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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

May 2, 2023; 1:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Keasha N. Haythe

Lynn L. Mielke - Via telephone

Dave Stepp

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I'm going to call</p> <p>4 this to order and get started here. So I want</p> <p>5 to welcome everybody. So let's go ahead and</p> <p>6 get started.</p> <p>7 And if you don't mind standing, we're</p> <p>8 going to do the Pledge of Allegiance of the</p> <p>9 Flag and Mr. Leshner is going to do a short</p> <p>10 little prayer for us.</p> <p>11 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I want to welcome</p> <p>13 everybody.</p> <p>14 Thank Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>15 We got an afternoon meeting. So we're</p> <p>16 going to get started with the agenda of May 2nd</p> <p>17 before us. Is there any additions, deletions,</p> <p>18 or corrections to the agenda today? Okay.</p> <p>19 Hearing none, the chair moves that the agenda</p> <p>20 be accepted as unanimous consent.</p> <p>21 First on the agenda is the minutes of</p>	<p>1 reading that into the record, please.</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: Proclamation, Older Americans</p> <p>3 Month, May 2023, Aging Unbound.</p> <p>4 Whereas, Talbot County includes a growing</p> <p>5 number of older Americans who contribute their</p> <p>6 strength, wisdom, and experience to our</p> <p>7 community.</p> <p>8 And whereas, communities benefit when</p> <p>9 people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds</p> <p>10 have the opportunity to participate and live</p> <p>11 independently.</p> <p>12 And whereas, Talbot County recognizes the</p> <p>13 need to create a community that offers the</p> <p>14 services and supports which older adults may</p> <p>15 need to make choices about how they age.</p> <p>16 And whereas, Talbot County can work to</p> <p>17 build an even better community for its older</p> <p>18 residents by not limiting its thinking about</p> <p>19 aging, exploring and combating stereotypes,</p> <p>20 emphasizing the many positive aspects of aging,</p> <p>21 inspiring older adults to push past traditional</p>
Page 3	Page 5
<p>1 April 18th before us. Council has taken a look</p> <p>2 at it. Is there any deletions, additions, or</p> <p>3 corrections to that? Okay. Hearing none,</p> <p>4 Council, the chair moves that accept those as</p> <p>5 unanimous consent.</p> <p>6 Next is the disbursements of May 2nd</p> <p>7 before us. Are there any additions, deletions,</p> <p>8 or corrections to the disbursements? Okay.</p> <p>9 Hearing none, the chair moves that the</p> <p>10 disbursements be accepted as unanimous consent.</p> <p>11 First up is the proclamation, Older</p> <p>12 Americans Month. So I don't want to use the</p> <p>13 word older. But you know, maybe, you know,</p> <p>14 could we use younger?</p> <p>15 MR. STEPP: Experienced.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Experienced.</p> <p>17 MR. STEPP: Experienced.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Experienced. There you go.</p> <p>19 MS. HAYTHE: Seasoned.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. Exactly, exactly.</p> <p>21 Okay. Madam Secretary, would you mind</p>	<p>1 boundaries, and embracing the diversity of our</p> <p>2 community.</p> <p>3 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of</p> <p>4 Talbot County, do hereby proclaim May 2023 to</p> <p>5 be Older Americans Month in Talbot County and</p> <p>6 urge every resident to celebrate our older</p> <p>7 citizens, recognize the contributions our older</p> <p>8 citizens make to the community, help create an</p> <p>9 inclusive society, and accept the challenge and</p> <p>10 flexible thinking around aging.</p> <p>11 Given under our hands in the great seal of</p> <p>12 Talbot County this 2nd day of May in the year</p> <p>13 of our Lord, 2023.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.</p> <p>15 That was well done.</p> <p>16 Is there a motion?</p> <p>17 MR. LESHNER: I so move.</p> <p>18 MS. HAYTHE: Second.</p> <p>19 MR. STEPP: Second.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: We go everybody's second</p> <p>21 there. Motion and second to go ahead and</p>

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1 approve the proclamation as presented. Madam  
 2 Secretary.  
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.  
 6 MR. STEPP: Aye.  
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 8 MR. LESHNER: Aye.  
 9 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.  
 10 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.  
 11 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.  
 12 MS. MIELKE: Aye.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: And I apologize,  
 14 Ms. Mielke. I want you -- she couldn't be here  
 15 tonight, this afternoon because she was feeling  
 16 under the weather. So we welcome her, and  
 17 she's on the phone with us.  
 18 So thank you, Ms. Mielke. Okay.  
 19 Ms. Childlene, you want to come on up?  
 20 MS. BROOKS: Can I have Mr. Mark come up?  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Absolutely, yup. Anybody

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1 with any experience can come up.  
 2 MS. BROOKS: Neither one of us have any  
 3 experience in this realm.  
 4 But we just want to thank you all for  
 5 recognizing Older American Month. That is not  
 6 our terminology. It's the National Council on  
 7 Aging that comes up with that terminology.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.  
 9 MS. BROOKS: But we really appreciate the  
 10 support that you all have done. And I  
 11 understand I need a special thank you to  
 12 Mr. Stepp for introducing this information to  
 13 you all.  
 14 But thank you very, very much for all  
 15 you've done for us and for Bay Hundred.  
 16 MS. DeMART: What we refer to, the group  
 17 there, is 60 and better.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you. That's great.  
 19 Okay.  
 20 Ms. Haythe.  
 21 MS. HAYTHE: So I just want to say I

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1 enjoyed the volunteer event that you did for  
 2 your seniors last week. And that was a great  
 3 event to see all the volunteers that come forth  
 4 to help at the Senior Center. So in  
 5 celebration of Older Americans Month, I salute  
 6 you all and the work that you do.  
 7 MS. BROOKS: Thank you.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.  
 9 Mr. Leshner.  
 10 MR. LESHNER: Well, I'm just thrilled to  
 11 see all that the senior centers, both of them,  
 12 are doing for our senior populations here.  
 13 It's good to see the participation has  
 14 come back in the post pandemic environment and  
 15 you're back to all of the wonderful activities  
 16 that you provide for this population in Talbot  
 17 County. So thank you for carrying the torch  
 18 and doing all that you do to support that  
 19 population.  
 20 MS. BROOKS: Thank you.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Stepp.

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1 MR. STEPP: The thanks needs to be coming  
 2 from us to you for all the work that you do for  
 3 all of our citizens here. Sincerest thanks.  
 4 It's been a pleasure to come out there and see  
 5 everything that you do and be a part of some of  
 6 those activities. It's just been really great.  
 7 So thank you.  
 8 MS. BROOKS: Thank you.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: And I'll just add to that.  
 10 You guys really provide a service to a  
 11 population that means a lot to us, and it means  
 12 a lot to everybody. So that place is very  
 13 special.  
 14 And it was shut down for a few years, and  
 15 it took a toll on people. That's for sure. It  
 16 really showed how well it was missed.  
 17 So you do a great job. You guys are the  
 18 best, and we're glad to support you guys.  
 19 That's for sure. Anything you need, you let us  
 20 know.  
 21 MS. DeMART: Thank you.

