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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

May 7, 1:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Keasha N. Haythe

Lynn L. Mielke

Dave Stepp

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

Page 2	Page 4
<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's go ahead and</p> <p>4 get started. I want to welcome everybody.</p> <p>5 Yup. If everybody could go ahead and stand,</p> <p>6 we're going to do the prayer and the Pledge of</p> <p>7 Allegiance of the Flag.</p> <p>8 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,</p> <p>10 Mr. Stepp. Good job. Okay.</p> <p>11 Council, the agenda has been before us,</p> <p>12 May 7th. Is there any additions, deletions, or</p> <p>13 corrections to the agenda?</p> <p>14 MS. HAYTHE: No, Mr. President.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Hearing none, the</p> <p>16 agenda is accepted by unanimous consent. Okay.</p> <p>17 Next is the minutes. Council has had a</p> <p>18 minute to take a look at the minutes of</p> <p>19 April 9th. Is there any additions,</p> <p>20 corrections, or deletions to the minutes?</p> <p>21 MS. HAYTHE: No.</p>	<p>1 American Minds, BAAM, has provided services to</p> <p>2 more than 1,200 African American boys and now</p> <p>3 girls in grades one through six who are at risk</p> <p>4 of academic failure with the knowledge and</p> <p>5 skills necessary to maximize or augment their</p> <p>6 potential as responsible, productive citizens</p> <p>7 through academic, social, and emotional</p> <p>8 learning programs, including after-school</p> <p>9 tutoring services to address health and</p> <p>10 socioeconomic barriers that may prevent the</p> <p>11 students from learning effectively, and</p> <p>12 provides the students and their families with</p> <p>13 an opportunity to attend overnight camping</p> <p>14 trips, sporting events, educational tours,</p> <p>15 museums, amusement parks, and many other events</p> <p>16 which promote family togetherness.</p> <p>17 And whereas, BAAM now also provides</p> <p>18 after-school programming for students in grades</p> <p>19 six through high school, which focuses on</p> <p>20 academics and career readiness and offers a</p> <p>21 summer camp enrichment program for youth that</p>
Page 3	Page 5
<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Hearing none, the chair</p> <p>2 moves that the minutes be accepted as unanimous</p> <p>3 consent.</p> <p>4 Next on the agenda here is the</p> <p>5 disbursements here is of April 30th and</p> <p>6 May 7th. We've taken a look at it. Is there</p> <p>7 any additions, corrections, or deletions to</p> <p>8 that?</p> <p>9 MS. HAYTHE: No.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Hearing none, the</p> <p>11 chair moves that the disbursements be accepted</p> <p>12 as unanimous consent.</p> <p>13 Starting the agenda here, we got a</p> <p>14 Certificate of Recognition of BAAM. Madam</p> <p>15 Secretary, could you go ahead and read that</p> <p>16 into the record, please.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Certificate of Recognition to</p> <p>18 the staff and Board of Directors of Building</p> <p>19 African American Minds, BAAM, Easton, Maryland,</p> <p>20 on its 20th anniversary.</p> <p>21 Whereas, since 2004, Building African</p>	<p>1 attend the after-school program.</p> <p>2 And whereas, BAAM offers a wellness</p> <p>3 matters program, which focuses on physical and</p> <p>4 mental health, a workforce development program</p> <p>5 for youth 18 and over and adults, an athletic</p> <p>6 center for sports activities, including</p> <p>7 basketball and indoor soccer, a summer</p> <p>8 basketball league, and a college scholarship</p> <p>9 program.</p> <p>10 Now, therefore, we, the Talbot County</p> <p>11 Council, do hereby thank founders, Derek and</p> <p>12 Dina Daly, for their vision, acknowledge the</p> <p>13 many partnerships BAAM has formed to accomplish</p> <p>14 its goals, recognize the important</p> <p>15 contributions of BAAM to the Talbot County</p> <p>16 community at large, and wish the organization</p> <p>17 even greater success in the next 20 years.</p> <p>18 Given under our hands in the great seal of</p> <p>19 Talbot County this 7th day of May in the year</p> <p>20 of our Lord, 2024.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.</p>

Page 6	Page 8
<p>1 Okay.</p> <p>2 Is there a motion?</p> <p>3 MS. HAYTHE: Motion.</p> <p>4 MR. LESHHER: Second.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. A motion and second</p> <p>6 to go ahead and recognize that as presented.</p> <p>7 Madam Secretary, could you call the roll,</p> <p>8 please.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>12 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.</p> <p>14 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>16 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>18 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You guys want to</p> <p>20 come on up?</p> <p>21 MS. DALY: Yeah.</p>	<p>1 MS. DALY: We're getting ready for our</p> <p>2 eighth annual BAAM Fest this weekend.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.</p> <p>4 MS. DALY: And we'll start with our</p> <p>5 basketball tournament. We've decided to change</p> <p>6 it a little bit this year. So we start on</p> <p>7 Friday from six o'clock. We'll have hopefully</p> <p>8 eight teams, three on three.</p> <p>9 So if you have youth that you know are</p> <p>10 interested, we still have some slots available.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.</p> <p>12 MS. DALY: And then our BAAM Fest kicks</p> <p>13 off on Saturday at noon.</p> <p>14 But prior to that, we're doing ribbon</p> <p>15 cutting for the new soccer field that Mr. Ryan</p> <p>16 and Tonya Beason has worked to rebuild.</p> <p>17 And some of you will be there to help us</p> <p>18 cut the ribbon. We're excited to have this</p> <p>19 opportunity to be able to share what we do with</p> <p>20 our community.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good. And you want</p>
Page 7	Page 9
<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.</p> <p>2 SPEAKER: It's a small room, guys.</p> <p>3 MS. HAYTHE: Have them sit or stand there?</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: If you want to just -- hey,</p> <p>5 Derek, we wanted you guys to sit in the seats</p> <p>6 for two seconds.</p> <p>7 MS. DALY: Oh.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: If you don't mind. And</p> <p>9 then we'll come on up for pictures.</p> <p>10 MS. HAYTHE: Just for some remarks,</p> <p>11 please.</p> <p>12 SPEAKER: And just stand behind.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. That's great.</p> <p>14 MR. DALY: Sit in these seats?</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup.</p> <p>16 SPEAKER: There's three chairs.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: We'll just give you a few</p> <p>18 minutes to go ahead and tell everybody what</p> <p>19 you're up to and what you're doing and yes.</p> <p>20 MS. HAYTHE: And what you have going on</p> <p>21 this weekend, too.</p>	<p>1 to share a little bit about the new building</p> <p>2 going up?</p> <p>3 MS. DALY: It's happening. And every time</p> <p>4 I go inside, my heart just stops because it's</p> <p>5 actually a dream that we've formed 20 years</p> <p>6 ago.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.</p> <p>8 MS. DALY: This was a dream. And so it's</p> <p>9 happening. And hopefully by mid October, it</p> <p>10 will be completed.</p> <p>11 We'll have 12 classrooms, a library, media</p> <p>12 center. You know, lots of space for community</p> <p>13 partners to join us.</p> <p>14 And we already working with Chesapeake</p> <p>15 College to be able to do evening classes there,</p> <p>16 GED. And we hope to do some workforce</p> <p>17 development programming as well there.</p> <p>18 So very excited about that. Thank you for</p> <p>19 asking.</p> <p>20 MR. RYAN: I would add I'd be remiss if I</p> <p>21 didn't plug on our first floor, if you walk</p>

Page 10

1 down Jowite Street and look at the building, on
 2 the first floor, left-hand side is going to be
 3 a very beautiful library. And one of the
 4 things, of course, it's for our kids.
 5 But we received a number of suggestions
 6 about having a section, an adult section
 7 specifically for history. So we have now
 8 120-odd adult history books. And our plan is
 9 in the future to host sort of history weekend
 10 where we would bring in historians, artists,
 11 writers to the library to give presentations.
 12 Sort of like historical Plein Air.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Exactly. So if you don't
 14 mind, could you go ahead and introduce
 15 yourselves, please? That would be great, so
 16 people know.
 17 MS. DALY: I'm Dina Daly.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
 19 MR. DALY: Derek Daly.
 20 MR. RYAN: Bill Ryan.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Do you want to introduce

Page 11

1 some of the people in the back here? Yes.
 2 MR. MOON: Jamiko Moon, facilities
 3 manager.
 4 MR. WILSON: Lance Wilson, board member.
 5 MR. MARKS: Richard Marks, board member.
 6 MR. BELL: James Bell, director of
 7 instruction.
 8 MS. SHORT: Debbie Short, program director
 9 for elementary kids.
 10 DR. McCOY: COO for PBA BAAM.
 11 MR. REDMAN: James Redman, head of school,
 12 PBA.
 13 MS. GREENE: Ty Greene. I just do a
 14 little bit of everything.
 15 MS. DALY: She's the constant staple.
 16 MR. DEVEREAUX: Jair Devereaux, board
 17 member.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: So that sounds great.
 19 MR. RYAN: I think, Derek, you might want
 20 to add. We didn't speak directly about PBA.
 21 You should add because the building is going to

Page 12

1 be used during the school day as well as after
 2 school in the evening.
 3 MR. DALY: So Polaris Village Academy was
 4 created a few years ago to offer additional
 5 educational services to the community.
 6 We offer our services to everyone. At the
 7 time, we started with one class and we
 8 currently have second graders.
 9 James Redman came on board was it last
 10 year?
 11 MR. REDMAN: November.
 12 MR. DALY: Yeah. And also Lois McCoy came
 13 on last year. And they have just been moving
 14 everything forward.
 15 And I just want to make one point that
 16 when we did start BAAM, it was for everyone.
 17 We predominantly just focus on the African
 18 American community, but everyone is welcome.
 19 So I just want to make that point.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Thank you.
 21 Okay. Council. Mr. Stepp.

Page 13

1 MR. STEPP: No, guys. Thank you for
 2 everything. It's really exciting to see the
 3 construction going on. It's significant. You
 4 guys have, you've come a long way and done a
 5 lot of great things in 20 years. So thank you.
 6 MS. DALY: Thank you.
 7 MR. LESHNER: Congratulations on this
 8 occasion and for all the ways in which you are
 9 serving the community. It's really a
 10 meaningful impact and so many of us appreciate
 11 it. Thank you.
 12 MS. MIELKE: Thank you for all you do.
 13 It's a tremendous project and a successful one.
 14 MS. HAYTHE: So I did not know that this
 15 was the anniversary until I started seeing a
 16 lot of stuff on social media. And at that
 17 time, thought that it was very important,
 18 critically important to recognize the
 19 organization for the number of years that
 20 you've been in this community and serving the
 21 boys and girls in this community.

Page 14

1 So we wanted to make sure we got together
 2 as a Council. And I'm thankful to my
 3 colleagues for bringing you in after you've
 4 been in the community for all this time.
 5 So thank you for the outstanding work that
 6 you do.
 7 I'll never forget the day when Debbie went
 8 to work for BAAM. I remember that Sunday very
 9 well. And just may God just continue to bless
 10 all the work that you're doing for BAAM.
 11 MS. DALY: Thank you.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: And I would agree with my
 13 colleagues. I can't thank you guys enough.
 14 And we're blessed to have you, within that
 15 facility and in that community to, you know,
 16 rise up and help that community. And we
 17 really, really appreciate it. You've made a
 18 mark on Port Street, Glenwood. And we really
 19 do thank you for all you're doing, we really
 20 do.
 21 MS. DALY: We're not finished yet. More

Page 15

1 to come.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: I bet you do. I bet you
 3 do.
 4 If you guys come on up, we got something
 5 for you.
 6 MS. DALY: So I have pins for each one of
 7 you. I'm going to leave it here.
 8 SPEAKER: This is where the photos are
 9 taken.
 10 MR. STAMP: What a great picture.
 11 MS. KILMON: I think I can get everyone.
 12 All right. Ready? Over here. Ready? One,
 13 two, three. There we go.
 14 SPEAKER: Okay. And one for The Star
 15 Democrat.
 16 MS. DALY: Say cheese.
 17 SPEAKER: One, two, and three. Y'all look
 18 great.
 19 MS. DALY: Thank you so much.
 20 MR. LESHER: Pleasure.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We have another

Page 16

1 proclamation for Motorcycle Safety Awareness
 2 Month. Madam Secretary, when you get a chance,
 3 could you go ahead read that into the record,
 4 please.
 5 SECRETARY: Proclamation for Motor Vehicle
 6 Safety and Awareness Month, May 2024.
 7 Whereas, safety is our highest priority
 8 for the streets and roadways of our county.
 9 And whereas, Talbot County is proud to be
 10 a supporter of motorcycle safety, education,
 11 and awareness.
 12 And whereas, motorcycles are a common and
 13 economical means of transportation that reduces
 14 fuel consumption and road wear and contributes
 15 in a significant way to the relief of traffic
 16 and parking congestion.
 17 And whereas, it is especially meaningful
 18 that the citizens of our county and State be
 19 aware of motorcycles on the roadways and
 20 recognize the importance of motorcycle safety.
 21 And whereas, the members of the Midshore

Page 17

1 Chapter of ABATE of Maryland continually
 2 promote motorcycle safety, education, and
 3 awareness to the general public in our county
 4 and State.
 5 And whereas, all roadway users should
 6 unite in the safety, sharing of roads -- the
 7 safe sharing of roads in Talbot County and
 8 throughout Maryland.
 9 Now, therefore, be it resolved that we,
 10 the County Council of Talbot County, do hereby
 11 proclaim May 2024 as Motorcycle Safety and
 12 Awareness Month in Talbot County and encourage
 13 all motorists and citizens to join together in
 14 an effort to improve safety and awareness on
 15 our roadways.
 16 Given under our hands in the great seal of
 17 Talbot County this 7th day of May in the year
 18 of our Lord, 2024.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Madam
 20 Secretary.
 21 Is there a motion?

Page 18

1 MS. MIELKE: So moved.
 2 MR. STEPP: So moved.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 4 second to go ahead and put it into the record.
 5 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
 9 MR. STEPP: Aye.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 11 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 13 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 15 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Ken, you want to
 17 come on up. Welcome.
 18 MR. EATON: Good afternoon.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Good afternoon.
 20 MR. EATON: We'd like to thank the county
 21 for proclaiming this as, May as Motorcycle

Page 19

1 Safety and Awareness Month.
 2 We kicked off the month at the Salisbury
 3 MVA on the 1st. We had MDOT come out. We did
 4 a fast track licensing program that day. We
 5 got a proclamation from the governor to
 6 proclaim it across the State.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Nice.
 8 MR. EATON: And we're currently working on
 9 overhead signs throughout the State doing some
 10 watch for motorcycles.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.
 12 MR. EATON: Type of messages.
 13 I have with me today one of our
 14 coordinators from our local chapter, Mark
 15 Kurzner. He's the Queen Anne's County
 16 coordinator.
 17 I am the local chapter director as well as
 18 the executive director for the State.
 19 And Marianne Jackson is here representing
 20 a national motorcycle rights organization,
 21 Motorcycle Riders Foundation. She's the State

Page 20

1 of Maryland representative.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great.
 3 That's good. We really appreciate it.
 4 Council.
 5 MR. STEPP: No, guys. Glad to do this
 6 again for you. It's been a year already.
 7 Incredibly important. Look twice, save a life.
 8 Right?
 9 MR. EATON: Correct.
 10 MR. STEPP: Amen.
 11 MS. JACKSON: We have signs that say that.
 12 You can put in your front yard.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good.
 14 MR. LESHNER: Thank you for what you're
 15 doing to promote motorcycle safety. May it
 16 save more lives.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
 18 MS. MIELKE: In the words of Steppenwolf,
 19 keep the motors running and out on the highway.
 20 But with ABATE, do it safely.
 21 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah. I concur with Dave.

Page 21

1 It's been a year already.
 2 But to keep doing this every year, that
 3 just keeps it in front of people to make sure
 4 that we're looking and that we're sharing the
 5 road with our fellow motorcycle drivers.
 6 So we greatly appreciate it. And glad
 7 that the governor is recognizing it as well
 8 across the State of Maryland.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. That's good. We
 10 really appreciate all you guys have done.
 11 So we got something for you. Come on up.
 12 Okay.
 13 MS. JACKSON: Can we add? This is ABATE's
 14 50th anniversary in the State of Maryland this
 15 year. We've been doing this for 50 years.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Wow.
 17 MS. HAYTHE: Wow.
 18 MR. STAMP: Okay. Ready? One, two, and
 19 three. Good. Thank you.
 20 SPEAKER: Okay. And one more. One, two,
 21 and three. Great.

