12 million to 13 million 19 just for the actual estimated value of that 20 acquisition is more than 12 million. So we 21 added a million for that just to cover possible</p>	<p>1 motion and second to do amendment one. Call 2 the vote, please. 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 6 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 8 MR. LESHER: Aye. 9 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 10 MS. PRICE: Aye. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So do we have a 12 motion to do amendment -- did you want to do 13 each one individually, is that what -- 14 MS. PRICE: There's only the one 15 amendment. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: The one amendment has got 17 all of them on there. 18 MS. PRICE: It has the operating and it 19 has the capital. So we've done that. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 21 MS. PRICE: And I just want to, on that, I</p>
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<p>1 increased costs. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Got you. 3 MR. DAVIS: And that concludes the 4 amendment. 5 MR. STAMP: A point of clarification. You 6 mentioned that the FY23 budget, you used the 7 fund balance, you mentioned 114.3 million, but 8 it's actually 14.3 million. 9 MR. DAVIS: I'm sorry. 14.3 million. 10 Didn't mean to do that. Thank you. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: I thought I heard that, 12 too, but I wasn't sure. 13 MR. DAVIS: 14.3. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds good. Good 15 job, Ken. 16 MS. PRICE: So would you like a motion to 17 introduce the amendment one? 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. 19 MS. PRICE: I will do that. 20 MR. DIVILIO: I'll second. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, we got a</p>	<p>1 just want to thank everybody for getting 2 together so that we didn't have to turn the 3 whole thing upside side and find savings to 4 make up for the increases and having a zero net 5 change on that. I do appreciate the work on 6 that. 7 Probably a lot easier on the Finance 8 Department too, right? 9 So I guess with that, I'll make a motion 10 to approve the entire budget. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 12 MR. DIVILIO: And I'll second. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got -- go ahead, 14 Mr. Leshner. 15 MR. LESHER: Just, you know, budgets are 16 policy documents. They are a reflection of our 17 priorities. 18 And in this case, this reflects our 19 commitment to the voters to fund public safety. 20 Adding those sheriff's deputies, raising the 21 deputies' pay, funding the new retirement</p>

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1 system for them that will help us to recruit
 2 and retain sworn officers. This is really
 3 important work, it's a commitment that we made,
 4 and we're following through on that commitment
 5 with this budget.
 6 Likewise, with EMT services, making that
 7 surge unit in the north county full time and
 8 adding -- allowing our EMTs to buy into that
 9 same retirement system that's accessible. This
 10 is important work and part of the commitment
 11 that we made when we asked the voters to allow
 12 an extra penny on the property tax.
 13 This is what we promised to do and that is
 14 what we're following through to do. And I
 15 think we're managing to do this all in a
 16 fiscally responsible way, spending within our
 17 means. As we pointed out, this is essentially
 18 a flat budget year over year.
 19 And so I want to thank all the staff who
 20 supported us through this process and getting
 21 us to this point and my fellow Council members

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1 for working through all these issues so
 2 smoothly this year. This is an important step
 3 forward for Talbot County.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: So I'd like to follow up on
 5 that. Being my last budget cycle here, I
 6 really enjoy the budget because it's
 7 collectively working together to solve the
 8 problems of the community.
 9 And we're challenged financially because
 10 we don't have infinite dollars to spend. And
 11 there's a lot of times when we're looking at
 12 how to work groups together and things in the
 13 past that have been done.
 14 A perfect example is the Senior Center in
 15 St. Michael's and the library, putting those
 16 two facilities together.
 17 We've known that storage has long been an
 18 issue for Talbot County, for the government.
 19 Every department needs more storage. I say it
 20 every time, I'll say it again. The ice rink
 21 even needs more storage out there as big as