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1 MS. BROOKS: We appreciate it.	1 awareness to the general public in Talbot
2 MR. CALLAHAN: I promise you I will be 3 there.	2 County and the State.
4 MS. BROOKS: You all heard him make that 5 promise. And you're putting it in the minutes. 6 Okay.	3 And whereas, Talbot County is proud to be 4 a supporter of motorcycle safety, awareness, 5 and education. And it is especially important 6 that the citizens of our county and State stay 7 alert and be aware of motorcycles on the 8 roadways.
7 MR. CALLAHAN: It's in the minutes now.	9 Now, therefore, be it resolved that we,
8 MS. BROOKS: Thank you so very much.	10 the County Council of Talbot County, do hereby
9 MR. CALLAHAN: So Keasha, you want to go 10 ahead and present that to them, please.	11 proclaim May as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness
11 MS. HAYTHE: Absolutely. Older, wiser, 12 seasoned.	12 Month in Talbot County and encourage all
13 MS. BROOKS: That's right.	13 motorists and citizens to join together in an
14 MS. KILMON: One more. All right.	14 effort to improve safety and awareness on our
15 MS. BROOKS: Thank you.	15 roadways.
16 MS. DeMART: Thank you.	16 Given under our hands in the great seal of
17 MS. HAYTHE: I got one for Bay Hundred, 18 too.	17 Talbot County this 2nd day of May in the year 18 of our Lord, 2023.
19 MS. BROOKS: We appreciate your support.	19 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.
20 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.	20 Good job. Okay.
21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's move on. We	21 Do I have a motion?
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1 got one more. And it's Motorcycle Safety	1 MR. STEPP: So moved.
2 Awareness Month. So Madam Secretary, would you	2 MR. LESHHER: Second.
3 go ahead, when you get a chance, and read that	3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
4 into the record, please.	4 second to go ahead and approve it as presented.
5 SECRETARY: Proclamation, Motorcycle	5 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.
6 Safety Awareness Month, May 2023.	6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
7 Whereas, motorcycles are energy efficient	7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
8 vehicles that reduce fuel consumption and road	8 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
9 wear, significantly contribute to a reduction	9 MR. STEPP: Aye.
10 in traffic and parking congestion, and are an	10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
11 increasingly population mode of transportation	11 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
12 for commuting, touring, and recreation.	12 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
13 And whereas, safety is the highest	13 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
14 priority for the streets and roadways of our	14 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
15 county and safe riding practices. And	15 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
16 cooperation from all road users will help	16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You guys want to
17 reduce the number of fatalities and injuries on	17 come on up.
18 our nation's highways.	18 MR. KERZNER: Why I got to sit there?
19 And whereas, the members of the Mid Shore	19 MR. LESHHER: You can give him the
20 Chapter of ABATE of Maryland, Inc. continually	20 microphone.
21 promote motorcycle safety, education, and	21 MR. EATON: I'm Ken Eaton. I'm the State

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1 executive director for ABATE of Maryland, and  
 2 I'm also the chapter coordinator because I  
 3 haven't talked Mark into being the local  
 4 chapter coordinator yet.  
 5 MR. STEPP: Sounds like he is about to.  
 6 MR. KERZNER: Yeah. I'm assistant  
 7 director for a different county.  
 8 MR. EATON: We cover four counties. He  
 9 covers Queen Anne's County for us.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you.  
 11 MR. EATON: We have chapters all over the  
 12 State, and we are a motorcycle rights  
 13 organization.  
 14 We just spent a rather challenging time at  
 15 the Maryland General Assembly chasing bills,  
 16 good, bad, and indifferent, about  
 17 motorcyclists. It was different this year, I'm  
 18 sure as many of you may know.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.  
 20 MR. EATON: We certainly appreciate the  
 21 county offering to do this proclamation. It's

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1 pretty important for us to make sure that  
 2 people know we're out there. We like to remind  
 3 them every spring. Some people ride all year  
 4 long, but most of us are coming back out in the  
 5 spring. So you'll see more of us.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.  
 7 MR. EATON: We talked the MVA into  
 8 printing some more motorcycle safety signs. So  
 9 hopefully we'll get those and you'll see those  
 10 out in the yards again soon.  
 11 If I have everything right, we'll have  
 12 this on the overhead signs throughout the State  
 13 through the month of May.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. That's  
 15 great.  
 16 So Ms. Haythe.  
 17 MS. HAYTHE: So this is one thing that's  
 18 on my bucket list, is to get my motorcycle  
 19 license and to buy my husband a motorcycle that  
 20 he gave up when we got married. Eventually  
 21 we'll get there and I'll take those lessons.

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1 MR. EATON: Very good.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good.  
 3 MR. LESHER: I just want to thank you for  
 4 what you're doing to promote safety.  
 5 I have a family member who is a rider, and  
 6 I want her to be around.  
 7 And so we know how vulnerable  
 8 motorcyclists can be out there on the highway  
 9 and how important it is for everyone to be  
 10 aware and to be protecting all of us out there.  
 11 MR. EATON: Thank you.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Stepp.  
 13 MR. STEPP: Proud to be delivering this to  
 14 you guys today. What you do is very important.  
 15 I was hoping to win your raffle. I had  
 16 five tickets. I had money for four in my  
 17 pocket, and I saw there was one left. So I had  
 18 to find another I think it was \$5 a ticket. I  
 19 asked for the winner. I didn't get it.  
 20 But I'm proud to do this today. What  
 21 you're doing is very important, and make sure

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1 we're just keeping folks safe out on the roads.  
 2 MR. EATON: If you want to buy this year's  
 3 raffle ticket, Harrison's is having an event  
 4 this weekend and we're going to have the bike  
 5 there.  
 6 MR. STEPP: All right.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Stepp, you want to go  
 8 ahead and present that to them.  
 9 MR. STEPP: Guys, come on up. Here we go.  
 10 MS. KILMON: All right. One, two, three.  
 11 One more. All right. Very good, guys.  
 12 MR. EATON: Thank you very much.  
 13 MR. STEPP: Appreciate you.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate it.  
 15 MR. KERZNER: Thank you.  
 16 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Okay. That's  
 18 good. All right.  
 19 You want to go ahead -- we got a few  
 20 minutes. You want to go ahead and do some  
 21 county manager report stuff, get that over

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1 with.