Page 22

1 MR. EATON: Thank you very much.
 2 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate it. Thank you
 4 for all you're doing.
 5 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you so much for coming
 6 in. Appreciate it.
 7 MS. JACKSON: We really appreciate it.
 8 MS. HAYTHE: Always good to see you. Have
 9 a good one.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next up we have
 11 another proclamation for Correctional Officer
 12 and Employee of the Week from May 5th to the
 13 11th. So Madam Secretary, could you go ahead
 14 and read that into the record, please.
 15 SECRETARY: Proclamation, Correctional
 16 Officers and Employees Week May 5, 2024,
 17 through May 11, 2024.
 18 Whereas, correctional officers and
 19 employees staff the Talbot County Detention
 20 Center for the purpose of maintaining custody,
 21 security, control of every inmate every hour of

Page 23

1 every day of every week of every month of every
 2 year.
 3 And whereas, the correctional officers and
 4 employees of the Talbot County Department of
 5 Corrections are essential to the county's
 6 criminal justice system and public safety by
 7 not only maintaining custody, security, and
 8 control of individuals committed to the
 9 Detention Center, but also by creating
 10 opportunities for inmates to resolve those
 11 personal issues that led to their
 12 incarceration.
 13 And whereas, the correctional officers and
 14 employees of the Talbot County Department of
 15 Corrections are responsible for the
 16 administration and operation of a variety of
 17 programs and services beyond the walls of the
 18 Department of Corrections, including, but not
 19 limited to, work release, electronic home
 20 monitoring, and community service.
 21 And whereas, the important work of

Page 24

1 correctional officers and employees rarely
 2 receives the recognition from the public it
 3 deserves. Yet the professionalism, dedication,
 4 and courage routinely exhibited by these
 5 employees in the performance of assigned duties
 6 is worthy of and deserves our utmost respect.
 7 And whereas, Talbot County is most
 8 fortunate to employ this highly professional,
 9 deeply committed, and extremely capable cadre
 10 of correctional officers and employees.
 11 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of
 12 Talbot County, do hereby proclaim the week of
 13 May 5th through the 11th, 2024, as Correctional
 14 Officers and Employees Week in Talbot County
 15 and encourage all citizens of the county to
 16 recognize, acknowledge, and appreciate the many
 17 contributions made by these individuals to the
 18 safety of our community and to the quality of
 19 life enjoyed by all residents of and visitors
 20 to Talbot County.
 21 Given under our hands in the great seal of

Page 25

1 Talbot County this 7th day of May in the year
 2 of our Lord, 2024.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Madam
 4 Secretary.
 5 Is there a motion?
 6 MR. STEPP: So moved.
 7 MR. LESHER: Second.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 9 second to go ahead and put this into the
 10 record. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 11 vote.
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
 15 MR. STEPP: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshler.
 17 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 19 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 21 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

Page 26

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great. So
 2 Joe and Cindy, you want to come on up?
 3 Welcome.
 4 MR. HUGHES: How are you?
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Good.
 6 MR. HUGHES: I would like to thank the
 7 Council for recognizing --
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Could you tell us who you
 9 are? Yes.
 10 MR. HUGHES: Joe Hughes, deputy director.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 12 MS. GREEN: Cindy Green, security captain.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great.
 14 MR. HUGHES: First I'd like to thank the
 15 Council for recognition of the Correctional
 16 Officer Week.
 17 But this Council has done more for, with
 18 us for the whole year. So it's not -- we're
 19 being recognized for this week, but we feel we
 20 want to thank y'all for the whole year because
 21 you recognize the correction officers all year

Page 27

1 long.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.
 3 MR. HUGHES: And it's more than just one
 4 week. Correctional officers, and I've been in
 5 corrections 30 years, and these are some of the
 6 best correction officers I've worked with.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.
 8 MR. HUGHES: They're dedicated,
 9 professional. And they're all doing -- it's
 10 always something new every day.
 11 And corrections has changed over the
 12 years. When I first got in corrections, it's a
 13 totally different corrections now.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 15 MR. HUGHES: And these guys are willing to
 16 step forward and move forward with the new
 17 plans and the new ways to help the inmates.
 18 We're trying to -- we don't want them to
 19 come back. We want to see them out at Walmart
 20 and say hey, how are you doing. And then they
 21 say hey, it's good to see you on the outside.

Page 28

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 2 MR. HUGHES: And not on the inside. Then
 3 we know we're doing our job, too.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 5 MS. GREEN: I just want to second his
 6 sentiments. I really do appreciate the Council
 7 supporting us throughout the years. I've been
 8 with the county for 13 years. Plan on being
 9 with you for a good while.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good.
 11 MS. GREEN: So thank you for your support.
 12 Thank you to our officers, my officers
 13 because I've been with all of them since I
 14 started.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.
 16 MS. GREEN: So it's been good to see the
 17 growth.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. That's great.
 19 Okay. Council.
 20 Were you getting ready to say something?
 21 MR. STAMP: After Council.

Page 29

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 2 MR. STEPP: No. I'll echo the thanks. I
 3 mean you're sending thanks up here, but I want
 4 to send the thanks right back to you guys
 5 because I mean we do try and recognize you
 6 throughout the year.
 7 But what you guys are doing 24/7/365 and I
 8 guess every four years 366, it's not going
 9 unnoticed. So thank you guys for that.
 10 And also, I got a chance to thank Director
 11 Kokolis about your audit results. So I just
 12 want to thank you guys now that you are all
 13 here, again, on all that you do to bring that
 14 title home to Talbot County. So thank you.
 15 MR. LESHAR: Mr. Hughes, Ms. Green, thank
 16 you.
 17 And thank you to all of the corrections
 18 officers who are here today. We couldn't have
 19 the accredited facility, we couldn't have the
 20 daily safety of our community, we couldn't have
 21 the humane treatment for our inmates without

Page 30

1 the professionalism that you bring to your jobs
 2 every day. And we're grateful for that.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
 4 MS. MIELKE: Hard to add to that.
 5 But I will say that we really, truly, on
 6 behalf of the entire county, are grateful for
 7 all you do, all you contribute, and the length
 8 of time that you do that. So thank you so much
 9 for everything.
 10 MS. HAYTHE: And I'll echo what my
 11 colleagues said.
 12 And being a new Council member, really
 13 being able to go over and see the facility and
 14 see what's needed for the inmates. I mean that
 15 was really eyeopening for me, being a new
 16 Council member.
 17 And so, you know, you have the support of
 18 this Council. And I'm glad to see we're going
 19 to get that shower fixed.
 20 MS. GREEN: Yes.
 21 MS. HAYTHE: So that is a good thing.

Page 31

1 And so we're here to support. We're here
 2 to encourage all of you in the work that you do
 3 working for the county. And we're here to make
 4 Talbot County better.
 5 So we thank you for your dedication,
 6 Mr. Hughes and Cindy. We thank you for your
 7 leadership. We thank you for your dedication
 8 and all of the years that you've put in working
 9 and supporting Talbot County and probably
 10 training some of those that are here today. So
 11 thank you all.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: And I'll just add to it,
 13 too. Ms. Green and Mr. Hughes, it's very,
 14 very -- we're blessed to have people like
 15 yourself that are dedicated to serving the
 16 community, trying to help the community,
 17 because we want to help. We don't want to
 18 damage. We want to help. That way, like you
 19 said, Mr. Hughes, they don't come back, you
 20 know.
 21 And I want to commend you guys, too, all

Page 32

1 the employees that work day and night. You
 2 know, when we're sleeping, you're protecting us
 3 and making sure that things are safe around
 4 here, too.
 5 And I know that's hard. I know it's hard
 6 on the families. And we really appreciate the
 7 spouses and girlfriends and boyfriends, you
 8 know, helping out, too. Because it's not only
 9 you guys, you have families. So we want, as a
 10 Council, we want to thank them, too, for all of
 11 the family situations that you put yourself
 12 through and dedicate to Talbot County. And we
 13 really appreciate that. That's for sure.
 14 Mr. Stamp.
 15 MR. STAMP: Well, the Council has spoken
 16 well.
 17 As county manager, I'm just very proud to
 18 work with all of you.
 19 The word inspire comes to my mind because
 20 in the old days, we ran a jail. And in the new
 21 days, there is a level of compassion that I

Page 33

1 haven't seen in other places where you
 2 understand people make mistakes and you help
 3 them get from one side to the other.
 4 And you're all about giving somebody a
 5 second chance. And that level of compassion is
 6 inspirational and it's appreciated. Thank you.
 7 MS. GREEN: Thank you.
 8 MR. HUGHES: Thank you.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Great words.
 10 So guys, want to come on up. We got
 11 something for you. Bring the whole gang up
 12 here, that would be fine.
 13 MS. KILMON: Good. All right. Pete slip
 14 to the front. Lots of tall -- there you go.
 15 There you go.
 16 Looking good. I think I see all the
 17 faces. Lynn and Keasha, I'm going to need you
 18 to like move.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: We're good?
 20 MS. HAYTHE: Can you see us?
 21 MS. KILMON: I see the heads.

Page 34

1 MR. STAMP: You want to come down? Maybe
 2 Keasha come down?
 3 MS. KILMON: I lost Lynn again. Lynn, can
 4 you move to the side of Mr. Stepp, on the other
 5 side?
 6 MS. MIELKE: Girl, boy, girl, boy.
 7 MR. LESHHER: Got tall people up here I
 8 guess.
 9 MS. KILMON: There we go. Now we got
 10 everyone.
 11 Okay. You guys ready? One, two, three.
 12 Okay.
 13 SPEAKER: And one more. One, two, and
 14 three. Thank you.
 15 MR. LESHHER: Thank you, all.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That was great.
 17 That was great. Okay.
 18 So at this time, we're going to go ahead
 19 and do the public hearing and get ready to go
 20 ahead and open the hearing with the constant
 21 yield.

Page 35

1 Mr. Leshher, would you mind reading that,
 2 please?
 3 MR. LESHHER: Mr. Callahan has called this
 4 public hearing to order. There are two public
 5 hearings today.
 6 If you wish to speak at either of these
 7 hearings, please state your full name and
 8 address for the record. You will be given
 9 three minutes to speak if you are representing
 10 yourself, five minutes to speak if speaking on
 11 behalf of a group or association.
 12 The County Council -- this is for the
 13 constant yield public hearing. The County
 14 Council in the fiscal year 2025 proposed budget
 15 is proposing to adopt a real property tax rate
 16 of 79.10 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation
 17 for all properties located outside the
 18 incorporated towns. This includes an education
 19 supplement of 4 cents for the increase in
 20 funding for Talbot County Public Schools and is
 21 4.76 higher than the current real property tax

Page 36

1 rate.
 2 This rate is 9.5 percent higher than the
 3 constant yield rate of 72.73 cents and will
 4 generate \$3,653,550 more in property tax
 5 revenues in fiscal year 2025 from the
 6 unincorporated area of the county.
 7 Properties located within the incorporated
 8 towns will again be granted a tax rate
 9 differential, which sets their real property
 10 tax rates between 6.01 and 13.3 cents lower
 11 than the county rate.
 12 The county real property tax rates for
 13 properties located within the towns are higher
 14 than the constant yield rate for the towns.
 15 The County Council will not adopt the
 16 fiscal 2025 tax rate today. Fiscal year 2025
 17 tax rate will be adopted as part of the fiscal
 18 year 2024-2025 annual budget and appropriation
 19 ordinance, currently scheduled for adoption on
 20 Tuesday, May 28, 2024.
 21 We now open the public hearing to comments

Page 37

1 from the general public, if there is anybody
 2 who wishes to do so.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yes. Ray, you're
 4 over here. You're from The Star Democrat. You
 5 guys want to come up? Okay.
 6 You guys, anybody would like -- yes, yes,
 7 sir. Come on up.
 8 DR. COPPERSMITH: Is this the one where
 9 I'm supposed to do my comments or not?
 10 MR. STAMP: No. That will be the next
 11 one.
 12 MS. MORRIS: Next one.
 13 DR. COPPERSMITH: Okay.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.
 15 Anybody else would like to come up? Okay.
 16 MR. LESHHER: We then will close the public
 17 hearing on the constant yield tax rate.
 18 And for -- if Ms. Moran will please read
 19 the title of Bill Number 1553.
 20 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1553, an act to
 21 establish the 2024-2025 annual budget and

Page 38

1 appropriation ordinance.

2 MR. LESHHER: And we have a PowerPoint

3 presentation. Mr. Stamp, you have staff

4 prepared to do this?

5 MR. STAMP: Yes, we are. Thank you,

6 Council.

7 Gives me pleasure to be able to sit here

8 before you today and, number one, thank a lot

9 of people for a lot of hard work.

10 Just for the public's awareness, this

11 process began with the strategic planning

12 process. Began in November through December,

13 which sets the priorities of the Council

14 through goals and objectives. And then we flow

15 into a period of budgeting between January and

16 April.

17 And a lot of hard work was put into this

18 effort.

19 I'd like to take the opportunity to thank

20 Council for your leadership.

21 Also like to thank Martha Sparks and

Page 39

1 Kaitlin Foster Clark and Jessica Morris

2 especially and the department heads and the

3 leaders of the numerous organizations and

4 agencies around the county who worked with us

5 to figure out how to supply the best that we

6 can. Clearly we can't meet all the needs, but

7 we did our best.

8 I want to take just a minute to go through

9 a couple of things.

10 Overarchingly, we continue to strive

11 toward recognition of our historical and

12 successful conservative budgeting process. We

13 try to use those skills of overestimating

14 expenses so that we come in under and

15 underestimating revenues so that we do better

16 on the revenue side. Those have served us well

17 in the past. We continue to do that.

18 We also are proud of the fact, as Council

19 is, that we still maintain a healthy fund

20 balance. That's a savings account. And it's

21 important to have that in these uncertain

Page 40

1 economic times that we are in.

2 We don't know what's in front of us. So

3 we have a bit of a buffer to make sure we can

4 navigate those waters as they move by.

5 And then finally, we continue to realize

6 some of the lowest property and income tax in

7 the State of Maryland with any county. And

8 Martha Sparks will go through that in more

9 detail as we go forward.

10 Finally, this Council continues in this

11 budget to prioritize both public safety and

12 education, trying to meet the needs of all

13 other areas. But those are definitely

14 prioritized.

15 We use an overarching strategy in

16 addressing the management of county services as

17 looking at what I call the three P strategy.

18 That's looking at personnel, processes, and

19 projects.

20 Personnel, under personnel we find

21 ourselves right now in a very challenging

Page 41

1 period of time with our workforce. So great

2 efforts are made to retain our workforce and,

3 of course, recruit new talent in all areas of

4 county government.

5 We all recognize that it is the employees

6 that drive the successes that we realize in our

7 quest to be good public servants for our

8 community.

9 Finally, processes. And that is really

10 about looking at the old way we've done things

11 and leveraging technology and to address these

12 processes to make them more fluid and just to

13 improve the processes in general.

14 And then finally projects. We have a

15 number of projects that we propose in this

16 budget that address infrastructure, public

17 safety, education, and so on. I'll talk a

18 little bit about those.

19 But before moving forward, just a snapshot

20 of where we are today in the FY24 budget.

21 We're coming into the last several months. I'm

Page 42

1 happy to report that we are on target to meet
 2 the budget, which is the goal.
 3 We've seen a lot of accomplishments occur
 4 in the past year.
 5 We are proud of the airport modernization
 6 project, which is a multiphase project to
 7 address needs to make our airport a safer
 8 airport for those that use it.
 9 We're happy that we have a new gymnasium,
 10 pickleball court.
 11 Completion of the Health Department
 12 facility. We will see in June of this year
 13 that we have a new location for our Health
 14 Department.
 15 We've seen capital improvements with our
 16 Region II wastewater treatment plant and
 17 extending sewer, rescuing failing septic
 18 systems and, therefore, improving the
 19 environment. We're proud about that, as well
 20 as infrastructure enhancements to the
 21 courthouse, corrections, road repairs and

Page 43

1 upgrades across the 370 miles of county
 2 roadways, and a number of other projects that
 3 we are very proud in trying to be good public
 4 servants for our community.
 5 With that, Council, I'm going to hand this
 6 presentation over to Martha Sparks, your
 7 finance director. And thank you, Martha.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Welcome.
 9 MS. SPARKS: Good afternoon, Council.
 10 Always good to be before you.
 11 So today and previously, staff presented
 12 to Council a balanced general fund budget of
 13 \$163,970,000 for the 2025 fiscal year.
 14 This budget continues the county's
 15 conservative budgeting methodology. These
 16 budget practices have served the county well
 17 and have placed us in a healthy financial
 18 position.
 19 Some highlights from the 2025 budget
 20 include revenues that are two percent over FY24
 21 revenues, which are in accordance with the

Page 44

1 county charter. We also added one cent to the
 2 property tax rate, as authorized by the voters
 3 of Talbot County in November 2020 to support
 4 and enhance public safety, a four-cent
 5 education supplement to support Talbot County
 6 schools budget initiatives.
 7 The funding to Talbot County Public
 8 Schools of 54.6 million is an increase of
 9 3.65 million from their FY24 funding and is
 10 2.8 million above the local share funding which
 11 is required from the State.
 12 This changed slightly. We received final
 13 calculations from MSDE on our local, required
 14 local share. And our required local share
 15 decreased by \$200,000. But that did not affect
 16 the support that Council has already included
 17 in the budget. So the total funding has been
 18 set. It was just our local share that
 19 decreased through those final calculations.
 20 Capital improvement project funding, also
 21 identified as CIP funding, for Talbot County

Page 45

1 Public Schools includes 16.9 million for our
 2 capital project request for the Chapel District
 3 Elementary School renovations and 1.5 million
 4 in additional CIP funding that Council has
 5 appropriated for TCPS to determine the priority
 6 of its use against its CIP requests.
 7 For county operations, this budget has
 8 included a 3 percent cost of living adjustment
 9 and one step for county employees.
 10 In this budget, the county has continued
 11 its investment in public safety by adding four
 12 public safety communications specialists, the
 13 public will recognize that as 911 operators,
 14 and also one student resource officer
 15 supervisor for the Sheriff's Office.
 16 The county has also increased its
 17 appropriations to outside agencies by
 18 \$1.2 million.
 19 Fund balance reserves will be used to make
 20 a significant investment in county
 21 infrastructure.