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1 that building appears.
 2 So it's been a real pleasure to sit down
 3 with a unique Council from different
 4 backgrounds, different ages and try to come up
 5 with the best solution for the community.
 6 Our current, my current concerns are the
 7 mental health and the financial stability of
 8 this community. That has been foremost in the
 9 front of my mind every day when I wake up. I'm
 10 reading The Star Democrat. I'm seeing somebody
 11 that has some kind of mental health episode
 12 which has caused harm or challenges to the
 13 community. And I'm glad that we're addressing
 14 those.
 15 Moving the Health Department from the
 16 current location out to the new health corridor
 17 of Talbot County, Idlewild Avenue, is going to
 18 be excellent for this community, for
 19 individuals to be able to get the immediate
 20 resources that they need, while having the
 21 walking trail, being able to walk to those

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1 places easily.
 2 When the other option, other things that
 3 we're doing, the Sheriff's Department. The
 4 amount of work that we've done with the
 5 Sheriff's Department, I always like to be
 6 somewhat fit in but unique. And we did that
 7 when we gave LEOPS first and foremost on the
 8 Eastern Shore, showing them the respect that
 9 they deserve. Getting those long-term officers
 10 off the streets and giving them a nice
 11 comfortable retirement so that we can then
 12 front load the salaries and have the additional
 13 money upfront to pay them a higher wage without
 14 having injury-prone deputies or ones out on the
 15 road longer than they need to be.
 16 Everybody followed suit. So you know you
 17 did the right thing when everybody around you
 18 is following along. But then they start
 19 stealing your staff. So that's why we've had
 20 to do some income changes to retain the good
 21 deputies that we have here and show them the

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1 rewards for the work that they've done keeping
 2 us safe.
 3 Then another perfect example is the
 4 Elections Board Office. There's not a lot of
 5 revenue coming out of that, but we have to have
 6 it obviously if we want to get elected back in
 7 again. But we need to figure out what's the
 8 safest way to keep those ballots and boxes
 9 secure when they're not being used, as well as
 10 giving them space.
 11 And looking for ways to fit pieces
 12 together, save money, be financially
 13 responsible but not cut our nose despite our
 14 face is what this budget has done.
 15 There have been times when we came up
 16 short. And I'm very proud of Ken and his staff
 17 to work hard and find ways to fill those
 18 shortfalls within this budget.
 19 And the biggest challenge for myself, and
 20 I assume some others, with this is the money
 21 that we moved over. We certainly could have

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1 added it to the taxes and increased property
 2 taxes and not dipped into savings. That's what
 3 we've done historically. And that's what I
 4 would have wanted to do and pay your own way.
 5 If the Board of Ed is increasing its budget,
 6 then it should be an educational supplement and
 7 we should be doing that.
 8 But this is at a time that's unique. You
 9 heard us say that we're going to increase the
 10 cost for the sewer fees. That's going to be a
 11 big fee to individuals in this community. That
 12 alone was reason enough for me to want to stick
 13 to dip into our savings this year instead of
 14 increasing taxes, because there is going to be
 15 an increase in fees to the community.
 16 So that was a challenge for me and
 17 certainly a different mindset, dipping into
 18 savings when you're going into putting out bond
 19 issues. You want to make sure that you're
 20 financially stable before you go to the bank
 21 and ask to borrow money. And we are.

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1 And that is a huge credit to Angela Lane
 2 in the back of this room here for getting us to
 3 that point. She has done an excellent job and
 4 even stepped up when we needed her this time
 5 desperately. So I really thank her for being
 6 there and helping us through.
 7 And Ken, you have done a fantastic job.
 8 This is way above what you had signed up for.
 9 I appreciate you stepping up. That's what we
 10 do here in Talbot County. And I have no
 11 concerns with this after working with you. I'm
 12 very comfortable and confident. So thank you
 13 for helping me get there.
 14 MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
 16 MS. PRICE: So it's really hard to believe
 17 that this is my 12th, 12th and final budget.
 18 And it has really changed dramatically.
 19 And I'm going to give a thank you to
 20 Angela as well for working together on all of
 21 those budgets. You've taught me so very much.