2 MR. STAMP: Sure. Thank you, Mr. Council

3 President.

4 Under county manager report, we have no

5 specific requests for your approval on board

6 and committee vacancies. However, the county

7 has a number of vacancies available on other

8 boards and committees. If you're interested in

9 serving, please contact the county manager's

10 office at 410-770-8010, or visit our website at

11 <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/vRo6C2kEk2HggKyF1S9Uj?domain=talbotcountymd.gov>.

12 Vacancies exist on the following: Adult

13 Public Guardianship Review Board, Agricultural

14 Resolution Board, Animal Control Board, Board

15 of Appeals, Board of Electrical Examiners,

16 Commission on Aging, Historic Preservation

17 Commission, Public Works Advisory Board, and

18 the Talbot County Tax Assessment Appeals Board.

19 Again, if you're interested, please send

20 in a request and we would welcome that.

21 I'll call Brian Moore up. Brian, can you

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1 come forward?

2 We have a request from the Roads

3 Department. Recommendation to award Bid Number

4 23-05, furnishing and delivery with possible

5 application of CRS-2L emulsified asphalt with

6 polymer.

7 As you read in your agenda packet, we have

8 low bidder, Slurry Pavers, Incorporated, from

9 Richmond, Virginia, for a unit price of \$2.63

10 per gallon delivered and \$2.98 per gallon

11 delivered and applied.

12 Total of two bids were received. Funding

13 is available in the roads budget. And Brian is

14 here to offer any more information or answer

15 any questions. Brian.

16 MR. MOORE: Yes. Slurry Pavers has won

17 the award for several years, has worked with

18 the Roads Department for several years, has

19 been a good partner. And they are low bid.

20 So we support to move forward with the bid

21 so we can get things lined up.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great. Any

2 other questions of Council?

3 MR. LESHER: This supplies you with

4 materials for the entire paving season?

5 MR. MOORE: Yes. This is the stone and

6 chip process. This is the asphalt that bonds

7 the stones together. So this is a tar and chip

8 process. This is the material needed to do

9 that process.

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

11 MR. LESHER: I'll move to approve the bid.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is there a second?

13 MR. STEPP: Second.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,

15 there's a motion and second to award Bid 2305,

16 asphalt, repaving. What is it? CR21. Could

17 you call the vote, please.

18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

20 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

21 MR. STEPP: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshar.

2 MR. LESHER: Aye.

3 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

4 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

5 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

6 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

8 MR. MOORE: Thank you for your support.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, Brian. We

10 appreciate it.

11 MR. STAMP: Brian is doing a good job over

12 at the Roads Department and facilities. So

13 just want to recognize him as he exits the room

14 quickly.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, yup. Exactly.

16 MR. STAMP: I think I need to speak a

17 little slower, right? Trying to get to

18 two o'clock.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

20 MR. STAMP: The next item I have, Council,

21 is a request for a letter of support of

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1 extending Mid-Shore II Regional Landfill,  
 2 Ridgely, Caroline County, operating dates.  
 3 As you read in your agenda packet, I am  
 4 requesting Council approval to send a letter of  
 5 support for extending the operating dates of  
 6 Mid-Shore II Regional Landfill located in  
 7 Ridgely, Maryland.  
 8 The Maryland Environmental Service has  
 9 stated there is sufficient disposal capacity at  
 10 the landfill to keep it open through  
 11 approximately 2042 under the existing State  
 12 permits.  
 13 So I'd be happy to answer any questions,  
 14 but we are asking for that letter.  
 15 We would benefit by extending the service  
 16 of the landfill in Caroline County in a  
 17 negotiation between, in essence, Caroline and  
 18 Queen Anne's County.  
 19 MR. LESHER: I'm thrilled to see this  
 20 request. This comes from a four-county 80-year  
 21 agreement whereby Talbot County, Caroline,

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1 Queen Anne's, and Kent have all agreed, rather  
 2 than each operating our own independent  
 3 landfills, to collaborate and take turns.  
 4 And Talbot County took a 20-year turn.  
 5 And when we closed it up a few years back, we  
 6 went -- there's a lot that goes into closing a  
 7 landfill. There's a lot of monitoring, the  
 8 ground water monitoring and to ensure the  
 9 long-term safety of this. And in fact, we  
 10 extracted some landfill gas, methane gas from  
 11 this as well.  
 12 But there are costs that go to closing a  
 13 landfill. And so this 20 years, we did Talbot  
 14 County. We're closing in toward the -- I guess  
 15 we're about halfway through the one for the  
 16 agreement with Caroline County's turn.  
 17 And extending this will save all of our  
 18 counties money because we will get more years  
 19 for those inevitably the same closing costs.  
 20 And so I applaud Kent County for  
 21 initiating this extension and appreciate

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1 Caroline County's interest in extending the  
 2 life of ours.  
 3 It certainly is going to help Talbot  
 4 County taxpayers and those who make uses,  
 5 including our municipalities, who make use of  
 6 the regional landfill. And one thing, at least  
 7 for the nearer future before it moves onto  
 8 Queen Anne's County or ultimately to Kent  
 9 County, in the near term, it is certainly going  
 10 to save us some transportation costs because  
 11 the Caroline County landfill is closer.  
 12 That said, a good benefit. There's been  
 13 talk for years about what do we do about taking  
 14 full advantage of the capacity of these  
 15 regional landfills, rather than just when the  
 16 20-year agreement comes up, closing up and  
 17 moving on and leaving that unfilled capacity.  
 18 This makes a whole lot of sense.  
 19 And while the 80-year agreement among  
 20 these fours counties will already last long  
 21 past the time that I'm beneath the sod and

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1 pushing up daisies, this will extend the  
 2 service of this four-county agreement I presume  
 3 or has the potential to do so for even a longer  
 4 period. So thanks all around.  
 5 And I'll move to authorize the letter to  
 6 be sent in response.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Do I have a second?  
 8 MS. HAYTHE: Second.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and  
 10 second to send a letter of support extending  
 11 the Mid-Shore Region II Landfill. Madam  
 12 Secretary, could you call the vote, please.  
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.  
 16 MR. STEPP: Aye.  
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 18 MR. LESHER: Aye.  
 19 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.  
 20 MS. MIELKE: Aye.  
 21 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