Page 46

1 Capital improvement projects in the FY25
 2 budget in the amount of 27.5 million. Fund
 3 balance reserves will also be used to invest
 4 2.98 million for the purchase of vehicles and
 5 equipment recognized in this budget as capital
 6 outlay.

7 In our FY25 budget, we have projected a
 8 12.3 percent increase in property tax revenues,
 9 a 19 percent increase in income tax revenues
 10 that reflect a slight modification to budgeting
 11 for our income taxes to align with the revenues
 12 that we've realized over the last five years.

13 These revenues are historically volatile
 14 for the county and must be carefully projected
 15 and monitored.

16 These increases, combined with projected
 17 increases of other local taxes, governmental
 18 revenues, and non-recurring transfers of impact
 19 fees from the development impact fund, along
 20 with the non-recurring transfers of fund
 21 balance reserves, will bring us to an overall

Page 47

1 increase in revenues of 27.26 percent.
 2 Talbot County received most of its
 3 revenues from property and income taxes.
 4 Together they make up 81.1 percent of the
 5 county's operating revenues and 60.5 percent of
 6 total FY25 budgeted revenues.

7 Recordation and transfer taxes are the
 8 next largest group of county revenues,
 9 contributing approximately 8.6 million of the
 10 county's operating revenues.

11 In FY21 and FY22, Talbot County
 12 experienced its highest level of recordation
 13 and transfer tax revenues. In FY23 and FY24,
 14 these revenues moved to more normal levels.
 15 And our FY25 budget projections are in
 16 alignment with those levels.

17 These revenues are heavily tied to
 18 activity in the real estate market in Talbot
 19 County.

20 The county has historically made very
 21 conservative projections of its revenues due to

Page 48

1 the volatility of its income, recordation, and
 2 transfer tax revenues. This strategy of
 3 underbudgeting our revenues has enabled us to
 4 build healthy reserves.

5 In this budget cycle, we've modified our
 6 approach by more accurately projecting revenues
 7 to be in alignment with the revenues the county
 8 has received over the last five years. This
 9 realignment shifts us away from building
 10 reserves and shifts us more to supporting our
 11 general fund operating expenditures.

12 In November 2020, the voters in Talbot
 13 County supported an amendment to our Charter
 14 that enabled 1 cent to be added to our property
 15 tax rate for the support of the county's
 16 expenditures related to public safety. This
 17 began in fiscal year 22 and will end with the
 18 fiscal year 26 budget.

19 Council has an opportunity to create a
 20 ballot initiative to be included on the ballot
 21 in November 2024 if it chooses to ask the

Page 49

1 citizens to vote to continue this valuable
 2 support to the county's public safety, which
 3 includes the Sheriff's Office, the Detention
 4 Center, and the Department of Emergency
 5 Services.

6 The county has used the revenues from 1
 7 cent for enhancing public safety for 26
 8 positions, including additional deputies,
 9 school resource officers for our schools,
 10 paramedics, EMTs, and 911 operators, a career
 11 ladder to the Department of Emergency Services,
 12 and the inclusion of the Sheriff's Office,
 13 paramedics, and EMTs into the LEOPS retirement
 14 plan and the Department of Corrections's
 15 officers inclusion in the CORS retirement plan.

16 LEOPS and CORS are enhanced retirement
 17 programs through the Maryland State retirement
 18 and pension system for public safety employees.

19 As you can see from the slide, each year
 20 the county has used more than the revenues
 21 generated from that 1 cent to enhance public

Page 50	Page 52
<p>1 safety personnel serving the citizens and</p> <p>2 visitors to Talbot County.</p> <p>3 Here is a slide of our five-year history</p> <p>4 of our property taxes.</p> <p>5 Our proposed property tax rate of .7910</p> <p>6 for county-owned properties was calculated</p> <p>7 using property tax revenues 2 percent over FY24</p> <p>8 revenues in accordance with our Charter and</p> <p>9 with prior year revenue levels that are</p> <p>10 certified by the State Department of</p> <p>11 Assessments and Taxation.</p> <p>12 It includes the revenues from one</p> <p>13 additional cent to -- the rate also includes</p> <p>14 the one additional cent to support public</p> <p>15 safety and a 4-cent educational supplement to</p> <p>16 support Talbot County schools's budget</p> <p>17 initiatives.</p> <p>18 An overall property tax rate will increase</p> <p>19 4.76 cents over FY24, which amounts to a</p> <p>20 6.4 percent increase.</p> <p>21 The county tax bill for a home with a</p>	<p>1 those are charged to all districts in the</p> <p>2 county.</p> <p>3 So once I added those together, they are</p> <p>4 comparable to what is included in ours. So I</p> <p>5 made that adjustment, and it accurately</p> <p>6 reflects our standing.</p> <p>7 So all I can say is this was one of the</p> <p>8 few times that you'll ever hear me say that I'm</p> <p>9 glad we came last.</p> <p>10 For income tax rates compared to other</p> <p>11 counties, Talbot County has the second lowest</p> <p>12 income tax rate in 2024.</p> <p>13 Fitch Ratings best describes Talbot</p> <p>14 County's income tax revenues when it said</p> <p>15 income taxes are a higher percentage of</p> <p>16 revenues than is true for most Maryland</p> <p>17 counties. This is particularly due to the very</p> <p>18 low tax environment compared with the rest of</p> <p>19 the State, which provides incentive for a small</p> <p>20 number of high income earners with second homes</p> <p>21 to declare their income in the county.</p>
Page 51	Page 53
<p>1 property assessment of \$300,000 will increase</p> <p>2 from \$2,230.20 to \$2,373, a \$142.80 increase,</p> <p>3 \$120 which is attributable to the education</p> <p>4 supplement. And we've provided a sample of</p> <p>5 what a homeowner's tax bill would like look</p> <p>6 here.</p> <p>7 Here you can see the property tax rates of</p> <p>8 Baltimore City and the 23 counties in Maryland.</p> <p>9 This information comes from the Maryland State</p> <p>10 Department of Assessments and Taxation website.</p> <p>11 And as you can see, that Talbot County has the</p> <p>12 second -- has the lowest property tax rate in</p> <p>13 Maryland.</p> <p>14 This has changed from the previous</p> <p>15 schedule that I presented back to you in April</p> <p>16 because while I went to SDAT for the rates for</p> <p>17 all of the counties, upon review of Montgomery</p> <p>18 County's property tax rate schedule, they have</p> <p>19 property tax rate components that are</p> <p>20 comparable to ours for our education tax,</p> <p>21 general county, they have a fire district. And</p>	<p>1 This is why Talbot County's income tax</p> <p>2 revenues are volatile and difficult to predict.</p> <p>3 And that is due to the small percentage of high</p> <p>4 wage earners that claim Talbot County as their</p> <p>5 home.</p> <p>6 Our FY25 budget represents an increase in</p> <p>7 projections at 37 million, which is in</p> <p>8 alignment with levels that we've received over</p> <p>9 the last five years.</p> <p>10 Overall, education expenditures for Talbot</p> <p>11 County represent 37.7 percent of its total</p> <p>12 budget. This includes expenses for Talbot</p> <p>13 County Public Schools, Chesapeake College, and</p> <p>14 the Talbot County Free Library. Talbot County</p> <p>15 Public Schools alone represent 43.4 percent of</p> <p>16 the county's operating expenditures.</p> <p>17 This schedule or this chart in front of</p> <p>18 you is total general fund expenditures, but our</p> <p>19 operating expenditures are those recurring</p> <p>20 expenditures that we will have every year, as</p> <p>21 opposed to our investment in our capital outlay</p>

Page 54	Page 56
<p>1 and our capital projects, which will vary from 2 year to year.</p> <p>3 In addition to the mandated funding, the 4 county has included an additional appropriation 5 of 2.8 million.</p> <p>6 Maryland Blueprint required local share 7 funding increased by 810,000 in FY25.</p> <p>8 Funding to support Talbot County's schools 9 increased overall by 3.75 million above FY24 10 levels.</p> <p>11 By moving the increase in school funding 12 to the educational supplement, the county is 13 providing a more structurally-balanced budget.</p> <p>14 Included in the CIP budget is 16.9 million 15 in the capital projects for Chapel District 16 Elementary School renovations and an additional 17 funding of 1.5 million for other capital 18 improvement projects to be prioritized by 19 Talbot County Public Schools.</p> <p>20 And while not a part of the appropriation 21 to the schools, the county further supports the</p>	<p>1 and one step for employees.</p> <p>2 It also includes five new public safety 3 positions and other benefits actions for public 4 safety that were taken. These will provide 5 recruitment and retention opportunities for our 6 public safety departments.</p> <p>7 For our fund balance, our total fund 8 balance and rainy day funds reserve, the fund 9 balance at the end of June 30, 2023, was 10 90.7 million, which grew 22.4 million from the 11 end of FY22.</p> <p>12 At the end of FY23, Talbot County had 13 15.9 million designated rainy day reserves. 14 These reserves give the county less exposure to 15 the risks associated with revenue and 16 expenditure volatility, particularly in times 17 of inflation or recession.</p> <p>18 We are still experiencing elevated levels 19 of inflation, and those increase are also 20 included in this budget.</p> <p>21 This strong fund balance is a result of</p>
Page 55	Page 57
<p>1 safety at Talbot County Public Schools by 2 including an additional position for a school 3 resource officer supervisor in this budget.</p> <p>4 This will enable our Talbot County Sheriff's 5 Office to ensure that each school has proper 6 coverage and an SRO on site during school 7 hours.</p> <p>8 Public safety accounts for 22.7 percent of 9 the total budget, with general government at 10 10.7 percent.</p> <p>11 There are \$2.9 million in capital outlay 12 expenditures included in this budget. These 13 are non-recurring expenditures. And the level 14 of funding required for these types of 15 expenditures do fluctuate from year to year.</p> <p>16 The FY25 budget also includes an 17 investment in county infrastructure, or CIP, of 18 27.5 million to be paid for with fund balance 19 reserves.</p> <p>20 Personnel actions included in this expense 21 chart are a 3 percent cost of living adjustment</p>	<p>1 the county's conservative budgeting methods. 2 And those conservative budgeting methods were 3 the guidance for staff in the formulation of 4 the budget that you have before you.</p> <p>5 I'd like to close with what you would call 6 our score card, a rating of how well Talbot 7 County navigates the budget process.</p> <p>8 In September 2022, we were rated by Moody 9 Investor Services and Fitch Ratings as part of 10 our process to go out for a bond issuance.</p> <p>11 Moody's said financially the county is 12 very strong and the management team is 13 generally a conservative in its budgeting. Our 14 credit strengths were low, long-term 15 liabilities with a manageable long-term capital 16 plan, along with a very strong reserve 17 position.</p> <p>18 Fitch Ratings's assessment of the county's 19 financial resilience as being in the highest 20 category is based on the combined strength of 21 its fund balance position, its ample</p>

Page 58

1 expenditure flexibility, and its strong ability
 2 to adjust revenues through policy action to
 3 counterbalance its historically volatile
 4 revenues.
 5 The county typically increases its
 6 property tax levy by the full amount allowed
 7 annually under the county charter. Both the
 8 property and the income tax remain the lowest
 9 in the State.
 10 Sorry about that.
 11 MR. STAMP: So Council, that completes
 12 staff's overview of the proposed or introduced
 13 FY25 budget.
 14 And certainly, we can see we have great
 15 talent in our Finance Office. Very proud of
 16 the work that they do.
 17 And it's an honor to serve you, and we'll
 18 turn it back to you at this point, sir. Thank
 19 you.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 21 MR. LESHER: Thank you. And so it's now

Page 59

1 our turn to hear from the public on this. It
 2 is -- I'll open the public hearing to comments
 3 heard on Bill Number 1553.
 4 We will ask that you please state your
 5 name and address for the record. You will be
 6 given three minutes to speak if you are
 7 representing yourself, five minutes to speak if
 8 you're speaking on behalf of a group or
 9 organization.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. If anybody would
 11 like to come on up and talk about the budget?
 12 Yes. Yes, ma'am. Come on up.
 13 MS. NEWMAN: I want to say thank you very
 14 much. My name is Dana Newman. I'm
 15 representing the Talbot County Free Library. I
 16 live at 6295 Bozman Neavitt Road in Neavitt,
 17 Maryland.
 18 First of all, I want to say that we have a
 19 nice representation from the library. So I
 20 want to recognize our board members and other
 21 friends that have shown up today, as well as

Page 60

1 staff members.
 2 I want to just make sure that you really
 3 understand we really appreciate your support
 4 over the last really almost ten years for this
 5 project.
 6 I was in touch recently with Robert
 7 Horvath, who was the director before me. And
 8 he saw an article and had gotten in touch with
 9 me about how thankful he was that this project
 10 is moving forward.
 11 So I did want to just underscore that that
 12 started before I even came to Talbot County.
 13 And so I want to recognize his efforts in
 14 starting this really valuable project.
 15 I also want to thank you because our staff
 16 do a tremendous job out there. They're
 17 essential and so are county staff. They do
 18 just a remarkable job every day; the staff
 19 here, the staff at the library, the staff at
 20 the college, and, of course, the schools and
 21 everywhere else, all of your agencies.

Page 61

1 So I want to underscore a thank you for
 2 the recognition and the salary increases for
 3 them.
 4 And I just want to say that the
 5 St. Michaels Library is just a wonderful
 6 place. I was there this morning. There were
 7 people from the Benedictine School there.
 8 Staff were just making them laugh. It was a
 9 really joyful experience to see that.
 10 And that happens in county libraries every
 11 day. We just have two libraries. So each
 12 library is a very important facility. And we
 13 just want to make sure that the spaces are
 14 adequate and that they serve the public in the
 15 best way possible. We do what we do every day
 16 for the public.
 17 So again, thank you very much. And I just
 18 want to go ahead and say, again, we appreciate
 19 you and all of your efforts because you are
 20 really not getting compensated for what you do.
 21 So thank you very much.

Page 62

1 MS. HAYTHE: Can I make a comment?

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Sure. Go ahead.

3 MS. HAYTHE: So being new to this, I

4 always have to ask, Mr. President, can I make a

5 comment during public comments right now.

6 But anyway, Dana, I thank you for that.

7 But I also want to say what a remarkable

8 bartender you had as one of your employees for

9 the TIS event last week for making my

10 non-alcoholic beverage last week. So thank you

11 so much for that.

12 MS. NEWMAN: Thank you.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good.

14 Anybody else like to come up? Yup.

15 DR. COPPERSMITH: Mr. President, my name

16 is Cliff Coppersmith. I live at 145 McKinney

17 Lane in Centreville, Maryland. Sorry to say

18 that's in Queen Anne's County.

19 But I'm here with Karen Smith, our CFO,

20 representing Chesapeake College.

21 And I just, first of all, want to thank

Page 63

1 the Council for the unanimous support for our

2 budget, which was, of course, given to us a

3 couple of weeks ago in the multicounty meeting

4 on campus.

5 The college is in great shape financially,

6 despite the issues we had with State funding

7 this past year. I want to thank you and the

8 Council for the strong support we got, along

9 with all of our counties and our local

10 delegation. That helped us get at least some

11 of that cut back, including a modification to

12 the rebasing of the Cade formula.

13 With that said, we had to make a \$700,000

14 cut to our budget as a result of that

15 reallocation. But we're still, like you, we're

16 conservative budget composers. And Karen has

17 done a wonderful job providing some savings at

18 the college. We're not filling some positions,

19 both vacant and one we were hoping to bring on

20 this next year.

21 But that being said, the college still is

Page 64

1 in a strong position. We're serving students

2 well.

3 To Clay, I want to tell him we have our

4 first wait list in paramedic going into the

5 next enrollment cycle. We see a lot of strong

6 interest in the health professions. Those

7 students seem to be returning to us in the

8 coming years.

9 So enrollment is good. Our budget is

10 solid. We just finished a very productive

11 reaccreditation process with our regional

12 accreditor, which we should be getting final

13 word on that in June, which basically reaffirms

14 our status as an institution of higher

15 education and makes us eligible to receive

16 federal funding.