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1 And I remember the first budget. And we
 2 were making cuts like crazy. And you know, I
 3 thought gosh, this is really hard making those
 4 decisions. And someone once told me that first
 5 year it's actually a lot harder to do a budget
 6 when you have money. Because, you know, when
 7 you don't, you know, you have to say no. And
 8 you're going to get a little bit of heat for
 9 that.
 10 But to put this into perspective of where
 11 the budget has gone. That was in the I want to
 12 say 65 to \$68 million range 12 years ago. And
 13 we're looking at almost double that. We talk
 14 about this being a flat budget and all of that.
 15 But what has gone on in just over a decade
 16 with the increase in the budget, people might
 17 think why are you spending so much more money.
 18 And it's not that we've added a lot of
 19 positions.
 20 Like my colleagues, and I agree with what
 21 Mr. Leshner and Mr. Divilio have said about

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1 where our priorities have been. It has just
 2 gotten a lot more expensive to do business and
 3 retain employees, where 12 years ago we were
 4 having to make decisions of cutting employees,
 5 which was an incredibly painful process.
 6 We've gone through tax rates. I think
 7 once in 12 years we went from the income tax
 8 from 2.25 to 2.4 percent on the income tax.
 9 But we've maintained that as I think it's the
 10 second lowest income tax rate in the State.
 11 State doesn't like us very much for that, and
 12 it messes up our funding formulas, primarily in
 13 education, because we have maintained those low
 14 tax rates.
 15 If we didn't, as we know, prior -- and I
 16 know Ms. Lane will remember this. Just prior
 17 to me getting into office, for those last two
 18 years, we went from \$31 million in income tax
 19 revenue, I believe it was down to 19 million
 20 the year before I took office. And that was
 21 due in large part to just a handful of people

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1 leaving Talbot County.
 2 And I think that we've kept that in mind
 3 that if you were to raise the income tax, that
 4 when just a handful of people leave, you can
 5 lose millions and millions of dollars. So we
 6 have worked really hard to live within those
 7 means.
 8 Fortunately, those have come back, you
 9 know, from 19 million up to 28. We're not back
 10 up to 31.
 11 Our, you know, property taxes, we have had
 12 to raise those. And again, due to education.
 13 In 2012, they passed a couple of things.
 14 And I know, I'm going to give you a little --
 15 this is my last one. So you'll indulge me. In
 16 2012, the State passed a couple of things
 17 having to do with education.
 18 One was they passed teacher pensions off
 19 to us. We had to pay a much larger portion of
 20 that. We thought oh, they won't do that and
 21 put a Maintenance of Effort law in, when

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1 Maintenance of Effort means you can never ever
 2 give less than what you gave the year before
 3 per pupil. And they did them both.
 4 So we're in this, as you all know now, a
 5 revenue capped county that is imposed by the
 6 voters. And we went to the voters twice to
 7 change that.
 8 But the State said on education you can
 9 break your tax cap in order to fund education.
 10 And so we did that. And the property taxes are
 11 significantly more due to education.
 12 And we've had to figure out how do we pay
 13 for, you know, the other half of county
 14 government, which has really -- it has gotten
 15 expensive, especially in the last few years.
 16 We have made that commitment to public
 17 safety, as my colleagues said.
 18 And there's just a lot of other things, a
 19 lot of capital projects that we have to do.
 20 From the first day I was on the Council, we
 21 talked about the Health Department, which it's

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1 taken 12 years but we're going to, you know,
 2 probably put the final touches on what exactly
 3 we're going to do and where that's going to go.
 4 And you know, the airport has gone through
 5 changes and now we have that building out there
 6 that's going to have to come down. So we have
 7 to find a place to house our sheriff and public
 8 safety and continuing to add to all of that.
 9 And all of that does add up to almost
 10 twice the budget. And we've done -- I think
 11 every Council, the three Councils I've been on
 12 have done everything we probably can to keep
 13 the tax rates as low as possible.
 14 And Mr. Divilio is absolutely right. You
 15 know, when you see a \$14 million transfer from
 16 fund balance to help with operating, there's a
 17 couple of ways to think about that.
 18 One, I look at that as returning an
 19 overpayment of taxes back to the public. And
 20 that's what should be done. You know, we
 21 obviously need to keep a very healthy fund