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<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>3 MR. STAMP: Council, that completes the</p> <p>4 county manager's report for today. Thank you.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: All right.</p> <p>6 MR. STAMP: I didn't talk slow enough.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Trying. He was</p> <p>8 trying.</p> <p>9 MR. LESHER: You could call for a recess.</p> <p>10 You could go to Council comments.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: You want to go to Council</p> <p>12 comments?</p> <p>13 MR. LESHER: Our Council President is --</p> <p>14 we're not allowed to start the public hearing</p> <p>15 on the budget until two o'clock since that is</p> <p>16 the advertised time.</p> <p>17 So we're looking to fill the time until</p> <p>18 that second hand sweeps up to say it's</p> <p>19 two o'clock.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: So we're going to leave it</p> <p>21 up to Councilman Divilio to come up here and</p>	<p>1 have nothing.</p> <p>2 MR. STAMP: Maybe Council Woman Mielke has</p> <p>3 something.</p> <p>4 MS. HAYTHE: Dave, we went to the Garden</p> <p>5 Club event today.</p> <p>6 MR. STEPP: We did. It was nice.</p> <p>7 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah. So you know, if the</p> <p>8 public doesn't know, the Garden Club beautifies</p> <p>9 the five corners where the waterfowl is off of</p> <p>10 Goldsborough Street. Isn't it Goldsborough</p> <p>11 Street? Am I on the right street?</p> <p>12 MR. LESHER: Washington --</p> <p>13 MS. HAYTHE: Washington. See, I was on</p> <p>14 the wrong street.</p> <p>15 But anyway, they had the dedication this</p> <p>16 morning. And I mean they keep those flowers so</p> <p>17 pretty there. A lot of weddings that take</p> <p>18 place at the Tidewater and at the various</p> <p>19 churches, specifically St. Mark's, they pose in</p> <p>20 front of the water fountain to have pictures</p> <p>21 done.</p>
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<p>1 talk. So all right.</p> <p>2 Jess, was there a sign-up sheet for</p> <p>3 Council comments?</p> <p>4 MR. STAMP: For public comments.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Public comments.</p> <p>6 MS. MORRIS: There is, but I believe most</p> <p>7 people are here to speak on the budget itself.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, they are. Okay.</p> <p>9 MR. STAMP: Are you doing public comments</p> <p>10 or Council comments?</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Council, yeah. So</p> <p>12 we'll start with you.</p> <p>13 MR. LESHER: Of all days that we need to</p> <p>14 fill time, I don't --</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: (Inaudible.)</p> <p>16 MR. LESHER: I don't have anything to</p> <p>17 offer.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Isn't it funny.</p> <p>19 MS. HAYTHE: (Inaudible.)</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: You got something; don't</p> <p>21 you? We got five minutes. Nothing. Don't</p>	<p>1 So it was a great day to be able to</p> <p>2 present them with a commendation from the</p> <p>3 Council. So Dave and myself attended. And I</p> <p>4 shared with them, 24 years ago on May 15th, my</p> <p>5 husband and I got married at St. Mark's Church</p> <p>6 and took our pictures, our wedding pictures</p> <p>7 there with our wedding party. So it was</p> <p>8 something near and dear to my heart.</p> <p>9 So next week I think it is, will be our</p> <p>10 24th anniversary. That was a great event. And</p> <p>11 if you haven't checked it out or you don't</p> <p>12 notice it as you're riding past, go out there</p> <p>13 and do some selfies.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. Okay.</p> <p>15 Ms. Mielke, you got anything for us?</p> <p>16 MS. MIELKE: No. Thank you.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right.</p> <p>18 Mr. Stamp, we're relying on you.</p> <p>19 MR. STAMP: Oh, okay.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Tell us something good at</p> <p>21 EMS or something.</p>



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<p>1 MR. STAMP: Well, Council, I'm fresh out 2 of business for you today. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: What was that? 4 MR. STEPP: I said last week, last 5 Thursday morning on the 27th, it was nice to 6 join our Local Emergency Planning Committee as 7 liaison to that committee. 8 It's really neat to see a lot of the stuff 9 that goes on behind the scenes from a lot of 10 our local leaders just in regards to what they 11 do to make sure our community remains safe, not 12 only just in day-to-day operations, but when 13 and if bad things ever happen, those folks that 14 are ready to mobilize, it's really good to 15 know. It's really good to know. And you 16 should be glad that there's folks that are out 17 there that are donating their time to make sure 18 things are safe for all of us. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. I would agree. 20 MR. STAMP: So I can add that I attended a 21 Paramedic Foundation meeting the other evening.</p>	<p>1 Emergency Services, and our volunteer fire 2 companies are working together to save lives. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good. And just to 4 follow up on that, I think it might be 5 important. We talked to -- Brian come in here 6 and did that with us, a presentation of that. 7 And we might, when we have those stations 8 around, so it might not hurt to do at a Council 9 meeting, help them show us how that emergency 10 can take place because you'll be able to go 11 into that box and get it. 12 MR. STAMP: I think that's an excellent 13 idea, Mr. Council President because we can do a 14 demonstration here. 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Correct, correct. 16 MR. STAMP: I mean everybody that is a 17 football fan may have observed on national TV 18 how early defibrillation can save a life. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Correct. 20 MR. STAMP: With a football player that 21 went into cardiac arrest there and was saved by</p>
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<p>1 And happy to report that our partnership with 2 the County Council and the Paramedic Foundation 3 and the Department of Emergency Services is 4 healthy and is moving forward. 5 They came in and presented to this Council 6 when you were first elected. Since then, 7 they've been able to erect public access 8 automated external defibrillators, otherwise 9 known as AEDs, at Idlewild Park, North Park. 10 And they are moving on to look at other 11 locations around the county to place these AEDs 12 in partnership with the county. 13 So that's an excellent program that has 14 deep roots. Talbot County was recognized a 15 number of years ago as a leader in making these 16 AED units available for early defibrillation 17 for people that go into cardiac arrest. 18 As you know, in those situations, it's all 19 about time. 20 And so again, happy to report that the 21 Paramedic Foundation, the county, Department of</p>	<p>1 early defibrillation. 2 So we will schedule that. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. I think that would 4 help. Okay. 5 So I guess we're in pretty good shape now. 6 So we're going to go ahead and open the public 7 hearing. 8 And Mr. Leshner, you want to go ahead and 9 start opening it up and reading to put us into 10 order, please. 11 MR. LESHER: So there are two public 12 hearings today. And if you wish to speak at 13 either of these hearings, please when you come 14 forward, state your name and address for the 15 record. You'll be given three minutes to speak 16 if you are representing yourself and five 17 minutes if you are speaking on behalf of a 18 group or association. 19 The first hearing is on the, public 20 hearing, on the constant yield tax rate. And 21 this language that we need to read into the</p>

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1 record is prescribed language that the State of  
 2 Maryland says that we need to say so that you  
 3 all understand that we are raising taxes  
 4 regardless of what happens to the tax rate.  
 5 The County Council, in the FY 2024  
 6 proposed budget, is proposing to adopt a real  
 7 property tax rate of 68.20 cents per \$100 of  
 8 assessed valuation for all properties located  
 9 outside of the incorporated towns. This is  
 10 \$2.55 higher than the current real property tax  
 11 rate. I'm sorry. This is 2.55 cents higher  
 12 than the current real property tax rate, not  
 13 \$2. It's 2.55 cents higher than the current  
 14 real property tax rate.  
 15 This rate is 5.3 percent higher than the  
 16 constant yield rate of 64.76 cents and will  
 17 generate \$1,694,247 more in property tax  
 18 revenues in fiscal year 2024 from the  
 19 unincorporated area of the county.  
 20 Properties located within the incorporated  
 21 towns will again be granted a tax rate