17 We're also finishing up our next five-year

18 strategic plan, which is also in great shape.

19 And just across the board, the college is

20 healthy. And it's because of the support of

21 you as leaders and our regional county setup

Page 65

1 that we have. Of course, a five-county

2 institution. The only one of its kind in the

3 State of Maryland. But we do appreciate the

4 unanimous support we had from all of you, which

5 I can say all of you have some connection to

6 the college.

7 Dave was just recently in at an open house

8 I believe with one of his children.

9 And we are happy to serve and we are happy

10 to provide a quality experience for our

11 students.

12 But again, thank you very much.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Appreciate it.

14 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.

15 MR. STEPP: One quick comment?

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Sure.

17 MR. STEPP: I just want to thank you again

18 for a wonderful open house.

19 And of course, you mentioned we got

20 together for the multicounty meeting. So thank

21 you for hosting us again this year.

Page 66	Page 68
<p>1 Open house was spectacular. You guys did</p> <p>2 a wonderful job. And it was really cool to go</p> <p>3 across and see some amazing things you guys are</p> <p>4 doing at your campus. So thank you.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.</p> <p>6 DR. COPPERSMITH: I do have one little</p> <p>7 update on the building project.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.</p> <p>9 DR. COPPERSMITH: We're working very hard</p> <p>10 to get that on the State list next year. We're</p> <p>11 working with M-Pack and the State agencies in</p> <p>12 dealing with all this construction facilities</p> <p>13 stuff.</p> <p>14 Probably the most exciting thing is the</p> <p>15 State now has a non-credit formula for</p> <p>16 supporting a construction of higher education</p> <p>17 facilities. That's new. And it's helping us</p> <p>18 get this in a good place. I think we have a</p> <p>19 solid pathway to get it on the list, and we're</p> <p>20 working through that right now with M-Pack.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. That's</p>	<p>1 our board and our staff, the whole library and</p> <p>2 the many volunteers how much we appreciate</p> <p>3 that.</p> <p>4 And especially I want to thank you for</p> <p>5 your support of the St. Michaels expansion.</p> <p>6 It's such an exciting project, and it's been</p> <p>7 designed really in response to the patrons in</p> <p>8 the Bay Hundred area telling us what they</p> <p>9 wanted to see in the library. And that's how</p> <p>10 it's been designed and developed. And I think</p> <p>11 it's such a wonderful example of a community</p> <p>12 involvement and response to those community</p> <p>13 members.</p> <p>14 So thank you. I think your response to</p> <p>15 our community is just amazing, and we so much</p> <p>16 appreciate it.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.</p> <p>18 MR. YONKERS: I would only add that a</p> <p>19 single visit to the website or to look at the</p> <p>20 statistics that are generated for the board on</p> <p>21 a monthly basis will impress you with the</p>
Page 67	Page 69
<p>1 great. Okay. Thank you, guys. Appreciate it.</p> <p>2 MS. SMITH: Thank you.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks for coming, too.</p> <p>4 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any -- yes, ma'am.</p> <p>6 MS. SHERMAN: Good afternoon. My name is</p> <p>7 Susan Sherman. I live at 7453 Karen Avenue in</p> <p>8 Easton. I'm president of the Talbot County</p> <p>9 Free Library Board of Trustees.</p> <p>10 And with me.</p> <p>11 MR. YONKERS: I'm Charles Yonkers. I live</p> <p>12 at 8395 Cummings Road in Whitman.</p> <p>13 And I'm on the board since 2019.</p> <p>14 MS. SHERMAN: First of all, I hope you're</p> <p>15 not tired of being thanked because that's</p> <p>16 really what I'm here to do again, is thank you</p> <p>17 for all your support.</p> <p>18 Our library is 99 years old and would</p> <p>19 never have reached that age without the</p> <p>20 constant support we've had from this community.</p> <p>21 So we really want you to know on behalf of</p>	<p>1 participation that the community takes at the</p> <p>2 library, through the library, with the library.</p> <p>3 The partnership outreach of the library in</p> <p>4 my opinion is extensive and wonderful. It's an</p> <p>5 engine of community.</p> <p>6 And in my five years, I've just seen it</p> <p>7 get bigger, better, and richer. And your</p> <p>8 support is so important to that. Thank you.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys.</p> <p>10 Appreciate it.</p> <p>11 MS. SHERMAN: Thank you.</p> <p>12 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you so much.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup.</p> <p>14 Yes, ma'am. Come on up.</p> <p>15 MS. HANSON: Hi. I'm Emily Knud</p> <p>16 Hansen. I live at 215 Bonfield Avenue in</p> <p>17 Oxford. I am president of the Friends of the</p> <p>18 Talbot County Free Library.</p> <p>19 And while everybody is thanking you, I</p> <p>20 want you to understand that when we talk at a</p> <p>21 public hearing, the public supports the Friends</p>

Page 70

1 so incredibly that in its 50th year this year,
 2 we have over \$112,000 in our bank account
 3 through investments.
 4 And we are proud to announce that \$50,000
 5 raised by our friends, who give less than \$100
 6 each, is now dedicated to the St. Michaels
 7 library expansion. And we're very proud of
 8 that.
 9 And so while I want to thank you for your
 10 support, because we wouldn't have our support
 11 without bragging about yours, we hope you can
 12 brag about our support because we truly
 13 represent the public.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds great.
 15 Appreciate that.
 16 MR. LESHER: Thank you.
 17 MS. MIELKE: Thank you.
 18 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you very much.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Would anybody else
 20 like to come up? Okay.
 21 Mr. Leshner.

Page 71

1 MR. LESHER: Written comments will be
 2 accepted by the County Council on the budget
 3 until Friday, May 9th, at noon. Emailed
 4 comments can be sent to
 5 publiccomment@talbotcountymd.gov.
 6 We will now recess the public hearing on
 7 Bill Number 1553 until this evening.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 9 MR. LESHER: Okay. The public hearing on
 10 Bill 1553 will continue at seven o'clock p.m.
 11 this evening at Easton Elementary School
 12 cafeteria located at 307 Glenwood Avenue here
 13 in Easton.
 14 This bill is eligible for vote on Tuesday,
 15 May 28th.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds great.
 17 All right.
 18 So we'll move into county manager report.
 19 MR. STAMP: Thank you. Council, under
 20 county manager report this afternoon, we have
 21 no board and committee appointments to bring

Page 72

1 forward today.
 2 I would invite Ray Clarke, your county
 3 engineer, to come forward.
 4 Ray has a request from the Department of
 5 Public Works to apply for and accept operation
 6 and maintenance funds from the Maryland
 7 Department of the Environment Bay Restoration
 8 Fund, BRF.
 9 And he'll explain the detail relative to
 10 that.
 11 MR. CLARKE: Thank you, Council. I'm Ray
 12 Clarke, county engineer, again.
 13 Since everybody is thanking you, I'll
 14 thank you beforehand.
 15 So ultimately, this is a grant that MDE
 16 offers every year. It's typically a \$30,000
 17 grant provided to enhance nutrient removal,
 18 wastewater treatment plants, for those plants
 19 that were upgraded with enhanced nutrient
 20 removal technologies.
 21 Typically what happens is right now, the

Page 73

1 State, if you do operate your plant at a higher
 2 level of treatment, and we are currently at
 3 about .9 milligrams per liter of total
 4 nitrogen. Our discharge permit is actually
 5 3 milligrams per liter. And we work very hard
 6 to achieve a non-detect for phosphorus, total
 7 phosphorus. And so I think we've met that for
 8 2023.
 9 And ultimately, the discharge permit for
 10 total phosphorus is .3 milligrams per liter.
 11 So what will end up happening is that
 12 where we're coming before you I guess for the
 13 request to submit an application to MDE for the
 14 \$30,000 grant.
 15 But last year, because we had such a high
 16 level of performance in our wastewater
 17 treatment plant, we ended up receiving \$42,000.
 18 So we could receive some additional funding as
 19 well this year.
 20 So I'm here to request your all's support
 21 to go ahead and move forward with making that

Page 74	Page 76
<p>1 application and accepting it once we've been</p> <p>2 advised.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>4 MR. LESHHER: Mr. Clarke, this is wonderful</p> <p>5 news. And thank you for pursuing this</p> <p>6 opportunity.</p> <p>7 I certainly remember the days when, when</p> <p>8 storm-caused overflows from this plant that</p> <p>9 public health warnings had to be routinely</p> <p>10 posted for the Miles River. And because of you</p> <p>11 and your staff and all the effort that is put</p> <p>12 into that plant, those days are behind us. And</p> <p>13 this is just one more step in ensuring clean</p> <p>14 waters for Talbot County.</p> <p>15 So enthusiastically endorse this request.</p> <p>16 I'll move that we approve it.</p> <p>17 MR. STEPP: Second.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>19 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>20 vote.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p>	<p>1 program, or TAP, for the St. Michaels nature</p> <p>2 trails and multiuse bikeway extension project.</p> <p>3 No county funds are required.</p> <p>4 And if you want, I'll roll into the second</p> <p>5 letter request, if you don't mind.</p> <p>6 The second letter is a request from Town</p> <p>7 of St. Michaels requesting Council approval</p> <p>8 for a letter of support for their application</p> <p>9 for grant funding in the amount of \$237,000</p> <p>10 from Maryland Department of Transportation, Kim</p> <p>11 Lamphier Bikeways Network Program for the</p> <p>12 St. Michaels nature trail and multiuse bikeway</p> <p>13 extension project.</p> <p>14 And again, no county funds are being</p> <p>15 required for this request for the two letters,</p> <p>16 if I could have Council support for that or</p> <p>17 consideration.</p> <p>18 MS. HAYTHE: I make a motion for the</p> <p>19 letters of support for both requests.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHHER: I'll second it. And add that</p> <p>21 since the pandemic, Americans and Talbot County</p>
Page 75	Page 77
<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>3 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>7 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>9 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>10 MR. CLARKE: Thank you.</p> <p>11 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Ray, for your</p> <p>12 ongoing dedication and hard work.</p> <p>13 Council, next item I have, or actually two</p> <p>14 items, are requests from the Town of</p> <p>15 St. Michaels for letters of support.</p> <p>16 The first one, the Town of St. Michaels</p> <p>17 is requesting Council approval for a letter of</p> <p>18 support for their application for grant funding</p> <p>19 in the amount of approximately \$1.187 million</p> <p>20 from Maryland SHA, State Highway</p> <p>21 Administration, transportation alternative</p>	<p>1 residents have been spending so much more time</p> <p>2 on outdoor recreation.</p> <p>3 And this opportunity will benefit</p> <p>4 residents of St. Michaels and will benefit</p> <p>5 other residents of Talbot County outside of</p> <p>6 St. Michaels. This should have our</p> <p>7 enthusiastic support.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: And it does. Okay. So</p> <p>9 we've got a motion and second to send for</p> <p>10 St. Michaels two letters of support for them.</p> <p>11 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote,</p> <p>12 please.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>16 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>20 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p>

Page 78	Page 80
<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>2 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.</p> <p>3 And because you enjoy our county engineer</p> <p>4 so much, I'll call Ray back to the table.</p> <p>5 Ray is here to request -- we have a</p> <p>6 request from the Maryland Department of the</p> <p>7 Environment for a waiver of the 15-day comment</p> <p>8 period on sewage sludge utilization application</p> <p>9 by Trappe East Holdings Business Trust for</p> <p>10 startup of the Trappe East wastewater treatment</p> <p>11 plant, 3500 Lake Echo Drive in Trappe.</p> <p>12 And Ray will explain the details relative</p> <p>13 to this request.</p> <p>14 MR. CLARKE: I will do my best.</p> <p>15 First off, typically, Council, we have a</p> <p>16 situation where Trappe East Holdings I guess,</p> <p>17 it's their Lakeside plant, they're working to</p> <p>18 start this plant up.</p> <p>19 And typically when starting up a new</p> <p>20 wastewater treatment plant or you're trying to</p> <p>21 achieve certain levels of treatment, you will</p>	<p>1 basically start feeding those bugs that you</p> <p>2 just brought in.</p> <p>3 Just so the Council is aware, the county</p> <p>4 does this as well. We work typically every</p> <p>5 year to apply for a sludge utilization permit</p> <p>6 that we can then move sludge from our</p> <p>7 wastewater treatment plants in the event that</p> <p>8 we do need them.</p> <p>9 And case in point, at The Preserve at Wye</p> <p>10 Mills, we were having difficulties in meeting</p> <p>11 the discharge permit. So as an interim</p> <p>12 approach, we worked with MDE to say look, we no</p> <p>13 longer want to put it in this large what we</p> <p>14 call pre-aerated treatment tank. We're going</p> <p>15 to discharge all the organics that are coming</p> <p>16 from the houses to the rotating biological</p> <p>17 contactor, or RBCU, unit.</p> <p>18 And to help kind of stimulate this, we</p> <p>19 actually transfer waste activated sludge, about</p> <p>20 3,500 to 4,000 gallons, to The Preserve at Wye</p> <p>21 Mills. And we actually saw our total</p>
Page 79	Page 81
<p>1 basically have a pumper truck and ultimately</p> <p>2 take the waste-activated sludge that's</p> <p>3 currently being processed within a reactor of</p> <p>4 an ENR facility. You'll take that</p> <p>5 waste-activated sludge and move that to a new</p> <p>6 facility. That then seeds that plant so you're</p> <p>7 not in the process of trying to take just</p> <p>8 bacteria that's never been cultivated in an ENR</p> <p>9 facility. You're kind of jump-starting the</p> <p>10 operation this way.</p> <p>11 So this is what I believe this is what's</p> <p>12 being requested, is a sludge utilization permit</p> <p>13 to move that sludge from I believe it's the</p> <p>14 Easton wastewater treatment plant to the Town</p> <p>15 of Trappe's Lakeside plant in an effort to</p> <p>16 jump-start their ENR process.</p> <p>17 That would then also mean that they'll be</p> <p>18 beginning the process of diverting the 120 EDUs</p> <p>19 from the existing Town of Trappe to the new</p> <p>20 Lakeside facility because this is the time</p> <p>21 you're going to want to have the organics to</p>	<p>1 nitrogens, that they were running about let's</p> <p>2 say almost 20 milligrams per liter, drop to</p> <p>3 nine. And so I believe it was last month they</p> <p>4 now have been reported to be about six.</p> <p>5 So again, this is to help kind of</p> <p>6 stimulate the operations. Don't think it's</p> <p>7 going to be stainable unfortunately at The</p> <p>8 Preserve at Wye Mills, but it's our way to try</p> <p>9 to drive those numbers down and comply with the</p> <p>10 permit.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>12 MR. LESHER: Mr. Clarke, does the waiver</p> <p>13 at this timeline mean that we're going to get</p> <p>14 this plant into operation that much sooner,</p> <p>15 that this will shorten the timeline that we're</p> <p>16 diverting waste from Lakeside over to the old</p> <p>17 Trappe wastewater treatment plant?</p> <p>18 MR. CLARKE: That's correct. Yes, sir.</p> <p>19 MR. LESHER: Well, that is good news.</p> <p>20 MR. CLARKE: Yeah, I agree.</p> <p>21 MR. LESHER: That's something that I can</p>

Page 82

1 enthusiastically support.

2 MS. MIELKE: I have some questions. What

3 is the status of the opening of the Trappe East

4 plant?

5 MR. CLARKE: This will probably -- my

6 understanding from what I think at the last

7 public hearing that was discussed, I believe

8 they were looking at the operation of the

9 wastewater treatment plant by mid-May. But I

10 think they are looking at ultimately June 1st.

11 So this is actually a process right now in

12 having the sludge brought in. They're bringing

13 in that sludge in an effort to start that

14 process. You're basically now treating at that

15 wastewater treatment facility.

16 I mean it's kind of like looking at it

17 let's say from a layman's perspective, if you

18 had let's say bare ground but you wanted to

19 have grass. If you just let the bare ground

20 take place, you're going to have weeds and all

21 other kinds of stuff. You might have meadow

Page 83

1 grass.

2 At least by this way, when you're adding

3 seed, you're getting let's say a fescue kind of

4 grass growing. You're getting that right

5 microorganisms that have been trained within

6 these bioreactors to grow and consume the

7 organics.

8 MS. MIELKE: I also see in the letter from

9 MDE, because I think the permit was submitted

10 by Trappe East back in March, and then MDE

11 responded to that April 29th and saying that

12 the shortening the time is when the applicant

13 needs the permit urgently and can't wait 15

14 days.

15 And I didn't see any articulation of why

16 the 15 days, I think we're halfway through it

17 anyway, it was so urgent.

18 MR. CLARKE: I think it was for them to

19 get the plant up and running and started. So

20 that's the primary objective, is getting that

21 ENR facility operational.

Page 84

1 MS. MIELKE: That's all I have. Thank

2 you.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other questions

4 for Ray? Okay.