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1 balance. And that doesn't even include, you
 2 know, the rainy day fund when we have hard
 3 times.
 4 I remember looking back at the two years
 5 prior to getting on the Council and
 6 transferring \$17 million. I think it was
 7 8 million one year. And I keep looking out
 8 there at Ms. Lane and see if she's nodding.
 9 8 million one year and 9 million the next year.
 10 And I was like wow, what else could they do.
 11 And here we are transferring nearly that
 12 much in one year. And I know it's scary.
 13 So one penny on the property tax, so
 14 people know, is about 750, \$800,000. And
 15 obviously our budget is, education budget is
 16 going up more than \$750,000. We're funding the
 17 Maintenance of Effort plus at least about a
 18 million dollars plus whatever is in their
 19 capital.
 20 And I know that we're going to have to
 21 absorb that, that when you put it on the

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1 education supplement, then you built that into
 2 the base. And I know that our Finance Office
 3 has a lot of concerns about that. But like my
 4 colleagues, we were like we just can't do that.
 5 We just can't do that to the people this year.
 6 And as far as public safety goes, again, a
 7 penny on that. We're spending a lot more than
 8 another \$750,000 on public safety because we
 9 made that commitment to the voters who allowed
 10 us to have some extra revenue stream.
 11 I will tell you that education with Kirwan
 12 is going to go up millions and millions of
 13 dollars every year from a budget of I want to
 14 say my first year we were in the 30 to
 15 \$35 million range. It's 50 million this year.
 16 And in ten years, it's going to be \$80 million
 17 education alone at a minimum.
 18 And that doesn't include like this year,
 19 we're doing Kirwan plus a million. And I
 20 expect that future Councils are going to -- you
 21 know, Kirwan, unfortunately, as much as that's

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1 going up. So yeah. The property taxes in
 2 Talbot County will definitely go up over the
 3 next ten years and beyond.
 4 But it's a hard process. It's a long
 5 process to go through it.
 6 One more little story. First year on the
 7 budget, we went through this alphabetically. I
 8 mean we still get the big budget book that's
 9 this thick. And everything was arranged
 10 alphabetically. And that's how we went through
 11 it. So we might go from something we fund
 12 \$25,000 to two categories later, you know,
 13 Board of Education of, you know, 35 or
 14 \$40 million. And it didn't really make sense.
 15 And Ms. Lane had a nice three-page summary
 16 that's now a four or a five-page summary. But
 17 it was listed alphabetically. And I'm like,
 18 that's the first thing, I'm like that doesn't
 19 make sense. We really -- well, every
 20 department is equally important. You got to
 21 know what you have left to work with.

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1 So we rearranged that. I asked her to
 2 rearrange that and do biggest to smallest so
 3 that after you made those first, you know, five
 4 or eight, we really knew what was left for all
 5 the other, you know, 30 other things that we
 6 fund in county government.
 7 So it's been fun. Budget is my favorite
 8 thing. And I know I always have a lot to say
 9 about it, but it's hard to believe this is the
 10 last one.
 11 It's like everything you do now, for a few
 12 of us up here, and I know Mr. Pack is not here
 13 to talk about it because he probably would have
 14 something to say about the 14 or 15 budgets
 15 he's done.
 16 But I certainly thank the people in the
 17 Finance Department and all the department heads
 18 for really doing everything you can to get the
 19 most bang out of your buck when we've asked you
 20 to not -- to stay flat and present those
 21 budgets to us. You all have done that, and

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1 that enables the Council to keep the taxes as
 2 low as possible. And I appreciate that.
 3 And I appreciate working with my
 4 colleagues from the last three Councils. This
 5 is the one area that, you know, we have a
 6 couple of little differences. But for the most
 7 part, we've been very, very together on the
 8 budget. And it doesn't seem to matter, even on
 9 the budget, whether you're a D or an R. You
 10 know, we know what our citizens need here. And
 11 I think all the Councils have always been quite
 12 conservative with that, and our staff gets the
 13 services out there to the people where they
 14 need to be.
 15 So thank you very much.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, thank you, Ms. Price.
 17 Well said.
 18 And like Ms. Price and my colleagues said,
 19 I won't be this long, okay, but good job.
 20 Mr. Pack, Ms. Price, and Mr. Divilio, it
 21 is going to be your last one. Hopefully me and