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1 differential, which sets their real property  
 2 tax rates between 6.01 and 13.3 cents lower  
 3 than the county rate.  
 4 The county real property tax rates for  
 5 properties located within the towns are higher  
 6 than the constant yield rate for the towns.  
 7 The County Council will not adopt the  
 8 fiscal year 2024 tax rate today. Fiscal year  
 9 2024 tax rate will be adopted as part of the  
 10 2023-2024 annual budget and appropriation  
 11 ordinance currently scheduled for adoption on  
 12 Tuesday, May 23, 2023.  
 13 Now, that we have this prescribed State  
 14 legislation, State legislative language, you  
 15 are absolutely clear on what we're doing. Is  
 16 that correct?  
 17 But yes. In fact, we are raising rates.  
 18 And these rates are going up within the tax cap  
 19 allowed by the Talbot County taxpayers,  
 20 including crucially the additional penny that  
 21 the taxpayers voted on a few years ago. And as

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1 promised to the voters, we are again directing  
 2 the bulk of those funds toward public safety.  
 3 So it's at this point, I think do we move  
 4 to the presentation?  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: We do. Yup.  
 6 MS. MORRIS: Mr. Leshner, President  
 7 Callahan, so you're going to open the public  
 8 hearing on the constant yield.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 10 MS. MORRIS: And see if anybody wishes to  
 11 speak on that.  
 12 MR. LESHNER: So we do that first.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup. So at this time,  
 14 we're going to go ahead and open the public  
 15 hearing to the constant yield.  
 16 And would anybody like to come up and  
 17 speak on that? Okay. Frank.  
 18 MR. DIVILIO: Nope.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 20 MS. MORRIS: And now you're going to close  
 21 the hearing on the constant yield.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So we'll go ahead  
 2 and close that on the constant yield at this  
 3 time.  
 4 MR. LESHNER: That's good. We haven't  
 5 broken our record of having nobody testify  
 6 whatsoever on the constant yield.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay. So we're going  
 8 to move on. Yup. Go ahead.  
 9 MR. LESHNER: So at this point, Ms. Moran,  
 10 if you'll please read the title of Bill 1529.  
 11 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1529, an act to  
 12 establish the 2023-2024 annual budget and  
 13 appropriation ordinance.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 15 MR. LESHNER: And at this point then, I  
 16 think it's appropriate for us to hear from our  
 17 finance director to introduce the content of  
 18 this budget bill.  
 19 MR. STAMP: Council, I'll start this off  
 20 and then hand it off to our finance director,  
 21 Martha Sparks.

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 First of all, Council, thank you for your                  2 support in developing this proposed FY24                  3 budget.                  4 And I also want to thank all those                  5 organizations, agencies, and departments that                  6 worked hard to forecast their needs in order to                  7 continue to provide key services for the                  8 community.                  9 And a special thank you to Martha,                  10 Kaitlyn, the assistant finance director, and                  11 Jessica Morris, the assistant county manager,                  12 who worked diligently into the nights many                  13 times.                  14 And finally, again, to you, Council, for                  15 rolling your sleeves up and working with staff                  16 very hard to make sure that we continue to                  17 provide the conservative budgeting practices                  18 that have been successful in Talbot County in                  19 the past, moving forward, providing those key                  20 services.                  21 I want to talk just a little bit about our</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 challenges, and cost fluctuations, to include                  2 the required rainy day fund for unanticipated                  3 events.                  4 And then I just want to go over a few key                  5 initiatives. As an example, this budget funds                  6 the north EMS station and personnel, which will                  7 improve response times and ultimately patient                  8 outcomes.                  9 It has funding for the replacement of the                  10 computer aided dispatch software system for the                  11 911 Center, which will enhance the accuracy of                  12 information and ultimately the rapid delivery                  13 of law enforcement and emergency services.                  14 It has funding increases for our volunteer                  15 fire departments to address operational costs,                  16 supports training, and personnel retention and                  17 recruitment efforts.                  18 It provides a significant funding increase                  19 for the Board of Education, that includes                  20 State-mandated funding for schools, along with                  21 additional requests for social workers and</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 budget strategy this year. The budget strategy                  2 included a strong focus on public safety and                  3 education and utilized the traditional and                  4 successful practice of conservative budgeting                  5 and estimating revenues and expenditures.                  6 It reflects a significant investment in                  7 our employees, who are the backbone of our                  8 service delivery in what has become a highly                  9 competitive workforce environment.                  10 It prioritizes funding for capital                  11 improvement projects. It addresses our                  12 community resiliency pillars, which are public                  13 safety, health and education, economic                  14 stability, the environment, and infrastructure.                  15 It addresses escalating costs associated                  16 with State-mandated funding requirements, such                  17 as with education, required boards, and the                  18 minimum wage increase.                  19 And finally, it maintains a healthy fund                  20 balance for economic uncertainties in light of                  21 the inflationary pressures, supply line</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 capital funds for the Chapel District                  2 Elementary School and White Marsh School.                  3 And it provides funding for infrastructure                  4 for roadway enhancements, culvert replacements,                  5 and the extension of sewer service in an effort                  6 to remove dependence on septic systems.                  7 So again, Council, I thank you for your                  8 support in developing this proposed budget.                  9 At this point, I'll turn it over to your                  10 finance director, Martha Sparks.                  11 Thank you, Martha.                  12 MS. SPARKS: Thank you. Good afternoon,                  13 Council.                  14 MR. STEPP: Good afternoon.                  15 MS. SPARKS: Staff is presenting the                  16 Council a balanced general fund budget of                  17 \$128,849,000 for the 2024 fiscal year. This                  18 budget continues the county's conservative                  19 budgeting policies. These budgeting practices                  20 have served the county well and have placed us                  21 in a healthy financial position. Some of the</p>

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1 items in the fiscal year 2024 budget include  
 2 revenues that are two percent over the FY23  
 3 property tax revenues, which is in accordance  
 4 with our Charter, an additional one cent  
 5 increase to the property tax rate, as  
 6 authorized by the voters of Talbot County in  
 7 November 2020 to support public safety  
 8 expenditures, and a 4.8 percent education  
 9 supplement to support Talbot County Public  
 10 Schools' budget initiatives. Funding Talbot  
 11 County Schools \$286,000 over the county's  
 12 mandated adjusted local share, for a total of  
 13 50.9 million, an increase of 4.1 million from  
 14 FY23.

15 An additional 900,000 has been allocated  
 16 for school renovations within capital  
 17 improvements projects, 1.1 million for capital  
 18 outlay, or purchases of vehicle and equipment,  
 19 6.68 million in transfers to capital projects,  
 20 a four percent cost of living adjustment and  
 21 one step for county employees, and 16

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1 additional positions were added that focus on  
 2 public safety.