5 So we've got a motion?

6 MR. LESHER: I'll move approval.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

8 MS. HAYTHE: I'll second.

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

10 second to go ahead and help Trappe's wastewater

11 treatment plant with the proper removal of what

12 Ray said.

13 MR. THOMAS: So just to clarify. So this

14 would be a waiver of the 15-day comment period.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Yup. Madam

16 Secretary, could you call the vote.

17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

19 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

20 MR. STEPP: Aye.

21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

Page 85

1 MR. LESHER: Aye.

2 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

3 MS. MIELKE: Nay.

4 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

5 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

7 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council. That

8 completes your county manager report for today.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right.

10 Next on the agenda is public comment.

11 Nobody left. Okay. Did you want to come up,

12 Martha?

13 MS. SPARKS: I am a Talbot County citizen.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: I know you are. Okay. All

15 right.

16 We didn't have anybody. Okay.

17 Next would be Council comments.

18 Mr. Stepp.

19 MR. STEPP: No comments.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

21 MR. LESHER: Most of us were able to be

Page 86

1 there for the Talbot County Business
 2 Appreciation Summit last Thursday in which we
 3 recognized a number of our business and
 4 nonprofit partners around for the remarkable
 5 achievements that they're bringing to this
 6 county.
 7 A heartwarming session and was glad to be
 8 included as part of that.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. That's
 10 great. I agree.
 11 MS. MIELKE: I should have said this when
 12 the library people were here.
 13 But they had a celebration, a 50th
 14 anniversary, with a trivia game. And it was
 15 great fun. We didn't win, my team. But it was
 16 really a good celebration. And I wish the
 17 turn-out had been more, more people that knew
 18 about it and came to it.
 19 Appreciate what the library does, and it
 20 was a good time.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. That's

Page 87

1 great.
 2 MS. HAYTHE: All right. One, I want to
 3 say happy belated birthday to our county
 4 manager, Clay Stamp.
 5 MR. STAMP: Thank you.
 6 MS. HAYTHE: Celebrate him, as we should
 7 do all of our Talbot Countians.
 8 Second, Dave and I had an opportunity to
 9 go to the Talbot County Public School breakfast
 10 where they recognized community partners. That
 11 was a great event. All of the community
 12 partners that were recognized are doing great
 13 things in the community, and that was great to
 14 be there and experience that.
 15 And then also, the summit, the business
 16 summit that one of you guys mentioned. I can't
 17 remember now. But it was great to see Talbot
 18 County come together and do that summit. So
 19 kudos to Cassandra and her team and everyone
 20 else that participated in that.
 21 And that's all I have, sir.

Page 88

1 MR. STEPP: President Callahan, can you
 2 come back to me for just a brief second.
 3 Keasha is being a little modest. So she
 4 was actually one of the recipients, her
 5 foundation was one of the recipients of the
 6 community partners.
 7 So I'll retract my no comment statement
 8 and say congratulations to Keasha on receiving
 9 that.
 10 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you, sir. I appreciate
 11 that.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job.
 13 And all I just want to comment once again,
 14 we're going to get together again tonight at
 15 seven o'clock and do this again. So the public
 16 is welcome to come out and experience that with
 17 us at the elementary school.
 18 MR. STAMP: Easton Elementary.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Easton Elementary School.
 20 And Martha and Kaitlin, really want to
 21 thank you and your staff for the budget this

Page 89

1 year. You did, you guys did a phenomenal job.
 2 And Clay, all your staff and Jess and
 3 Susan, you guys really, you really hit it out
 4 of the park. We worked really, really hard
 5 with Council.
 6 And Council, you guys did a good job, you
 7 really did and spent a lot of time on it. And
 8 I think we've come up with a really good
 9 solution for everybody.
 10 So hopefully the school won't kill us
 11 tonight, hopefully, you know.
 12 But I think, you know, everything with the
 13 outcome of everything, I think we've done a
 14 good job trying to spread the love and give a
 15 little bit to everybody. So hopefully
 16 everybody will be happy at the end of this and
 17 we can move on to do good things. Okay.
 18 MR. LESHAR: The County Council's next
 19 meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14th,
 20 beginning at six o'clock p.m. The Council will
 21 be convening in open session at three


Page 90

1 o'clock p.m. for a work session with the
 2 finance director for final budget fiscal 25
 3 budget deliberations and then adjourning into
 4 closed session. The work session is open to
 5 the public and will be held here in the Bradley
 6 Meeting Room.
 7 Therefore, is there a motion to recess
 8 this meeting and reconvene as noted?
 9 MS. HAYTHE: So moved.
 10 MR. STEPP: Second.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 12 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 13 vote.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
 17 MR. STEPP: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 19 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 21 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

Page 91

1 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 2 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I'll see you guys
 4 tonight.
 5 (Meeting concluded at: 2:52 p.m.)
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Page 92

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 13th
 day of May, 2024, at Easton, MD.

 Diane Houlihan
 Notary Public
 My commission expires September 16, 2025

1	2	26 48:18 49:7	50,000 70:4
1 48:14 49:6,21	2 50:7	27.26 47:1	50th 21:14 70:1
1,200 4:2	2,230.20 51:2	27.5 46:2 55:18	86:13
1.187 75:19	2,373 51:2	28 36:20	54.6 44:8
1.2 45:18	2.8 44:10 54:5	28th 71:15	5th 22:12 24:13
1.5 45:3 54:17	2.9 55:11	29th 83:11	6
10.7 55:10	2.98 46:4	2:52 91:5	6.01 36:10
100 35:16 70:5	20 5:17 9:5	3	6.4 50:20
11 22:17	13:5 81:2	3 45:8 55:21	60.5 47:5
112,000 70:2	200,000 44:15	73:5,10	6295 59:16
11th 22:13	2004 3:21	3,500 80:20	7
24:13	2019 67:13	3,653,550 36:4	7 1:7
12 9:11	2020 44:3	3.65 44:9	700,000 63:13
12.3 46:8	48:12	3.75 54:9	72.73 36:3
120 10:8 51:3	2022 57:8	30 27:5 56:9	7453 67:7
79:18	2023 56:9 73:8	30,000 72:16	79.10 35:16
13 28:8	2024 5:20 16:6	73:14	7910 50:5
13.3 36:10	17:11,18 22:16	300,000 51:1	7th 2:12 3:6
1362 92:15	22:17 24:13	307 71:12	5:19 17:17
13th 92:13	25:2 36:20	30th 3:5	25:1
142.80 51:2	48:21 52:12	3500 78:11	8
145 62:16	92:13	366 29:8	8.6 47:9
14th 89:19	2024-2025	37 53:7	81.1 47:4
15 78:7 83:13	36:18 37:21	37.7 53:11	810,000 54:7
83:16 84:14	2025 35:14	370 43:1	8395 67:12
15.9 56:13	36:5,16,16	4	9
1553 37:19,20	43:13,19 92:19	4 35:19 50:15	9 73:3
59:3 71:7,10	20th 3:20	4,000 80:20	9.5 36:2
16 92:19	215 69:16	4.76 35:21	90.7 56:10
16.9 45:1 54:14	22 48:17	50:19	911 45:13
163,970,000	22.4 56:10	42,000 73:17	49:10
43:13	22.7 55:8	43.4 53:15	99 67:18
18 5:5	23 51:8	5	9th 2:19 71:3
19 46:9	237,000 76:9	5 22:16	
1:30 1:7	24/7/365 29:7	50 21:15	
1st 19:3 82:10	25 90:2		

a	acknowledge 5:12 24:16	adjourning 90:3	61:18 62:2 73:21 84:10
abate 17:1 20:20	act 37:20	adjust 58:2	air 10:12
abate's 21:13	action 58:2 92:12	adjustment 45:8 52:5 55:21	airport 42:5,7 42:8
ability 58:1	actions 55:20 56:3	administration 23:16 75:21	alcoholic 62:10
able 8:19 9:15 30:13 38:7 85:21	activated 79:2 79:5 80:19	adopt 35:15 36:15	align 46:11
above 44:10 54:9	activities 5:6	adopted 36:17	alignment 47:16 48:7 53:8
academic 4:4,7	activity 47:18	adoption 36:19	all's 73:20
academics 4:20	actually 9:5 73:4 75:13 80:19,21 82:11 88:4	adult 10:6,8	allegiance 2:7,8
academy 12:3	add 9:20 11:20 11:21 21:13 30:4 31:12 68:18 76:20	adults 5:5	allowed 58:6
accept 72:5	added 44:1 48:14 52:3	advised 74:2	alternative 75:21
accepted 2:16 3:2,11 71:2	adding 45:11 83:2	aerated 80:14	amazing 66:3 68:15
accepting 74:1	addition 54:3	affect 44:15	amen 20:10
accomplish 5:13	additional 12:4 45:4 49:8 50:13,14 54:4 54:16 55:2 73:18	african 3:19,21 4:2 12:17	amendment 48:13
accomplishm... 42:3	additions 2:12 2:19 3:7	afternoon 18:18,19 43:9 67:6 71:20	american 3:19 4:1,2 12:18
accordance 43:21 50:8	address 4:9 35:8 41:11,16 42:7 59:5	age 67:19	americans 76:21
account 39:20 70:2	addressing 40:16	agencies 39:4 45:17 60:21 66:11	amount 46:2 58:6 75:19 76:9
accounts 55:8	adequate 61:14	agenda 2:11,13 2:16 3:4,13 85:10	amounts 50:19
accredited 29:19		ago 9:6 12:4 63:3	ample 57:21
accreditor 64:12		agree 14:12 81:20 86:10	amusement 4:15
accurate 92:7		ahead 2:3,5 3:15 6:6 7:18 10:14 16:3 18:4 22:13 25:9 34:18,20	anne's 19:15 62:18
accurately 48:6 52:5			anniversary 3:20 13:15 21:14 86:14
achieve 73:6 78:21			announce 70:4
achievements 86:5			

<p>annual 8:2 36:18 37:21</p> <p>annually 58:7</p> <p>anybody 37:1,6 37:15 59:10 62:14 70:19 85:16</p> <p>anyway 62:6 83:17</p> <p>appeared 92:3</p> <p>applicant 83:12</p> <p>application 73:13 74:1 75:18 76:8 78:8</p> <p>apply 72:5 80:5</p> <p>appointments 71:21</p> <p>appreciate 13:10 14:17 20:3 21:6,10 22:3,6,7 24:16 28:6 32:6,13 60:3 61:18 65:3,13 67:1 68:2,16 69:10 70:15 86:19 88:10</p> <p>appreciated 33:6</p> <p>appreciation 86:2</p> <p>approach 48:6 80:12</p> <p>appropriated 45:5</p>	<p>appropriation 36:18 38:1 54:4,20</p> <p>appropriations 45:17</p> <p>approval 75:17 76:7 84:6</p> <p>approve 74:16</p> <p>approximately 47:9 75:19</p> <p>april 2:19 3:5 38:16 51:15 83:11</p> <p>area 36:6 68:8</p> <p>areas 40:13 41:3</p> <p>article 60:8</p> <p>articulation 83:15</p> <p>artists 10:10</p> <p>asking 9:19</p> <p>assessed 35:16</p> <p>assessment 51:1 57:18</p> <p>assessments 50:11 51:10</p> <p>assigned 24:5</p> <p>assisted 92:7</p> <p>associated 56:15</p> <p>association 35:11</p> <p>athletic 5:5</p> <p>attend 4:13 5:1</p> <p>attributable 51:3</p> <p>audio 92:3</p>	<p>audit 29:11</p> <p>augment 4:5</p> <p>authorized 44:2</p> <p>available 8:10</p> <p>avenue 67:7 69:16 71:12</p> <p>aware 16:19 80:3</p> <p>awareness 16:1 16:6,11 17:3 17:12,14 19:1 38:10</p> <p>aye 6:10,12,14 6:16,18 18:7,9 18:11,13,15 25:13,15,17,19 25:21 75:1,3,5 75:7,9 77:14 77:16,18,20 78:1 84:18,20 85:1,5 90:15 90:17,19,21 91:2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">b</p> <p>baam 3:14,19 4:1,17 5:2,13 5:15 8:2,12 11:10 12:16 14:8,10</p> <p>back 11:1 27:19 29:4 31:19 51:15 58:18 63:11 78:4 83:10 88:2</p>	<p>bacteria 79:8</p> <p>balance 39:20 45:19 46:3,21 55:18 56:7,8,9 56:21 57:21</p> <p>balanced 43:12 54:13</p> <p>ballot 48:20,20</p> <p>baltimore 51:8 92:2</p> <p>bank 70:2</p> <p>bare 82:18,19</p> <p>barriers 4:10</p> <p>bartender 62:8</p> <p>based 57:20</p> <p>basically 64:13 79:1 80:1 82:14</p> <p>basis 68:21</p> <p>basketball 5:7 5:8 8:5</p> <p>bay 68:8 72:7</p> <p>beason 8:16</p> <p>beautiful 10:3</p> <p>began 38:11,12 48:17</p> <p>beginning 79:18 89:20</p> <p>behalf 30:6 35:11 59:8 67:21</p> <p>belated 87:3</p> <p>believe 65:8 79:11,13 81:3 82:7</p> <p>bell 11:6,6</p> <p>benedictine 61:7</p>
--	--	--	--

benefit 77:3,4 benefits 56:3 best 27:6 39:5 39:7 52:13 61:15 78:14 bet 15:2,2 better 31:4 39:15 69:7 beverage 62:10 beyond 23:17 bigger 69:7 bikeway 76:2 76:12 bikeways 76:11 bill 10:20 37:19 37:20 50:21 51:5 59:3 71:7 71:10,14 biological 80:16 bioreactors 83:6 birthday 87:3 bit 8:6 9:1 11:14 40:3 41:18 89:15 bless 14:9 blessed 14:14 31:14 blueprint 54:6 board 3:18 11:4,5,16 12:9 59:20 64:19 67:9,13 68:1 68:20 71:21 bond 57:10 bonfield 69:16	books 10:8 boy 34:6,6 boyfriends 32:7 boys 4:2 13:21 bozman 59:16 bradley 90:5 brag 70:12 bragging 70:11 breakfast 87:9 brf 72:8 brief 88:2 bring 10:10 29:13 30:1 33:11 46:21 63:19 71:21 bringing 14:3 82:12 86:5 brought 80:2 82:12 budget 35:14 36:18 37:21 40:11 41:16,20 42:2 43:12,14 43:16,19 44:6 44:17 45:7,10 46:2,5,7 47:15 48:5,18 50:16 53:6,12 54:13 54:14 55:3,9 55:12,16 56:20 57:4,7 58:13 59:11 63:2,14 63:16 64:9 71:2 88:21 90:2,3 budgeted 47:6	budgeting 38:15 39:12 43:15 46:10 57:1,2,13 buffer 40:3 bugs 80:1 build 48:4 building 3:18 3:21 9:1 10:1 11:21 48:9 66:7 business 78:9 86:1,3 87:15 c cade 63:12 cadre 24:9 cafeteria 71:12 calculated 50:6 calculations 44:13,19 call 6:7 18:5 25:10 40:17 57:5 74:19 77:11 78:4 80:14 84:16 90:12 callahan 1:14 2:3,9,15 3:1,10 5:21 6:5,9,10 6:19 7:1,4,8,13 7:15,17 8:3,11 8:21 9:7 10:13 10:18,21 11:18 12:20 14:12 15:2,21 17:19 18:3,6,7,16,19 19:7,11 20:2	20:13,17 21:9 21:16 22:3,10 25:3,8,12,13 26:1,5,8,11,13 27:2,7,14 28:1 28:4,10,15,18 29:1 30:3 31:12 33:9,19 34:16 35:3 37:3,14 43:8 58:20 59:10 62:2,13 65:13 65:16 66:5,8 66:21 67:3,5 68:17 69:9,13 70:14,19 71:8 71:16 74:3,18 74:21 75:1 77:8,13,14 81:11 84:3,7,9 84:15,17,18 85:6,9,14,20 86:9,21 88:1 88:12,19 90:11 90:14,15 91:3 called 35:3 camp 4:21 camping 4:13 campus 63:4 66:4 capable 24:9 capital 42:15 44:20 45:2 46:1,5 53:21 54:1,15,17 55:11 57:15 captain 26:12
--	---	--	---

card 57:6 career 4:20 49:10 carefully 46:14 case 80:9 cassandra 87:19 category 57:20 caused 74:8 celebrate 87:6 celebration 86:13,16 cent 44:1,4 48:14 49:7,21 50:13,14,15 center 5:6 9:12 22:20 23:9 49:4 centreville 62:17 cents 35:16,19 36:3,10 50:19 certain 78:21 certainly 58:14 74:7 certificate 3:14 3:17 certified 50:10 certify 92:3,5,8 92:10 cfo 62:19 chair 3:1,11 chairs 7:16 challenging 40:21 chambers 1:10 chance 16:2 29:10 33:5	change 8:5 changed 27:11 44:12 51:14 chapel 45:2 54:15 chapter 17:1 19:14,17 charged 52:1 charles 67:11 chart 53:17 55:21 charter 44:1 48:13 50:8 58:7 cheese 15:16 chesapeake 9:14 53:13 62:20 children 65:8 chooses 48:21 chuck 1:14 cindy 26:2,12 31:6 cip 44:21 45:4 45:6 54:14 55:17 citizen 85:13 citizens 4:6 16:18 17:13 24:15 49:1 50:1 city 51:8 92:2 claim 53:4 clarify 84:13 clark 39:1 clarke 72:2,11 72:12 74:4 75:10 78:14	81:12,18,20 82:5 83:18 class 12:7 classes 9:15 classrooms 9:11 clay 64:3 87:4 89:2 clean 74:13 clearly 39:6 cliff 62:16 close 37:16 57:5 closed 90:4 colleagues 14:3 14:13 30:11 college 5:8 9:15 53:13 60:20 62:20 63:5,18 63:21 64:19 65:6 combined 46:16 57:20 come 6:20 7:9 13:4 15:1,4 18:17 19:3 21:11 26:2 27:19 31:19 33:10 34:1,2 37:5,7,15 39:14 59:11,12 62:14 69:14 70:20 72:3 85:11 87:18 88:2,16 89:8 comes 32:19 51:9	coming 22:5 41:21 64:8 67:3 73:12 80:15 commend 31:21 comment 62:1 62:5 65:15 78:7 84:14 85:10 88:7,13 comments 36:21 37:9 59:2 62:5 71:1 71:4 85:17,19 commission 92:19 committed 23:8 24:9 committee 71:21 common 16:12 communicati... 45:12 community 5:16 8:20 9:12 12:5,18 13:9 13:20,21 14:4 14:15,16 23:20 24:18 29:20 31:16,16 41:8 43:4 67:20 68:11,12,15 69:1,5 87:10 87:11,13 88:6 comparable 51:20 52:4 compared 52:10,18
--	--	--	--