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1 Mr. Leshar, we'll kind of move on and help the
 2 county.
 3 But you're a big part of the last, you
 4 know, ten, 15 years. That's for sure. And the
 5 county owes you a lot because it was well
 6 thought and there was a lot to budgets,
 7 budgets.
 8 So what is special about this budget here,
 9 other than staff putting it together and doing
 10 such great, great work, it's really, to me,
 11 very honored to be where we're providing the
 12 citizens a new Health Department and a new
 13 Sheriff's Department and upgrading all the
 14 emergency services. You know, we've got new
 15 ambulances coming.
 16 So it's really special to be part of
 17 really what the citizens really, at the end of
 18 the day, the safety, the health, and lower
 19 taxes. That's what it's about. And I think
 20 we've provided that the best we can with the
 21 services that we have. So I'm proud of

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1 everybody.
 2 And it's like my colleagues said, you
 3 guys, meaning our employees out there, that
 4 work day and night, make us look good. You
 5 really, really do. And you're the unsung heroes
 6 sometimes.
 7 I know we all stress out at these meetings
 8 sometimes and really go through a lot and spend
 9 sometimes from three o'clock to ten o'clock at
 10 night and we have six and seven-hour meetings.
 11 So but it's worth it, you know. That's what
 12 we're elected to do and that's what we love to
 13 do. And we really work hard to provide I think
 14 a phenomenal service for Talbot County.
 15 So Mr. Stamp.
 16 MR. STAMP: Hard to follow up on all that.
 17 As your county manager, I'd be remiss not to
 18 say a couple of things. And I don't want to be
 19 repetitive.
 20 But certainly I thank the staff, our
 21 department heads and everybody that's worked

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1 hard to come up with a budget that's modest,
 2 that recognizes the uncertainties that we're in
 3 right now, and that addresses the priorities
 4 that you've given us, that the voters have
 5 given you. And so I'm proud of that work.
 6 And I want to thank Council for your
 7 support and helping put together this budget as
 8 well.
 9 It supports our operational strategy,
 10 investing, you know, in our workforce.
 11 Workforce stability is very important right
 12 now. You see the great resignation happening
 13 all over. You see all kinds of dynamic shifts.
 14 And it's important that we keep the good people
 15 that we have. And we do have good people. So
 16 we continue to support our personnel.
 17 Our processes. You've invested in
 18 technology to help us streamline some of our
 19 processes to help hopefully reduce the number
 20 of complaints in some of our departments and
 21 enhance operations in other ones.