3 In our FY24 budget, we have projected a  
 4 13.19 percent increase in property tax  
 5 revenues, all within the requirements -- within  
 6 the restrictions of our Charter, a 9.14  
 7 increase, percent increase, in income tax  
 8 revenues, increases in other taxes,  
 9 intergovernmental revenues, and transfers  
 10 brings us to an overall increase in revenues of  
 11 14.42 percent.

12 Talbot County receives the majority of its  
 13 revenues from property and income taxes.  
 14 Together they make up 68.2 percent of the  
 15 county's revenues, with 44.1 percent coming  
 16 from property taxes.

17 Recordation and transfer taxes are the  
 18 next largest group of county revenues,  
 19 contributing approximately 9.3 percent.

20 The county has historically made  
 21 conservative projections of its revenues, and

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1 this strategy has been successful in producing  
 2 strong reserves.

3 Our proposed property tax rate of .7434  
 4 for county-owned properties includes property  
 5 tax revenues that are two percent over FY23  
 6 revenues, which is in accordance with our  
 7 Charter. These prior revenue levels have been  
 8 certified by the State Department of  
 9 Assessments and Taxation, an additional one  
 10 cent increase to the property tax rate, as  
 11 authorized by the voters of Talbot County in  
 12 November 2020 to support public safety, and a  
 13 4.8 percent educational supplement to support  
 14 Talbot County Public Schools.

15 The county property tax rate will increase  
 16 6.14 cents over the FY23 rate, which amounts to  
 17 a nine percent increase. 3.48 percent  
 18 increase, or 2.34 cents of the increase, is  
 19 part of the county real property tax rate. The  
 20 remaining 5.52 percent increase is attributable  
 21 to the education supplement used to pay for the

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1 increased funding for our schools.

2 The county tax bill for a home with a  
 3 property assessment of 300,000 will increase  
 4 from \$2,046 to \$2,230, which is \$184 increase,  
 5 \$144 which is attributable to the education  
 6 supplement. And we have provided a sample of  
 7 what this homeowner's tax bill would like look  
 8 like.

9 To provide context with the rest of the  
 10 State, in FY23, our county property tax rate of  
 11 68 cents was the lowest in the 23 counties and  
 12 Baltimore City.

13 Fitch Rating agency noted this in their  
 14 bond rating when they said the county property  
 15 tax rate remains one of the lowest of any  
 16 county in the state.

17 And to add perspective to this property  
 18 tax increase, I'd like to point out that other  
 19 counties will also be experiencing the same  
 20 challenges of the increased funding  
 21 requirements of Maryland's Blueprint.

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1 In comparison to other counties, Talbot  
 2 County currently has the second lowest income  
 3 rate at 2.40 percent.  
 4 Fitch Ratings best describes Talbot  
 5 County's income tax revenues when it says  
 6 income taxes are a higher percentage of  
 7 revenues than is true for most Maryland  
 8 counties, and this is partially due to the very  
 9 low tax environment compared to the rest of the  
 10 State, which provides an incentive for a small  
 11 number of high income earners with second homes  
 12 to declare their income in the county.  
 13 Talbot County's income tax revenues are  
 14 volatile and difficult to predict due to those  
 15 small percentage of high wage earners that  
 16 claim Talbot County as their home.  
 17 Our FY24 budget represents a moderate  
 18 increase in projections of income tax revenues  
 19 at 31 million. In FY21 and FY22, Talbot County  
 20 experienced the highest levels of its  
 21 recordation and transfer taxes. But in FY23,

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1 we've experienced a leveling and it's been  
 2 smoothing to more normal levels. And our FY24  
 3 budget projections for those taxes have  
 4 slightly increased, but they're still following  
 5 our conservative budgeting methodology.  
 6 Overall education expenditures for Talbot  
 7 County represent 43.7 percent of its budget,  
 8 and Talbot County Schools represents  
 9 42.1 percent of those expenditures. The other  
 10 portion of that is for Chesapeake College.  
 11 Mandatory funding for the Maryland  
 12 Blueprint for Schools saw a \$4.8 million  
 13 increase over last year.  
 14 In addition to the mandated funding,  
 15 Talbot County has included an additional  
 16 \$286,000 for three social workers. By moving  
 17 the increase in school funding to the  
 18 educational supplement, the county is providing  
 19 a more structurally balanced budget.  
 20 900,000 has also been included for capital  
 21 projects requests for school renovations at

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1 Chapel Elementary.  
 2 Also included in part of the sheriff's  
 3 budget is the cost of three resource officers,  
 4 or SROs, as we call them.  
 5 And the Health Department's request for  
 6 additional funding for school nurses has also  
 7 included in the FY24 budget.  
 8 And I'd like to point out that public  
 9 safety accounts for our second greatest  
 10 expenditure, and that is 23.8 percent of the  
 11 budget.  
 12 1.1 million in capital outlay requests are  
 13 included in this budget. The original capital  
 14 outlay requests from the departments totaled  
 15 \$3.5 million. And this was reduced because we  
 16 rolled our sleeves up and the county manager  
 17 got to work and had discussions with our  
 18 department heads to reduce that amount.  
 19 And it was reduced through a combination  
 20 of cuts to the requests and the determination  
 21 that some of these purchases could be made with

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1 FY23 budget appropriations through the fourth  
 2 quarter transfer process, which we have started  
 3 with Council.  
 4 Also included this in this budget is  
 5 6.8 million for transfers to capital  
 6 improvement projects.  
 7 Personnel actions that were taken in this  
 8 budget are a four percent cost of living  
 9 adjustment and one step for employees. And 16  
 10 additional positions were added to increase  
 11 government services, but there was an emphasis  
 12 and focus on public safety with those increased  
 13 positions.  
 14 Also included in the operating expenses is  
 15 the debt service for our public safety building  
 16 and new Health Department, which is \$1.9  
 17 million, or 3.37 percent of the increase in our  
 18 operating expenses.  
 19 In regards to the fund balance, the fund  
 20 balance at the end of June 30, 2022, was  
 21 68.3 million, with 14.9 million designated as

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1 rainy day reserves. These reserves give the  
 2 county less exposure to the risks associated  
 3 with revenue and expenditure volatility,  
 4 particularly in times of inflation or  
 5 recession. And we are currently experiencing  
 6 elevated levels of inflation, and those  
 7 increases are also included in this budget.  
 8 This strong fund balance is a result of  
 9 the county's conservative budgeting methods,  
 10 and those conservative budgeting methods were  
 11 the guidance for staff in the formulation of  
 12 the budget that you have before you.  
 13 And in closing, I'd like to highlight the  
 14 recent bond ratings of Talbot County.  
 15 In September of 2022, we were rated by  
 16 Moody's Investor Service and Fitch Rating as  
 17 part of our process to go out for a bond for a  
 18 new public safety building and new Health  
 19 Department. These ratings serve as a measure  
 20 of the financial health of the county and how  
 21 well it navigates its budget process. These