<p>compassion 32:21 33:5</p> <p>compensated 61:20</p> <p>completed 9:10</p> <p>completes 58:11 85:8</p> <p>completion 42:11</p> <p>comply 81:9</p> <p>components 51:19</p> <p>composers 63:16</p> <p>computer 92:7</p> <p>concluded 91:5</p> <p>concur 20:21</p> <p>congestion 16:16</p> <p>congratulation... 13:7 88:8</p> <p>connection 65:5</p> <p>consent 2:16 3:3,12</p> <p>conservative 39:12 43:15 47:21 57:1,2 57:13 63:16</p> <p>consideration 76:17</p> <p>constant 11:15 34:20 35:13 36:3,14 37:17 67:20</p> <p>construction 13:3 66:12,16</p>	<p>consume 83:6</p> <p>consumption 16:14</p> <p>contactor 80:17</p> <p>contained 92:9</p> <p>continually 17:1</p> <p>continue 14:9 39:10,17 40:5 49:1 71:10</p> <p>continued 45:10</p> <p>continues 40:10 43:14</p> <p>contribute 30:7</p> <p>contributes 16:14</p> <p>contributing 47:9</p> <p>contributions 5:15 24:17</p> <p>control 22:21 23:8</p> <p>convening 89:21</p> <p>coo 11:10</p> <p>cool 66:2</p> <p>coordinator 19:16</p> <p>coordinators 19:14</p> <p>coppersmith 37:8,13 62:15 62:16 66:6,9</p> <p>correct 20:9 81:18</p>	<p>correction 26:21 27:6</p> <p>correctional 22:11,15,18 23:3,13 24:1 24:10,13 26:15 27:4</p> <p>corrections 2:13,20 3:7 23:5,15,18 27:5,11,12,13 29:17 42:21</p> <p>corrections's 49:14</p> <p>cors 49:15,16</p> <p>cost 45:8 55:21</p> <p>council 1:1,4 1:10,13 2:11 2:17 5:11 12:21 14:2 17:10 20:4 24:11 26:7,15 26:17 28:6,19 28:21 30:12,16 30:18 32:10,15 35:12,14 36:15 38:6,13,20 39:18 40:10 43:5,9,12 44:16 45:4 48:19 58:11 63:1,8 71:2,19 72:11 75:13,17 76:7,16 78:2 78:15 80:3 85:7,17 89:5,6 89:20 92:3</p>	<p>council's 89:18</p> <p>counsel 92:4,9 92:10,11</p> <p>counterbalance 58:3</p> <p>countians 87:7</p> <p>counties 51:8 51:17 52:11,17 63:9</p> <p>county 1:1,1 5:10,15,19 16:8,9,18 17:3 17:7,10,10,12 17:17 18:20 19:15 22:19 23:4,14 24:7 24:11,12,14,15 24:20 25:1 28:8 29:14 30:6 31:3,4,9 32:12,17 35:12 35:13,20 36:6 36:11,12,15 39:4 40:7,16 41:4 43:1,16 44:1,3,5,7,21 45:7,9,10,16 45:20 46:14 47:2,8,11,19 47:20 48:7,13 49:6,20 50:2,6 50:16,21 51:11 51:21 52:2,11 52:21 53:4,11 53:13,14,14 54:4,12,19,21 55:1,4,17 56:12,14 57:7</p>
--	--	--	--

[county - disbursements]

57:11 58:5,7 59:15 60:12,17 61:10 62:18 64:21 65:1 67:8 69:18 71:2,18,20 72:2,12 74:14 76:3,14,21 77:5 78:3 80:3 85:8,13 86:1,6 87:3,9,18 89:18 92:2,3 county's 23:5 43:14 47:5,10 48:15 49:2 51:18 52:14 53:1,16 54:8 57:1,18 couple 39:9 63:3 courage 24:4 course 10:4 41:3 60:20 63:2 65:1,19 court 42:10 courthouse 42:21 coverage 55:6 create 48:19 created 12:4 creating 23:9 credit 57:14 66:15 criminal 23:6 critically 13:18 cultivated 79:8 cummings 67:12	current 35:21 currently 12:8 19:8 36:19 73:2 79:3 custody 22:20 23:7 cut 8:18 63:11 63:14 cutting 8:15 cycle 48:5 64:5 d daily 29:20 daly 5:12 6:21 7:7,14 8:1,4,12 9:3,8 10:17,17 10:19,19 11:15 12:3,12 13:6 14:11,21 15:6 15:16,19 damage 31:18 dana 59:14 62:6 dave 1:18 20:21 65:7 87:8 day 5:19 12:1 14:7 17:17 19:4 23:1 25:1 27:10 30:2 32:1 56:8,13 60:18 61:11,15 78:7 84:14 92:13 days 32:20,21 74:7,12 83:14 83:16	dealing 66:12 debbie 11:8 14:7 december 38:12 decided 8:5 declare 52:21 decreased 44:15,19 dedicate 32:12 dedicated 27:8 31:15 70:6 dedication 24:3 31:5,7 75:12 deeply 24:9 definitely 40:13 delegation 63:10 deletions 2:12 2:20 3:7 deliberations 90:3 democrat 15:15 37:4 department 23:4,14,18 39:2 42:11,14 49:4,11,14 50:10 51:10 72:4,7 76:10 78:6 departments 56:6 deputies 49:8 deputy 26:10 derek 5:11 7:5 10:19 11:19	describes 52:13 deserves 24:3,6 designated 56:13 designed 68:7 68:10 despite 63:6 detail 40:9 72:9 details 78:12 detect 73:6 detention 22:19 23:9 49:3 determine 45:5 developed 68:10 development 5:4 9:17 46:19 devereaux 11:16,16 diane 1:21 92:2 92:16 different 27:13 differential 36:9 difficult 53:2 difficulties 80:10 dina 5:12 10:17 directly 11:20 director 11:6,8 19:17,18 26:10 29:10 43:7 60:7 90:2 directors 3:18 disbursements 3:5,11
--	---	--	---

<p>discharge 73:4 73:9 80:11,15 discussed 82:7 district 45:2 51:21 54:15 districts 52:1 diverting 79:18 81:16 doing 7:19 8:14 14:10,19 19:9 20:15 21:2,15 22:4 27:9,20 28:3 29:7 66:4 87:12 dr 11:10 37:8 37:13 62:15 66:6,9 dream 9:5,8 drive 41:6 78:11 81:9 drivers 21:5 drop 81:2 due 47:21 52:17 53:3 duties 24:5</p>	<p>echo 29:2 30:10 78:11 economic 40:1 economical 16:13 education 16:10 17:2 35:18 40:12 41:17 44:5 51:3,20 53:10 64:15 66:16 educational 4:14 12:5 50:15 54:12 edus 79:18 effectively 4:11 effort 17:14 38:18 74:11 79:15 82:13 efforts 41:2 60:13 61:19 eight 8:8 eighth 8:2 either 35:6 electronic 23:19 elementary 11:9 45:3 54:16 71:11 88:17,18,19 elevated 56:18 eligible 64:15 71:14 emailed 71:3 emergency 49:4,11 emily 69:15</p>	<p>emotional 4:7 employ 24:8 employee 22:12 92:11 employees 22:16,19 23:4 23:14 24:1,5 24:10,14 32:1 41:5 45:9 49:18 56:1 62:8 emts 49:10,13 enable 55:4 enabled 48:3 48:14 encourage 17:12 24:15 31:2 ended 73:17 endorse 74:15 engine 69:5 engineer 72:3 72:12 78:3 enhancde 72:17 enhance 44:4 49:21 enhanced 49:16 72:19 enhancements 42:20 enhancing 49:7 enjoy 78:3 enjoyed 24:19 enr 79:4,8,16 83:21 enrichment 4:21</p>	<p>enrollment 64:5,9 ensure 55:5 ensuring 74:13 entered 92:9 enthusiastic 77:7 enthusiastica... 74:15 82:1 entire 30:6 environment 42:19 52:18 72:7 78:7 equipment 46:5 especially 16:17 39:2 68:4 essential 23:5 60:17 establish 37:21 estate 47:18 evening 9:15 12:2 71:7,11 event 62:9 80:7 87:11 events 4:14,15 everybody 2:4 2:5 7:18 69:19 72:13 89:9,15 89:16 exactly 10:13 examination 92:5 example 68:11 excited 8:18 9:18</p>
e			
<p>earners 52:20 53:4 east 78:9,10,16 82:3 83:10 easton 1:10 3:19 67:8 71:11,13 79:14 88:18,19 92:13 eaton 18:18,20 19:8,12 20:9 22:1</p>			

exciting 13:2 66:14 68:6	f	financially 57:11 63:5	formula 63:12 66:15
executive 19:18	f 1:14	find 40:20	formulation 57:3
exhibited 24:4	faces 33:17	fine 33:12	fortunate 24:8
existing 79:19	facilities 11:2 66:12,17	finished 14:21 64:10	forward 12:14 27:16,16 40:9
expansion 68:5 70:7	facility 14:15 29:19 30:13	finishing 64:17	41:19 60:10
expenditure 56:16 58:1	42:12 61:12	fire 51:21	72:1,3 73:21
expenditures 48:11,16 53:10	79:4,6,9,20	first 9:21 10:2 26:14 27:12	foster 39:1
53:16,18,19,20	82:15 83:21	59:18 62:21	foundation 19:21 88:5
55:12,13,15	fact 39:18	64:4 67:14	founders 5:11
expense 55:20	failing 42:17	75:16 78:15	four 29:8 44:4 45:11
expenses 39:14 53:12	failure 4:4	fiscal 35:14 36:5,16,16,17	free 53:14 59:15 67:9 69:18
experience 61:9 65:10	families 4:12 32:6,9	43:13 48:17,18	friday 8:7 71:3
87:14 88:16	family 4:16 32:11	90:2	friends 59:21 69:17,21 70:5
experienced 47:12	fast 19:4	fitch 52:13 57:9,18	front 20:12 21:3 33:14 40:2 53:17
experiencing 56:18	federal 64:16	five 35:10 46:12 48:8	fuel 16:14
expires 92:19	feeding 80:1	50:3 53:9 56:2	full 35:7 58:6
explain 72:9 78:12	feel 26:19	59:7 64:17	fun 86:15
exposure 56:14	fees 46:19	65:1 69:6	fund 39:19 43:12 45:19 46:2,19,20 48:11 53:18 55:18 56:7,7,8 56:21 57:21 72:8
extending 42:17	fellow 21:5	fixed 30:19	
extension 76:2 76:13	fescue 83:3	flag 2:7	
extensive 69:4	fest 8:2,12	flexibility 58:1	
extremely 24:9	field 8:15	floor 9:21 10:2	
eyeopening 30:15	figure 39:5	flow 38:14	
	filling 63:18	fluctuate 55:15	
	final 44:12,19 64:12 90:2	fluid 41:12	
	finally 40:5,10 41:9,14	focus 12:17	
	finance 43:7 58:15 90:2	focuses 4:19 5:3	
	financial 43:17 57:19	forget 14:7	
		formed 5:13 9:5	
			funding 35:20 44:7,9,10,17 44:20,21 45:4 54:3,7,8,11,17

55:14 63:6 64:16 73:18 75:18 76:9 funds 56:8 72:6 76:3,14 further 54:21 92:5,8,10 future 10:9 fy21 47:11 fy22 47:11 56:11 fy23 47:13 56:12 fy24 41:20 43:20 44:9 47:13 50:7,19 54:9 fy25 46:1,7 47:6,15 53:6 54:7 55:16 58:13	64:12 83:3,4 83:20 girl 34:6,6 girlfriends 32:7 girls 4:3 13:21 give 7:17 10:11 56:14 70:5 89:14 given 5:18 17:16 24:21 35:8 59:6 63:2 gives 38:7 giving 33:4 glad 20:5 21:6 30:18 52:9 86:7 glenwood 14:18 71:12 go 2:3,5 3:15 6:6 7:18 9:4 10:14 15:13 16:3 18:4 22:13 25:9 30:13 33:14,15 34:9,18,19 39:8 40:8,9 57:10 61:18 62:2 66:2 73:21 84:10 87:9 goal 42:2 goals 5:14 38:14 god 14:9 going 2:6 7:20 9:2 10:2 11:21 13:3 15:7 29:8	30:18 33:17 34:18 43:5 64:4 79:21 80:14 81:7,13 82:20 88:14 good 2:10 8:21 18:18,19 20:3 20:13 21:9,19 22:8,9 26:5 27:21 28:9,10 28:16 30:21 33:13,16,19 41:7 43:3,9,10 62:13 64:9 66:18 67:6 81:19 86:16,20 88:12 89:6,8 89:14,17 gotten 60:8 government 41:4 55:9 governmental 46:17 governor 19:5 21:7 graders 12:8 grades 4:3,18 grant 72:15,17 73:14 75:18 76:9 granted 36:8 grass 82:19 83:1,4 grateful 30:2,6 great 5:18 7:13 8:11 10:15 11:18 13:5 15:10,18 17:16	19:11 20:2 21:21 24:21 26:1,13 27:7 28:15,18 33:9 34:16,17 41:1 58:14 63:5 64:18 66:21 67:1 70:14 71:16 86:9,10 86:15,21 87:1 87:11,12,13,17 greater 5:17 greatly 21:6 green 26:12,12 28:5,11,16 29:15 30:20 31:13 33:7 greene 11:13 11:13 grew 56:10 ground 82:18 82:19 group 35:11 47:8 59:8 grow 83:6 growing 83:4 growth 28:17 guess 29:8 34:8 73:12 78:16 guidance 57:3 guys 6:19 7:2,5 13:1,4 14:13 15:4 20:5 21:10 27:15 29:4,7,9,12 31:21 32:9 33:10 34:11 37:5,6 66:1,3
g			
gallons 80:20 game 86:14 gang 33:11 ged 9:16 general 17:3 37:1 41:13 43:12 48:11 51:21 53:18 55:9 generally 57:13 generate 36:4 generated 49:21 68:20 getting 8:1 28:20 61:20			