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<p>1 And then you've helped fund certain</p> <p>2 projects that are very important, some major</p> <p>3 road projects that we hope to move forward to</p> <p>4 completion on.</p> <p>5 Extending sewer and rescue failing septic</p> <p>6 systems, which, frankly, is an environmental,</p> <p>7 they're environmental mitigation projects.</p> <p>8 And then building a north end EMS station</p> <p>9 to make sure we can deliver that eight-minute</p> <p>10 response time for our paramedics to people in</p> <p>11 trouble.</p> <p>12 And then finally, a public safety building</p> <p>13 and a Health Department. So it's ambitious.</p> <p>14 But in that third prong of our strategy,</p> <p>15 you know, we are challenged right now with</p> <p>16 projects with the supply chain. But you've</p> <p>17 given us the resources to push it. And the</p> <p>18 staff, we will push forward.</p> <p>19 So again, it's my honor to serve as your</p> <p>20 county manager, and I certainly appreciate our</p> <p>21 staff. You have a lot of support behind you,</p>	<p>1 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>3 MR. DIVILIO: See you when you get back</p> <p>4 from vacation.</p> <p>5 MR. DAVIS: Thanks.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: He deserves it. He</p> <p>7 deserves it. Yup.</p> <p>8 Thank you, Angela. Appreciate it.</p> <p>9 MS. LANE: My pleasure.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So let's move on,</p> <p>11 Mr. Stamp, you want to...</p> <p>12 MR. STAMP: Yeah.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Move us ahead, please.</p> <p>14 MR. STAMP: Be glad to. So thank you,</p> <p>15 Mr. Council President and Members of the</p> <p>16 Council.</p> <p>17 Under county manager report this evening,</p> <p>18 we have one board and committee appointment.</p> <p>19 This is for the Airport Board. We're</p> <p>20 requesting the reappointment of Hugh Grunden to</p> <p>21 serve on the Airport Board.</p>
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<p>1 Council. Thank you for your direction.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Stamp. I</p> <p>3 appreciate it.</p> <p>4 So I guess at this time, I think we</p> <p>5 started with is there a motion to --</p> <p>6 MS. PRICE: We did that.</p> <p>7 MR. LESHAR: We had a motion and second.</p> <p>8 So you just need to ask for the roll call.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I have a motion and</p> <p>10 second to approve Bill 1498. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>11 could you call the vote.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>15 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshar.</p> <p>17 MR. LESHAR: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>19 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So it passed. Good</p> <p>21 job, everybody.</p>	<p>1 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.</p> <p>2 MR. LESHAR: Second.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and a</p> <p>4 second to approve Mr. Grunden back on the</p> <p>5 board. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>6 roll, please.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>10 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshar.</p> <p>12 MR. LESHAR: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>14 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>15 MR. STAMP: Next, I'll ask Dana Newman and</p> <p>16 whoever she'd like to bring up to come forward.</p> <p>17 Council, we have a request from the Talbot</p> <p>18 County Free Library for a letter of support to</p> <p>19 provide matching funds for the design and</p> <p>20 architectural engineering services for the</p> <p>21 St. Michael's Library expansion project.</p>

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1 As you read in your agenda packet, the
 2 Talbot County Free Library is seeking Council
 3 approval for a letter of support to the
 4 Maryland State Library Agency to provide
 5 \$45,000 in matching funds for the design and
 6 architectural engineering services for
 7 St. Michael's Library expansion project.
 8 Dana Newman is here to answer any
 9 questions.
 10 Additionally, before I turn it over to
 11 her, there's a second request that she'll
 12 address with you. And that's a second letter
 13 of support for the library's application to the
 14 FY24 Maryland Library Capital Grant Program.
 15 And again, as you read in your agenda
 16 packet, the Talbot County Free Library is
 17 seeking Council approval for a letter of
 18 support to the Maryland State Library Agency
 19 for the FY24 Library Capital Grant Program
 20 funding the St. Michael's Library expansion
 21 project.

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1 Dana, again, is here to answer any
 2 questions.
 3 So I know that was a mouthful, but I'll
 4 turn it over to you for Council.
 5 MS. NEWMAN: Sure. First, I would like to
 6 thank you for your support of the library in
 7 the operating and capital budget. I appreciate
 8 that.
 9 And I'd like to introduce Shauna Beulah,
 10 who is our branch manager for the St. Michael's
 11 Library and may be able to answer questions as
 12 well. And then we have board members as well
 13 as staff behind us.
 14 So what we're looking for is support for
 15 our letter of certification first. The letter
 16 of certification basically -- well, let me say
 17 a little bit about the St. Michael's Library.
 18 The St. Michael's Library is one wonderful
 19 library with Shauna leading the effort to
 20 really give -- they bend over backward to give
 21 wonderful customer service to not only the

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1 St. Michael's community, but the Bay Hundred
 2 and the hundreds, hundreds and hundreds of
 3 people who visit the St. Michael's community.
 4 It really acts as a default visitor
 5 center. They get many, many questions,
 6 actually more questions that are tourist and
 7 visitor related than reference questions. So
 8 they do a great job with that.
 9 This expansion would really give the
 10 community an additional space in the meeting
 11 room. It would be a 40 percent expansion. It
 12 gives better ADA accessibility. It also adds
 13 more children's and teen space.
 14 And then I would say that we're in the
 15 design of this library. We're looking to add a
 16 small business center. We know that small
 17 businesses in the county need as much support
 18 as they can get. So we really do want to make
 19 sure that we're supporting the business
 20 community.
 21 And then we're also looking, again, at