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1 ratings serve as Talbot County's budgeting and  
 2 fiscal management report card.  
 3 Moody's Investor Service has said that  
 4 financially, the county is very strong and the  
 5 management team is generally conservative in  
 6 its budgeting. Our credit strengths were low,  
 7 low long-term liabilities with a manageable  
 8 long-term capital plan and a very strong  
 9 reserve position.  
 10 And then Fitch Ratings, Fitch's assessment  
 11 of the county's financial resilience as being  
 12 in the highest category is based on the  
 13 combined strength of its fund balance position,  
 14 its ample expenditure flexibility, and its  
 15 strong ability to adjust revenues through  
 16 policy action to counterbalance its  
 17 historically volatile revenues.  
 18 The county typically increases its  
 19 property tax levy by the full amount allowed  
 20 annually under the county charter. Both the  
 21 property and the income tax rates remain the

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1 lowest in the State.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,  
 3 Ms. Sparks. Good job. Okay.  
 4 So at this point, we're going to go ahead  
 5 and open the public hearing for comments.  
 6 MR. LESHER: We have several people who  
 7 have signed up to testify in advance of the  
 8 hearing.  
 9 The first on that list is Dana Newman,  
 10 representing the Talbot County Free Library.  
 11 MS. NEWMAN: I'm going to be very, very  
 12 brief.  
 13 I want to thank the county staff and the  
 14 County Council for your support of the library  
 15 and our patrons and our community who really  
 16 value the library during this tough time.  
 17 I also want to thank you for your support  
 18 of the St. Michaels Library and for the update  
 19 and expansion that we're planning on doing  
 20 there.  
 21 And very much for your support of the COLA

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1 increase that we requested for staff. They do  
 2 a wonderful job. And your staff here as well.  
 3 And we wouldn't be who we are without their  
 4 wonderful support. So I just wanted to make  
 5 sure that you're thanked for that because we  
 6 value our employees and we value being able to  
 7 keep them happy and being able to allow them to  
 8 afford all the increases that they're facing  
 9 right now.  
 10 So thank you very much, and I appreciate  
 11 it. Have a good day.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Appreciate it.  
 13 MR. LESHER: Thank you very much.  
 14 And next is Frank Divilio, representing  
 15 the Neighborhood Service Center.  
 16 MR. DIVILIO: All right. Good afternoon.  
 17 My name is Frank Divilio, 29466 Andrew Lane,  
 18 chairman of the Neighborhood Service Center.  
 19 And I just wanted to come in for three  
 20 quick points for the NSC.  
 21 One, I really wanted to thank you guys for

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1 all the support over the years. We celebrated  
 2 our 50th anniversary recently with a luncheon  
 3 at Tidewater Inn. It was supposed to be a  
 4 couple of years ago, but COVID prevented that  
 5 from happening. So when we had the  
 6 opportunity, we took that.  
 7 With that, there was a brief mention that  
 8 there would be a capital campaign kicking off,  
 9 which leads me into my second point.  
 10 The Neighborhood Service Center, just like  
 11 Talbot County, just like you guys, we work with  
 12 pennies to try to help people. And there's not  
 13 that much money to go around and there's a lot  
 14 of need.  
 15 If you look at the Neighborhood Service  
 16 Center, you'll see an old, outdated, antiquated  
 17 building. You'll see huge potholes. You won't  
 18 see murals, you won't see landscaping, you  
 19 won't see anything extra. All you'll see is a  
 20 food bank and support to help those who are  
 21 either about to be evicted or to have their

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1 utilities cut off.  
 2 So when you think about a business or  
 3 service that's providing that, types of  
 4 services to the community, those individuals do  
 5 not complain when they're getting help.  
 6 I do have a survey that I'll leave with  
 7 Mr. Stamp so that you can see how much they  
 8 appreciate what is done, but let you know that  
 9 we will be looking to expand that building to  
 10 try to improve services as well as trying to  
 11 come up with our own ways to generate revenue,  
 12 which leads me into my next point.  
 13 We're funded by a formula, the federal  
 14 government. Just like the schools, we know how  
 15 the formulas do not work well here. We do get  
 16 shortchanged on that. We're going to be  
 17 \$27,000 less or have \$27,000 less revenue from  
 18 the federal government this year due to one of  
 19 the grants, just the formula changing. So  
 20 that's why you saw the ask that you received  
 21 from us.

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1 Let's see. And Marilyn Neal had -- and  
 2 Marilyn Neal's other point that she wanted me  
 3 to bring up was competitive salaries.  
 4 There's only 14 people who work in there.  
 5 Yet, they're serving thousands of individuals  
 6 every year. And those salaries are going to  
 7 have to go up as minimum wage is increasing.  
 8 So again, we're looking for our donors.  
 9 Stock market is all in flux right now.  
 10 It's already getting donations out of that. So  
 11 again, that's also for the reason why we had  
 12 the ask that we did this year.  
 13 So again, I do really appreciate all that  
 14 you have done for us over the previous years.  
 15 If you would like to have a tour, I would  
 16 love to have you there, show you the facility  
 17 and get your opinions on improvements and what  
 18 we can do to improve things there.  
 19 Otherwise, thank you very much for your  
 20 time today.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,

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1 Mr. Divilio. Appreciate it.  
 2 MR. STAMP: Good seeing you.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, good seeing you.  
 4 MR. DIVILIO: That's what happens when you  
 5 tell me you miss me, I show up.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: I know it. Exactly.  
 7 MR. LESHER: Next up is Dr. Cliff  
 8 Coppersmith of Chesapeake College.  
 9 DR. COPPERSMITH: Good afternoon,  
 10 Mr. President, Members of the Council. I, too,  
 11 will be brief.  
 12 This is my favorite time of the year as we  
 13 finish up our budget cycle, which began last  
 14 August. And then we get a couple of months  
 15 break. And we're going to be starting up again  
 16 in just a couple of months.  
 17 I want to also thank county staff, who we  
 18 worked with very closely on this process and  
 19 who have been very helpful.  
 20 When I started my undergraduate work, I  
 21 was a political science major and majored in

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1 public policy. And I just find myself amazed  
 2 that I have kind of at the end of my  
 3 professional life, I'm not quite done, but I  
 4 find myself doing the very things that I was  
 5 learning about as an undergraduate many, many  
 6 years ago.  
 7 So I want to thank the Council for its  
 8 support of Chesapeake this year. All of you  
 9 were at our budget meeting just a week or so  
 10 ago. And it was just great to see all of you,  
 11 both our new Council members but also our  
 12 continuing ones. And I just personally thank  
 13 each one of you for your support of the  
 14 college. Many of you have long experiences  
 15 with the institution, and I'm proud to lead it.  
 16 In closing, I just want to remind you that  
 17 our commencement is coming up on May 24th. And  
 18 you're all, of course, invited to participate.  
 19 We'll be graduating at least 255 students  
 20 this year. That number goes up every day, of  
 21 which the last number I have for Talbot County,