67:1 69:9 87:16 89:1,3,6 91:3 gymnasium 42:9	85:5 87:2,6 88:10 90:9 91:1,2 he'll 72:9 head 11:11 heads 33:21 39:2 health 4:9 5:4 42:11,13 64:6 74:9 healthy 39:19 43:17 48:4 64:20 hear 52:8 59:1 heard 59:3 hearing 2:15 3:1,10 34:19 34:20 35:4,13 36:21 37:17 59:2 69:21 71:6,9 82:7 hearings 35:5,7 heart 9:4 heartwarming 86:7 heavily 47:17 held 89:19 90:5 help 8:17 14:16 27:17 31:16,17 31:18 33:2 80:18 81:5 84:10 helped 63:10 helping 32:8 66:17 hey 7:4 27:20 27:21	hi 69:15 high 4:19 52:20 53:3 73:15 higher 35:21 36:2,13 52:15 64:14 66:16 73:1 highest 16:7 47:12 57:19 highlights 43:19 highly 24:8 highway 20:19 75:20 historians 10:10 historical 10:12 39:11 historically 46:13 47:20 58:3 history 10:7,8 10:9 50:3 hit 89:3 holdings 78:9 78:16 home 23:19 29:14 50:21 53:5 homeowner's 51:5 homes 52:20 honor 58:17 hope 9:16 67:14 70:11 hopefully 8:7 9:9 89:10,11 89:15	hoping 63:19 horvath 60:7 host 10:9 hosting 65:21 houlihan 1:21 92:2,16 hour 22:21 hours 55:7 house 65:7,18 66:1 houses 80:16 hughes 26:4,6 26:10,10,14 27:3,8,15 28:2 29:15 31:6,13 31:19 33:8 humane 29:21 hundred 68:8
h			i
halfway 83:16 hand 10:2 43:5 92:13 hands 5:18 17:16 24:21 hansen 69:16 hanson 69:15 happening 9:3 9:9 73:11 happens 61:10 72:21 happy 42:1,9 65:9,9 87:3 89:16 hard 30:4 32:5 32:5 38:9,17 66:9 73:5 75:12 89:4 haythe 1:16 2:14,21 3:9 6:3 6:17,18 7:3,10 7:20 13:14 18:14,15 20:21 21:17 22:2,5,8 25:20,21 30:10 30:21 33:20 62:1,3 65:14 67:4 69:12 70:18 75:8,9 76:18 77:21 78:1 84:8 85:4			identified 44:21 ii 42:16 impact 13:10 46:18,19 importance 16:20 important 5:14 13:17,18 20:7 23:21 39:21 61:12 69:8 impress 68:21 improve 17:14 41:13 improvement 44:20 46:1 54:18

improvements 42:15	61:2	invest 46:3	jump 79:9,16
improving 42:18	incredibly 20:7 70:1	investment 45:11,20 53:21 55:17	june 42:12 56:9 64:13 82:10
incarceration 23:12	individuals 23:8 24:17	investments 70:3	justice 23:6
incentive 52:19	indoor 5:7	investor 57:9	k
include 43:20	inflation 56:17 56:19	invite 72:2	kaitlin 39:1 88:20
included 44:16 45:8 48:20 52:4 54:4,14 55:12,20 56:20 86:8	information 51:9	involvement 68:12	karen 62:19 63:16 67:7
includes 35:18 45:1 49:3 50:12,13 53:12 55:16 56:2	infrastructure 41:16 42:20 45:21 55:17	issuance 57:10	keasha 1:16 33:17 34:2 88:3,8
including 4:8 5:6 23:18 49:8 55:2 63:11	initiative 48:20	issues 23:11 63:6	keep 20:19 21:2
inclusion 49:12 49:15	initiatives 44:6 50:17	item 75:13	keeps 21:3
income 40:6 46:9,11 47:3 48:1 52:10,12 52:14,15,20,21 53:1 58:8	inmate 22:21	items 75:14	ken 18:16
incorporated 35:18 36:7	inmates 23:10 27:17 29:21 30:14	j	kicked 19:2
increase 35:19 44:8 46:8,9 47:1 50:18,20 51:1,2 53:6 54:11 56:19	inside 9:4 28:2	jackson 19:19 20:11 21:13 22:7	kicks 8:12
increased 45:16 54:7,9	inspirational 33:6	jail 32:20	kids 10:4 11:9
increases 46:16 46:17 58:5	inspire 32:19	jair 11:16	kill 89:10
	institution 64:14 65:2	james 11:6,11 12:9	kilmon 15:11 33:13,21 34:3 34:9
	instruction 11:7	jamiko 11:2	kim 76:10
	interest 64:6	january 38:15	kind 65:2 79:9 80:18 81:5 82:16 83:3
	interested 8:10 92:12	jess 89:2	kinds 82:21
	interim 80:11	jessica 39:1	knew 86:17
	interrogated 92:4	job 2:10 28:3 60:16,18 63:17 66:2 88:12 89:1,6,14	know 8:9 9:12 10:16 13:14 14:15 28:3 30:17 31:20 32:2,5,5,8 40:2 67:21 85:14 89:11,12
	introduce 10:14,21	jobs 30:1	
	introduced 58:12	joe 26:2,10	
		join 9:13 17:13	
		jowite 10:1	
		joyful 61:9	

knowledge 4:4	37:16 38:2	liter 73:3,5,10	lots 9:12 33:14
knud 69:15	58:21 70:16,21	81:2	love 89:14
kokolis 29:11	71:1,9 74:4	little 8:6 9:1	low 52:18
kudos 87:19	75:4,5 76:20	11:14 41:18	57:14
kurzner 19:15	77:17,18 81:12	66:6 88:3	lower 36:10
l	81:19,21 84:6	89:15	lowest 40:6
l 1:17	84:21 85:1,21	live 59:16	51:12 52:11
ladder 49:11	89:18 90:18,19	62:16 67:7,11	58:8
lake 78:11	letter 75:17	69:16	lynn 1:17 33:17
lakeside 78:17	76:5,6,8 83:8	lives 20:16	34:3,3
79:15,20 81:16	letters 75:15	living 45:8	m
lamphier 76:11	76:15,19 77:10	55:21	m 66:11,20
lance 11:4	level 32:21	local 19:14,17	ma'am 59:12
lane 62:17	33:5 47:12	44:10,13,14,14	67:5 69:14
large 5:16	55:13 73:2,16	44:18 46:17	madam 3:14
80:13	levels 47:14,16	54:6 63:9	5:21 6:7 16:2
largest 47:8	50:9 53:8	located 35:17	17:19 18:5
laugh 61:8	54:10 56:18	36:7,13 71:12	22:13 25:3,10
law 92:4	78:21	location 42:13	74:19 77:11
layman's 82:17	leveraging	lois 12:12	84:15 90:12
leaders 39:3	41:11	long 13:4 27:1	made 14:17
64:21	levy 58:6	57:14,15	24:17 41:2
leadership 31:7	liabilities 57:15	longer 80:13	47:20 52:5
38:20	libraries 61:10	look 2:18 3:6	maintain 39:19
league 5:8	61:11	10:1 15:17	maintaining
learning 4:8,11	library 9:11	20:7 51:5	22:20 23:7
leave 15:7	10:3,11 53:14	68:19 80:12	maintenance
led 23:11	59:15,19 60:19	looking 21:4	72:6
left 10:2 85:11	61:5,12 67:9	33:16 40:17,18	make 12:15,19
length 30:7	67:18 68:1,9	41:10 82:8,10	14:1 21:3 31:3
leops 49:13,16	69:2,2,2,3,18	82:16	33:2 40:3
lesher 1:15 6:4	70:7 86:12,19	lord 5:20 17:18	41:12 42:7
6:13,14 13:7	licensing 19:4	25:2	45:19 47:4
15:20 18:10,11	life 20:7 24:19	lost 34:3	60:2 61:13
20:14 25:7,16	limited 23:19	lot 13:5,16 38:8	62:1,4 63:13
25:17 29:15	list 64:4 66:10	38:9,17 42:3	76:18
34:7,15 35:1,3	66:19	64:5 89:7	

makes 64:15 making 32:3 61:8 62:9 73:21 manageable 57:15 management 40:16 57:12 manager 11:3 32:17 71:18,20 85:8 87:4 mandated 54:3 manner 92:7 march 83:10 marianne 19:19 mark 14:18 19:14 market 47:18 marks 11:5,5 martha 38:21 40:8 43:6,7 85:12 88:20 maryland 1:1 1:10 3:19 17:1 17:8 20:1 21:8 21:14 40:7 49:17 51:8,9 51:13 52:16 54:6 59:17 62:17 65:3 72:6 75:20 76:10 78:6 92:1,2 matter 92:7 matters 5:3 maximize 4:5	mccoy 11:10 12:12 mckinney 62:16 md 92:13 mde 72:15 73:13 80:12 83:9,10 mdot 19:3 meadow 82:21 mean 29:3,5 30:14 79:17 81:13 82:16 meaningful 13:10 16:17 means 16:13 92:7 media 9:11 13:16 meet 39:6 40:12 42:1 meeting 1:4 63:3 65:20 80:10 89:19 90:6,8 91:5 member 11:4,5 11:17 30:12,16 members 1:13 16:21 59:20 60:1 68:13 mental 5:4 mentioned 65:19 87:16 messages 19:12 met 73:7 methodology 43:15	methods 57:1,2 michaels 61:5 68:5 70:6 75:15,16 76:1 76:7,12 77:4,6 77:10 microorganis... 83:5 mid 9:9 82:9 midshore 16:21 mielke 1:17 6:15,16 13:12 18:1,12,13 20:18 25:18,19 30:4 34:6 70:17 75:6,7 77:19,20 82:2 83:8 84:1 85:2 85:3 86:11 90:20,21 miles 43:1 74:10 milligrams 73:3,5,10 81:2 million 44:8,9 44:10 45:1,3 45:18 46:2,4 47:9 53:7 54:5 54:9,14,17 55:11,18 56:10 56:10,13 75:19 mills 80:10,21 81:8 mind 7:8 10:14 32:19 35:1 76:5	minds 3:19 4:1 minute 2:18 39:8 minutes 2:17 2:18,20 3:2 7:18 35:9,10 59:6,7 mistakes 33:2 modernization 42:5 modest 88:3 modification 46:10 63:11 modified 48:5 monitored 46:15 monitoring 23:20 montgomery 51:17 month 16:2,6 17:12 19:1,2 23:1 81:3 monthly 68:21 months 41:21 moody 57:8 moody's 57:11 moon 11:2,2 moran 37:18 morning 61:6 morris 37:12 39:1 motion 6:2,3,5 17:21 18:3 25:5,8 74:18 76:18 77:9 84:5,9 90:7,11
--	--	--	---

motor 16:5 motorcycle 16:1,10,20 17:2,11 18:21 19:20,21 20:15 21:5 motorcycles 16:12,19 19:10 motorists 17:13 motors 20:19 move 27:16 33:18 34:4 40:4 71:18 73:21 74:16 79:5,13 80:6 84:6 89:17 moved 18:1,2 25:6 47:14 90:9 moves 3:2,11 moving 12:13 41:19 54:11 60:10 msde 44:13 multicounty 63:3 65:20 multiphase 42:6 multiuse 76:2 76:12 museums 4:15 mva 19:3	67:6 named 92:3 national 19:20 nature 76:1,12 navigate 40:4 navigates 57:7 nay 85:3 neavitt 59:16 59:16 necessary 4:5 need 33:17 80:8 needed 30:14 needs 39:6 40:12 42:7 83:13 network 76:11 never 14:7 67:19 79:8 new 8:15 9:1 27:10,16,17 30:12,15 32:20 41:3 42:9,13 56:2 62:3 66:17 78:19 79:5,19 newman 59:13 59:14 62:12 news 74:5 81:19 nice 19:7 59:19 night 32:1 nine 81:3 nitrogen 73:4 nitrogens 81:1 non 46:18,20 55:13 62:10 66:15 73:6	nonprofit 86:4 noon 8:13 71:3 normal 47:14 notary 92:2,17 noted 90:8 notes 92:6 notorial 92:13 november 12:11 38:12 44:3 48:12,21 number 10:5 13:19 37:19,20 38:8 41:15 43:2 52:20 59:3 71:7 86:3 numbers 81:9 numerous 39:3 nutrient 72:17 72:19	officer 22:11 26:16 45:14 55:3 officers 22:16 22:18 23:3,13 24:1,10,14 26:21 27:4,6 28:12,12 29:18 49:9,15 oh 7:7 okay 2:3,9,10 2:15,16 3:10 6:1,5,19 12:21 15:14,21 17:19 18:3,16 20:2 21:12,18,20 22:10 25:3,8 26:1,11,13 28:19 29:1 34:11,12,16,17 37:3,5,13,15 59:10 67:1,5 70:19,20 71:8 71:9,16 74:3 74:18 77:8 81:11 84:3,4,7 84:9 85:6,9,11 85:14,16,20 89:17 90:11 91:3 old 32:20 41:10 67:18 81:16 once 52:3 74:1 88:13 ongoing 75:12 open 34:20 36:21 59:2 65:7,18 66:1
n		o	
n 1:16 name 35:7 59:5 59:14 62:15	o'clock 8:7 71:10 88:15 89:20 90:1 objective 83:20 objectives 38:14 occasion 13:8 occur 42:3 october 9:9 odd 10:8 offer 12:4,6 offers 4:20 5:2 72:16 office 45:15 49:3,12 55:5 58:15		

<p>89:21 90:4 opening 82:3 operate 73:1 operating 47:5 47:10 48:11 53:16,19 operation 23:16 72:5 79:10 81:14 82:8 operational 83:21 operations 45:7 81:6 operators 45:13 49:10 opinion 69:4 opportunities 23:10 56:5 opportunity 4:13 8:19 38:19 48:19 74:6 77:3 87:8 opposed 53:21 order 35:4 ordinance 36:19 38:1 organics 79:21 80:15 83:7 organization 5:16 13:19 19:20 59:9 organizations 39:3 outcome 89:13 92:12 outdoor 77:2</p>	<p>outlay 46:6 53:21 55:11 outreach 69:3 outside 27:21 35:17 45:17 77:5 outstanding 14:5 overall 46:21 50:18 53:10 54:9 overarching 40:15 overarchingly 39:10 overestimating 39:13 overflows 74:8 overhead 19:9 overnight 4:13 overview 58:12 owned 50:6 oxford 69:17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">p</p> <p>p 40:17 p.m. 1:7 71:10 89:20 90:1 91:5 pack 66:11,20 paid 55:18 pandemic 76:21 paramedic 64:4 paramedics 49:10,13</p>	<p>park 89:4 parking 16:16 parks 4:15 part 36:17 54:20 57:9 86:8 participated 87:20 participation 69:1 particularly 52:17 56:16 parties 92:11 92:11 partners 9:13 86:4 87:10,12 88:6 partnership 69:3 partnerships 5:13 past 39:17 42:4 63:7 pathway 66:19 patrons 68:7 pba 11:10,12 11:20 pension 49:18 people 10:16 11:1 21:3 31:14 33:2 34:7 38:9 61:7 86:12,17 percent 36:2 43:20 45:8 46:8,9 47:1,4,5 50:7,20 53:11 53:15 55:8,10</p>	<p>55:21 percentage 52:15 53:3 performance 24:5 73:16 period 38:15 41:1 78:8 84:14 permit 73:4,9 79:12 80:5,11 81:10 83:9,13 personal 23:11 personally 92:3 personnel 40:18,20,20 50:1 55:20 perspective 82:17 pete 1:15 33:13 phenomenal 89:1 phosphorus 73:6,7,10 photos 15:8 physical 5:3 pickleball 42:10 picture 15:10 pictures 7:9 pins 15:6 place 61:6 66:18 82:20 92:4 placed 43:17 places 33:1 plan 10:8 28:8 49:14,15 57:16 64:18</p>
--	--	---	---

<p>planning 38:11 plans 27:17 plant 42:16 73:1,17 74:8 74:12 78:11,17 78:18,20 79:6 79:14,15 81:14 81:17 82:4,9 83:19 84:11 plants 72:18,18 80:7 please 3:16 6:8 7:11 10:15 16:4 22:14 35:2,7 37:18 59:4 77:12 pleasure 15:20 38:7 pledge 2:6,8 plein 10:12 plug 9:21 point 12:15,19 58:18 80:9 polaris 12:3 policy 58:2 port 14:18 position 43:18 55:2 57:17,21 64:1 positions 49:8 56:3 63:18 possible 61:15 posted 74:10 potential 4:6 powerpoint 38:2 practices 43:16</p>	<p>prayer 2:6,8 pre 80:14 predict 53:2 predominantly 12:17 prepared 38:4 presence 92:9 presentation 38:3 43:6 presentations 10:11 presented 6:6 43:11 51:15 preserve 80:9 80:20 81:8 president 2:14 62:4,15 67:8 69:17 88:1 prevent 4:10 previous 51:14 previously 43:11 primary 83:20 printed 92:6 prior 8:14 50:9 priorities 38:13 prioritize 40:11 prioritized 40:14 54:18 priority 16:7 45:5 probably 31:9 66:14 82:5 problem 37:14 proceedings 2:1</p>	<p>process 38:11 38:12 39:12 57:7,10 64:11 79:7,16,18 82:11,14 processed 79:3 processes 40:18 41:9,12 41:13 proclaim 17:11 19:6 24:12 proclaiming 18:21 proclamation 16:1,5 19:5 22:11,15 productive 4:6 64:10 professional 24:8 27:9 professionali... 24:3 30:1 professions 64:6 program 4:21 5:1,3,4,9 11:8 19:4 76:1,11 programming 4:18 9:17 programs 4:8 23:17 49:17 project 13:13 42:6,6 44:20 45:2 60:5,9,14 66:7 68:6 76:2 76:13 projected 46:7 46:14,16</p>	<p>projecting 48:6 projections 47:15,21 53:7 projects 40:19 41:14,15 43:2 46:1 54:1,15 54:18 promote 4:16 17:2 20:15 proper 55:5 84:11 properties 35:17 36:7,13 50:6 property 35:15 35:21 36:4,9 36:12 40:6 44:2 46:8 47:3 48:14 50:4,5,7 50:18 51:1,7 51:12,18,19 58:6,8 propose 41:15 proposed 35:14 50:5 58:12 proposing 35:15 protecting 32:2 proud 16:9 32:17 39:18 42:5,19 43:3 58:15 70:4,7 provide 56:4 65:10 provided 4:1 51:4 72:17 provides 4:12 4:17 52:19</p>
---	---	--	--