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1 this library being what it is, which is a
 2 default business visitor center. So making
 3 sure that it incorporates very comfortable
 4 elements in the library. So I'm not going to
 5 go into great detail there.
 6 But the first letter we need is a letter
 7 of certification that's required by the Library
 8 Capital Grant Program. The Library Capital
 9 Grant Program is a \$7 million State program.
 10 And we are looking for matching funds for
 11 fiscal year 23.
 12 And our grant application was approved.
 13 And so the State is looking to provide \$45,000.
 14 And we need a matching amount for that for
 15 fiscal year 23.
 16 In addition, the committee who looks at
 17 these thought that this project was so
 18 important, that they went ahead and funded for
 19 fiscal year 24, they approved funding of
 20 \$75,000 at the time that they thought to
 21 complete, and that's the matching funding, to

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1 complete the design of this building.
 2 But as we all know, costs go up. And we
 3 had a recent estimate done, and there is
 4 additional monies needed for the completion of
 5 design.
 6 So what we're looking for in the
 7 certification letter is a certification that
 8 the county will match the \$45,000 as well as
 9 the \$75,000 in fiscal year 24. So that's the
 10 first letter.
 11 And I didn't know if you wanted to...
 12 MR. STAMP: So Council, those funds are
 13 budgeted for the current year ask, FY23, and
 14 they are in the CIP budget for FY24.
 15 MR. DIVILIO: So I'll make the motion that
 16 we send the letter in support certifying that
 17 the county has budgeted the funds as required
 18 as needed for this project.
 19 MS. PRICE: Second.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 21 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the

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1 vote.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 7 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 9 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 11 MS. NEWMAN: Thank you. I appreciate
 12 that.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.
 14 MS. NEWMAN: Did you want to, did you need
 15 to...
 16 MR. STAMP: I kind of read them both.
 17 MS. NEWMAN: Okay. So the second letter
 18 is our intent to commit funding that is
 19 actually required by the library capital grant
 20 program in order to apply.
 21 And what we're looking for is a match of

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1 \$175,300. And that is in combination for
 2 fiscal year 24 with the \$75,000.
 3 So a total request really of \$250,300.
 4 And again, that goes to the remainder of design
 5 and then starts our construction.
 6 You will see that in this letter, it also
 7 requires that we put that there's an intent to
 8 match funding for the entire project. And
 9 that's, this amount that's in here is only
 10 covering the eligible funding that's needed for
 11 this project. There are some costs that are
 12 not eligible to be covered by the grant.
 13 So that amount is \$2,070,329. Because
 14 right now, the total for the project is
 15 4.1 million.
 16 So we're looking for support for this
 17 letter as well.
 18 MR. DIVILIO: So I'll make a motion that
 19 we approve the letter thanking the Maryland
 20 Library Capital Grant Program for the \$120,000
 21 and certifying that we will fund 175,300, along

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1 with the capital grant -- capital funds needed
 2 for the matching project.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Do we have a second?
 4 MR. LESHER: I'll second.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary.
 6 MR. STAMP: I was going to say there's
 7 adequate funds in the capital improvement
 8 program budget to fund the request for the
 9 letter.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Stamp.
 11 Madam Secretary, would you call the vote,
 12 please.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 16 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 18 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 20 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 21 MS. NEWMAN: Thank you very much. I