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1 you have 58-plus students that will be  
 2 graduating from Chesapeake this spring.  
 3 But again, thank you all so much for your  
 4 support of Chesapeake College. Very much  
 5 appreciated.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot. Appreciate  
 7 you.  
 8 MR. STAMP: Thank you.  
 9 MR. LESHER: And Mr. Callahan, those are  
 10 all who have signed up in advance.  
 11 So we can open it up for those, the rest  
 12 who are here.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Go ahead and open it  
 14 up. Over here to my left. Yup.  
 15 MS. BROOKS: Good afternoon again. My  
 16 name is Childlene Brooks. I live at 8505  
 17 Tilghman Island Road in Wittman.  
 18 And I'm here today representing Upper  
 19 Shore Aging, which Brookletts Place is a part  
 20 of. I'm speaking on behalf of Bill Shrieves,  
 21 the president of the board, and Andy Hollis,

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1 our executive director. Unfortunately, they  
 2 are in Chestertown this afternoon presenting  
 3 their budget request to the Kent County  
 4 Commissioners. So they could not attend this  
 5 hearing.  
 6 We want to thank the County Council for  
 7 your continuing support of our agency. Your  
 8 financial contributions provide services for  
 9 the senior citizens of Talbot County, and we  
 10 are proud to provide them on behalf of the  
 11 county government.  
 12 We realize that the county faced  
 13 significant pressures to provide funding to a  
 14 variety of organizations and causes. But your  
 15 continuing support of services to seniors  
 16 speaks clearly of your priority to support our  
 17 aging community.  
 18 While a thank you seems insufficient, know  
 19 that it is sincere and heartfelt. And that's  
 20 from all of us. Thank you very much.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Okay.

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1 Anybody else on here on my left? Come on  
 2 up. The States Attorney here.  
 3 HONORABLE COALE: Yes. Joe Coale, States  
 4 Attorney's Office.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm not in trouble, right?  
 6 HONORABLE COALE: You're not in trouble,  
 7 not this time.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good.  
 9 HONORABLE COALE: Joseph Coale, States  
 10 Attorney. And I just want to -- I'll be brief,  
 11 too.  
 12 I just wanted to thank the Council for  
 13 your support for public safety and specifically  
 14 for the States Attorney's Office and law  
 15 enforcement in general.  
 16 I wanted to thank Ms. Sparks, Mr. Stamp,  
 17 and their staff for being very professional and  
 18 making my first budget a relatively painless  
 19 process. So on behalf of myself, my office,  
 20 and my staff, thank you.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.



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1 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.  
 2 MR. STAMP: Thank you.  
 3 SPEAKER: The left is gone.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Anybody else? You  
 5 know I was going to say something. You knew I  
 6 was going to say something. All right. It  
 7 will be tonight. You're going to be there  
 8 tonight.  
 9 All right. To my right. Okay. Here is  
 10 the sheriff.  
 11 SHERIFF GAMBLE: I don't want to be the  
 12 spoiler today.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Don't do that to us.  
 14 SHERIFF GAMBLE: So I won't. I'm kidding.  
 15 I just want to thank you, Mr. President,  
 16 Mr. Vice President, Council, for your continued  
 17 support of public safety in this county. I'm  
 18 proud to lead this office. And I'm more proud  
 19 to be a part of this community that values  
 20 public safety, the importance of public safety,  
 21 and your commitment to that.

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1 I can only imagine the difficult decisions  
 2 you have to make between \$128 million budget.  
 3 But thank you from my office. And thank  
 4 you for Mr. Coale's, your commitment to him and  
 5 the States Attorney's Office because without  
 6 them, we would just be spinning our wheels.  
 7 Clay and Jessica, thank you. Martha and  
 8 Kaitlin, thank you both for all the work you  
 9 put in to help us.  
 10 Have a good day.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Sheriff.  
 12 Appreciate it. Okay.  
 13 Anybody else like to come up? Okay.  
 14 MR. LESHHER: So written comments will be  
 15 accepted by the County Council until Friday,  
 16 May 5th, at noon, if there's nobody else to  
 17 testify this afternoon. Until Friday,  
 18 May the 5th, at noon. E-mailed comments can be  
 19 sent to publiccomment@talbotcountymd.gov.  
 20 And so our task now, Mr. President, is to  
 21 recess this hearing so that we can -- the

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1 public hearing on Bill Number 1529 will  
 2 continue at seven o'clock p.m. this evening at  
 3 the Easton Elementary School cafeteria at 307  
 4 Glenwood Avenue.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: And read the back. The  
 6 bill is eligible for vote on Tuesday, May 23rd.  
 7 Okay.  
 8 So at this time, we'll recess and we'll  
 9 move on to...  
 10 MR. LESHHER: So we're closing the -- the  
 11 County Council's next meeting will be held on  
 12 Tuesday, May 9th, at six o'clock p.m. The  
 13 Council will be convening in open session at  
 14 3:30 p.m. for a work session with the local  
 15 delegation to discuss the 2023 State  
 16 legislative session, and then adjourning into  
 17 closed session to discuss real estate, legal,  
 18 and personnel matters, as listed on the  
 19 statement for closing that meeting.  
 20 The work session is open to the public and  
 21 will be held in the Bradley Meeting Room here.

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1 Therefore, is there a motion to recess  
 2 this meeting and reconvene as noted?  
 3 MR. STEPP: So moved.  
 4 MR. LESHHER: I think you opened it up  
 5 before.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. I got a  
 7 motion and second.  
 8 MS. HAYTHE: Second.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and  
 10 second to go ahead and adjourn this meeting.  
 11 MS. MORRIS: Recess.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Recess. I'm sorry. Madam  
 13 Secretary, could you call the vote, please.  
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.  
 17 MR. STEPP: Aye.  
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.  
 19 MR. LESHHER: Aye.  
 20 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.  
 21 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

1 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.  
 2 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. See you this  
 4 evening.  
 5 (Meeting concluded at: 2:30 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 I further certify that the examination was  
 9 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed  
 10 from my stenographic notes to the within printed  
 11 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription  
 12 in a true and accurate manner.

13 I further certify that the stipulations  
 14 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my  
 15 presence.

16 I further certify that I am not of counsel  
 17 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,  
 18 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way  
 19 interested in the outcome of this action.

20 AS WITNESS my hand Notorial Seal this 5th  
 21 day of May, 2023, in Eastern MD



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

My commission expires September 16, 2025

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