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1 really appreciate your support and all the
 2 residents do as well and visitors.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: And I want to thank you
 4 guys and the committee and everything that you
 5 do for the county, too, because it's very
 6 important. So thanks a lot for coming, guys.
 7 I appreciate it.
 8 MS. NEWMAN: Thank you.
 9 MS. BEULAH: Thank you.
 10 MR. STAMP: The last item I have, Council,
 11 is an announcement that the week of May 15th
 12 through 21st, which we're presently in, is
 13 recognized as National EMS, Emergency Medical
 14 Services, Provider Week. And this week honors
 15 not only our EMS personnel, but our 911
 16 dispatchers, emergency and critical nurses,
 17 doctors, and technicians, MSP aviation medics
 18 and pilots and commercial aircraft to support
 19 the EMS mission around the nation.
 20 And so I just wanted to share that with
 21 everybody. It's near and dear to my heart. We

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1 have an excellent system here, and we make a
 2 difference every day with our team.
 3 With that, that's all I have for you this
 4 evening from the county manager report.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Stamp.
 6 That's for sure. We appreciate all you do and
 7 all the hard work you do. That's for sure.
 8 Okay.
 9 Jess, did anybody sign up for public
 10 comments?
 11 MS. MORRIS: No public comments tonight.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. We're
 13 getting close, getting real close.
 14 Council comments. I'll start off with
 15 Mr. Divilio.
 16 MR. DIVILIO: I've got one here that was
 17 given to me.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: I see you pulling stuff
 19 out.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Frankie, please announce
 21 this tonight. Thank you.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Please.
 2 MR. DIVILIO: So the Bill Burton Fishing
 3 Pier State Park community discussion will be --
 4 and this is on the State Park because, as we
 5 know, they have announced that the bridge will
 6 be closed.
 7 But for the State Park discussion will be
 8 May 23rd from six until eight. And that will
 9 be at 29761 Bolingbroke Point Drive in Trappe,
 10 Maryland. More information is available at the
 11 Talbot County Parks and Rec Department website
 12 for that hearing and community discussion.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
 14 Ms. Price.
 15 MS. PRICE: I have no comments this
 16 evening.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Leshner.
 18 MR. LESHER: I have nothing further.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: I think the only thing that
 20 I have to say is, once again, our hearts go out
 21 to Mr. Pack and his family. And we hope

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1 everybody heals and has a little prayer. And
 2 we miss Corey tonight and wish he was here.
 3 But other than that, Mr. Leshner, could you
 4 go ahead --
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Can I say one more thing
 6 real quick?
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. Go ahead.
 8 MR. DIVILIO: Because of the week that
 9 we're in, I saw this on Facebook. And we all
 10 know the individual. So I assume he made it
 11 public, freely shared.
 12 There's an individual in Talbot County who
 13 has been a State police officer for his whole
 14 career.
 15 When he was much younger, he was involved
 16 in a bad car accident with an old Bronco 2,
 17 which are coming back, and he was flown out.
 18 And he always wanted to do that.
 19 And he had been an EMS over in Dorchester
 20 County while still being a police officer. And
 21 he said in the post every time he saw the

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1 helicopter land, he knew he should be on there.
 2 Well, he just got into the training
 3 program for that. And it gave me goose bumps
 4 seeing it.
 5 But that is the epitome of Talbot County
 6 residents there. An individual from here, his
 7 family is here. He's made a contribution his
 8 entire life to public safety and continues to
 9 step up and do the right thing to be there for
 10 us.
 11 And it was so exciting to see him go
 12 through that and be able to return the favor to
 13 other citizens who are in need of what was
 14 given to him.
 15 I was just excited and I felt that that
 16 just led perfectly into this week.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, I appreciate you
 18 bringing it up. Thank you.
 19 Mr. Vice President.
 20 MR. LESHER: The Council County's next
 21 meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 24th,

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1 beginning at six o'clock p.m. The Council will
 2 be convening in open session at 4:30 p.m. and
 3 then adjourning into closed session to discuss
 4 real estate, legal, and personnel matters, as
 5 listed on the statement for closing that
 6 meeting.
 7 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn
 8 this meeting and reconvene as noted?
 9 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.
 10 MS. PRICE: Second.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary.
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 15 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshler.
 17 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 19 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job, guys.
 21 (Meeting concluded at: 7:03 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 Notorial Seal this 23rd
 day of May, 2022, at Easton, MD.



Diane Houlihan
 Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2025

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