<p>providing 54:13 63:17</p> <p>public 17:3 23:6 24:2 34:19 35:4,4 35:13,20 36:21 37:1,16 40:11 41:7,16 43:3 44:4,7 45:1,11 45:12,13 48:16 49:2,7,18,21 50:14 53:13,15 54:19 55:1,8 56:2,3,6 59:1,2 61:14,16 62:5 69:21,21 70:13 71:6,9 72:5 74:9 82:7 85:10 87:9 88:15 90:5 92:2,17</p> <p>public's 38:10</p> <p>publiccomm... 71:5</p> <p>pumper 79:1</p> <p>purchase 46:4</p> <p>purpose 22:20</p> <p>pursuing 74:5</p> <p>put 18:4 20:12 25:9 31:8 32:11 38:17 74:11 80:13</p>	<p>quest 41:7</p> <p>questions 82:2 84:3</p> <p>quick 65:15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">r</p> <p>rainy 56:8,13</p> <p>raised 70:5</p> <p>ran 32:20</p> <p>rarely 24:1</p> <p>rate 35:15 36:1 36:2,3,8,11,14 36:16,17 37:17 44:2 48:15 50:5,13,18 51:12,18,19 52:12</p> <p>rated 57:8</p> <p>rates 36:10,12 51:7,16 52:10</p> <p>rating 57:6</p> <p>ratings 52:13 57:9</p> <p>ratings's 57:18</p> <p>ray 37:3 72:2,4 72:11 75:11 78:4,5,12 84:4 84:12</p> <p>rbcu 80:17</p> <p>reaccreditation 64:11</p> <p>reached 67:19</p> <p>reactor 79:3</p> <p>read 3:15 16:3 22:14 37:18</p> <p>readiness 4:20</p> <p>reading 35:1</p>	<p>ready 8:1 15:12,12 21:18 28:20 34:11,19</p> <p>reaffirms 64:13</p> <p>real 35:15,21 36:9,12 47:18</p> <p>realignment 48:9</p> <p>realize 40:5 41:6</p> <p>realized 46:12</p> <p>reallocation 63:15</p> <p>really 13:2,9 14:17,17,18,19 20:3 21:10 22:7 28:6 30:5 30:12,15 32:6 32:13 41:9 60:2,3,4,14 61:9,20 66:2 67:16,21 68:7 86:16 88:20 89:3,3,4,4,7,8</p> <p>rebasing 63:12</p> <p>rebuild 8:16</p> <p>receive 64:15 73:18</p> <p>received 10:5 44:12 47:2 48:8 53:8</p> <p>receives 24:2</p> <p>receiving 73:17 88:8</p> <p>recently 60:6 65:7</p>	<p>recess 71:6 90:7</p> <p>recession 56:17</p> <p>recipients 88:4 88:5</p> <p>recognition 3:14,17 24:2 26:15 39:11 61:2</p> <p>recognize 5:14 6:6 13:18 16:20 24:16 26:21 29:5 41:5 45:13 59:20 60:13</p> <p>recognized 26:19 46:5 86:3 87:10,12</p> <p>recognizing 21:7 26:7</p> <p>reconvene 90:8</p> <p>record 3:16 16:3 18:4 22:14 25:10 35:8 59:5</p> <p>recordation 47:7,12 48:1</p> <p>recorded 92:6</p> <p>recreation 77:2</p> <p>recruit 41:3</p> <p>recruitment 56:5</p> <p>recurring 46:18,20 53:19 55:13</p> <p>redman 11:11 11:11 12:9,11</p>
q			
<p>quality 24:18 65:10</p> <p>queen 19:15 62:18</p>			

reduces 16:13	represents 53:6	rest 52:18	rights 19:20
reflect 46:10	request 45:2	restoration	rise 14:16
reflects 52:6	72:4 73:13,20	72:7	risk 4:3
region 42:16	74:15 76:5,6	result 56:21	risks 56:15
regional 64:11	76:15 78:5,6	63:14	river 74:10
64:21	78:13	results 29:11	road 16:14
related 48:16	requested	retain 41:2	21:5 42:21
92:11	79:12	retention 56:5	59:16 67:12
relative 72:9	requesting	retirement	roads 17:6,7
78:12	75:17 76:7	49:13,15,16,17	roadway 17:5
release 23:19	requests 45:6	retract 88:7	roadways 16:8
relief 16:15	75:14 76:19	returning 64:7	16:19 17:15
remain 58:8	required 44:11	revenue 39:16	43:2
remarkable	44:13,14 54:6	50:9 56:15	robert 60:6
60:18 62:7	55:14 76:3,15	revenues 36:5	roll 6:7 76:4
86:4	rescuing 42:17	39:15 43:20,21	room 7:2 90:6
remarks 7:10	reserve 56:8	46:8,9,11,13	rotating 80:16
remember 14:8	57:16	46:18 47:1,3,5	routinely 24:4
74:7 87:17	reserves 45:19	47:6,8,10,13	74:9
remiss 9:20	46:3,21 48:4	47:14,17,21	running 20:19
removal 72:17	48:10 55:19	48:2,3,6,7 49:6	81:1 83:19
72:20 84:11	56:13,14	49:20 50:7,8	ryan 8:15 9:20
renovations	residents 24:19	50:12 52:14,16	10:20,20 11:19
45:3 54:16	77:1,4,5	53:2 58:2,4	s
repairs 42:21	resilience	review 51:17	safe 17:7 32:3
report 42:1	57:19	ribbon 8:14,18	safely 20:20
71:18,20 85:8	resolve 23:10	richard 11:5	safer 42:7
reported 1:20	resolved 17:9	richer 69:7	safety 16:1,6,7
81:4	resource 45:14	riders 19:21	16:10,20 17:2
represent	49:9 55:3	right 8:3 9:7	17:6,11,14
53:11,15 70:13	respect 24:6	15:12 20:8	19:1 20:15
representation	responded	27:14 28:1,4	23:6 24:18
59:19	83:11	29:4 33:13	29:20 40:11
representative	response 68:7	40:21 62:5	41:17 44:4
20:1	68:12,14	66:20 71:17	45:11,12 48:16
representing	responsible 4:6	72:21 82:11	49:2,7,18 50:1
19:19 35:9	23:15	83:4 85:9,15	50:15 55:1,8
59:7,15 62:20		87:2	

<p>56:2,4,6 salary 61:2 salisbury 19:2 sample 51:4 saturday 8:13 save 20:7,16 savings 39:20 63:17 saw 60:8 80:21 saying 83:11 schedule 51:15 51:18 53:17 scheduled 36:19 scholarship 5:8 school 4:8,18 4:19 5:1 11:11 12:1,2 45:3 49:9 54:11,16 55:2,5,6 61:7 71:11 87:9 88:17,19 89:10 schools 35:20 44:6,8 45:1 49:9 53:13,15 54:8,19,21 55:1 60:20 schools's 50:16 score 57:6 sdatt 51:16 seal 5:18 17:16 24:21 92:13 seats 7:5,14 second 6:4,5 12:8 18:4 25:7 25:9 28:5 33:5 51:12 52:11,20 74:17,19 76:4</p>	<p>76:6,20 77:9 84:8,10 87:8 88:2 90:10,12 seconds 7:6 secretary 3:15 3:17 5:21 6:7,9 6:11,13,15,17 16:2,5 17:20 18:5,6,8,10,12 18:14 22:13,15 25:4,10,12,14 25:16,18,20 37:20 74:19,21 75:2,4,6,8 77:11,13,15,17 77:19,21 84:16 84:17,19,21 85:2,4 90:12 90:14,16,18,20 91:1 section 10:6,6 security 22:21 23:7 26:12 see 13:2 22:8 27:19,21 28:16 30:13,14,18 33:16,20,21 42:12 49:19 51:7,11 58:14 61:9 64:5 66:3 68:9 83:8,15 87:17 91:3 seed 83:3 seeds 79:6 seeing 13:15 seem 64:7 seen 33:1 42:3 42:15 69:6</p>	<p>send 29:4 77:9 sending 29:3 sent 71:4 sentiments 28:6 september 57:8 92:19 septic 42:17 servants 41:7 43:4 serve 58:17 61:14 65:9 served 39:16 43:16 service 23:20 services 4:1,9 12:5,6 23:17 40:16 49:5,11 57:9 serving 13:9,20 31:15 50:1 64:1 session 86:7 89:21 90:1,4,4 set 44:18 92:4 sets 36:9 38:13 setup 64:21 seven 71:10 88:15 several 41:21 sewage 78:8 sewer 42:17 sha 75:20 shape 63:5 64:18 share 8:19 9:1 44:10,14,14,18 54:6</p>	<p>sharing 17:6,7 21:4 sheriff's 45:15 49:3,12 55:4 sherman 67:6,7 67:14 69:11 shifts 48:9,10 short 11:8,8 shorten 81:15 shortening 83:12 shower 30:19 shown 59:21 side 10:2 33:3 34:4,5 39:16 signature 92:15 significant 13:3 16:15 45:20 signs 19:9 20:11 single 68:19 sir 37:7 58:18 81:18 87:21 88:10 sit 7:3,5,14 38:7 site 55:6 situation 78:16 situations 32:11 six 4:3,19 8:7 81:4 89:20 skills 4:5 39:13 sleeping 32:2 slide 49:19 50:3</p>
---	---	---	--

<p>slight 46:10</p> <p>slightly 44:12</p> <p>slip 33:13</p> <p>slots 8:10</p> <p>sludge 78:8 79:2,5,12,13 80:5,6,19 82:12,13</p> <p>small 7:2 52:19 53:3</p> <p>smith 62:19 67:2</p> <p>snapshot 41:19</p> <p>soccer 5:7 8:15</p> <p>social 4:7 13:16</p> <p>socioeconomic 4:10</p> <p>solid 64:10 66:19</p> <p>solution 89:9</p> <p>somebody 33:4</p> <p>sooner 81:14</p> <p>sorry 58:10 62:17</p> <p>sort 10:9,12</p> <p>sounds 11:18 70:14 71:16</p> <p>space 9:12</p> <p>spaces 61:13</p> <p>sparks 38:21 40:8 43:6,9 85:13</p> <p>speak 11:20 35:6,9,10 59:6 59:7</p> <p>speaker 7:2,12 7:16 15:8,14 15:17 21:20</p>	<p>34:13</p> <p>speaking 35:10 59:8</p> <p>specialists 45:12</p> <p>specifically 10:7</p> <p>spectacular 66:1</p> <p>spending 77:1</p> <p>spent 89:7</p> <p>spoken 32:15</p> <p>sporting 4:14</p> <p>sports 5:6</p> <p>spouses 32:7</p> <p>spread 89:14</p> <p>sro 55:6</p> <p>st 61:5 68:5 70:6 75:15,16 76:1,7,12 77:4 77:6,10</p> <p>staff 3:18 22:19 38:3 43:11 57:3 60:1,15 60:17,18,19,19 61:8 68:1 74:11 88:21 89:2</p> <p>staff's 58:12</p> <p>stainable 81:7</p> <p>stamp 15:10 21:18 28:21 32:14,15 34:1 37:10 38:3,5 58:11 71:19 75:11 78:2 85:7 87:4,5 88:18</p>	<p>stand 2:5 7:3 7:12</p> <p>standing 52:6</p> <p>staple 11:15</p> <p>star 15:14 37:4</p> <p>start 8:4,6 12:16 78:18 79:16 80:1 82:13</p> <p>started 2:4 12:7 13:15 28:14 60:12 83:19</p> <p>starting 3:13 60:14 78:19 79:9</p> <p>startup 78:10</p> <p>state 16:18 17:4 19:6,9,18 19:21 21:8,14 35:7 40:7 44:11 49:17 50:10 51:9 52:19 58:9 59:4 63:6 65:3 66:10,11,15 73:1 75:20 92:1,2</p> <p>statement 88:7</p> <p>statistics 68:20</p> <p>status 64:14 82:3</p> <p>stenographic 92:6</p> <p>stenographic... 92:6</p> <p>step 27:16 45:9 56:1 74:13</p>	<p>stepp 1:18 2:10 6:11,12 12:21 13:1 18:2,8,9 20:5,10 25:6 25:14,15 29:2 34:4 65:15,17 74:17 75:2,3 77:15,16 84:19 84:20 85:18,19 88:1 90:10,16 90:17</p> <p>steppenwolf 20:18</p> <p>stimulate 80:18 81:6</p> <p>stipulations 92:8</p> <p>stops 9:4</p> <p>storm 74:8</p> <p>strategic 38:11 64:18</p> <p>strategy 40:15 40:17 48:2</p> <p>street 10:1 14:18</p> <p>streets 16:8</p> <p>strength 57:20</p> <p>strengths 57:14</p> <p>strive 39:10</p> <p>strong 56:21 57:12,16 58:1 63:8 64:1,5</p> <p>structurally 54:13</p> <p>student 45:14</p> <p>students 4:11 4:12,18 64:1,7 65:11</p>
--	---	--	---

<p>stuff 13:16 66:13 82:21</p> <p>submit 73:13</p> <p>submitted 83:9</p> <p>success 5:17</p> <p>successes 41:6</p> <p>successful 13:13 39:12</p> <p>suggestions 10:5</p> <p>summer 4:21 5:7</p> <p>summit 86:2 87:15,16,18</p> <p>sunday 14:8</p> <p>supervisor 45:15 55:3</p> <p>supplement 35:19 44:5 50:15 51:4 54:12</p> <p>supply 39:5</p> <p>support 28:11 30:17 31:1 44:3,5,16 48:15 49:2 50:14,16 54:8 60:3 63:1,8 64:20 65:4 67:17,20 68:5 69:8 70:10,10 70:12 73:20 75:15,18 76:8 76:16,19 77:7 77:10 82:1</p> <p>supported 48:13</p>	<p>supporter 16:10</p> <p>supporting 28:7 31:9 48:10 66:16</p> <p>supports 54:21 69:21</p> <p>supposed 37:9</p> <p>sure 14:1 21:3 32:3,13 40:3 60:2 61:13 62:2 65:16</p> <p>susan 67:7 89:3</p> <p>system 23:6 49:18</p> <p>systems 42:18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">t</p> <p>table 78:4</p> <p>take 2:18 38:19 39:8 79:2,4,7 82:20</p> <p>taken 3:6 15:9 56:4</p> <p>takes 69:1</p> <p>talbot 1:1 5:10 5:15,19 16:9 17:7,10,12,17 22:19 23:4,14 24:7,12,14,20 25:1 29:14 31:4,9 32:12 35:20 44:3,5,7 44:21 47:2,11 47:18 48:12 50:2,16 51:11 52:11,13 53:1 53:4,10,12,14</p>	<p>53:14 54:8,19 55:1,4 56:12 57:6 59:15 60:12 67:8 69:18 74:14 76:21 77:5 85:13 86:1 87:7,9,17 92:3</p> <p>talbotcounty... 71:5</p> <p>talent 41:3 58:15</p> <p>talk 41:17 59:11 69:20</p> <p>tall 33:14 34:7</p> <p>tank 80:14</p> <p>tap 76:1</p> <p>target 42:1</p> <p>tax 35:15,21 36:4,8,10,12 36:16,17 37:17 40:6 44:2 46:8 46:9 47:13 48:2,15 50:5,7 50:18,21 51:5 51:7,12,18,19 51:20 52:10,12 52:14,18 53:1 58:6,8</p> <p>taxation 50:11 51:10</p> <p>taxes 46:11,17 47:3,7 50:4 52:15</p> <p>tcps 45:5</p> <p>team 57:12 86:15 87:19</p>	<p>teams 8:8</p> <p>technologies 72:20</p> <p>technology 41:11</p> <p>tell 7:18 26:8 64:3</p> <p>telling 68:8</p> <p>ten 60:4</p> <p>term 57:14,15</p> <p>thank 2:9 5:11 5:21 9:18 12:20,20 13:1 13:5,6,11,12 14:5,11,13,19 15:19 17:19 18:20 20:14 21:19 22:1,2,3 22:5 25:3 26:6 26:14,20 28:11 28:12 29:9,10 29:12,14,15,17 30:8 31:5,6,7 31:11 32:10 33:6,7,8,9 34:14,15 38:5 38:8,19,21 43:7 58:18,20 58:21 59:13 60:15 61:1,17 61:21 62:6,10 62:12,21 63:7 65:12,13,14,17 65:20 66:4,5 67:1,2,4,16 68:4,14,17 69:8,9,11,12 70:9,16,17,18</p>
--	---	---	---

71:19 72:11,14 74:5 75:10,11 78:2 84:1 85:7 87:5 88:10,21 thanked 67:15 thankful 14:2 60:9 thanking 69:19 72:13 thanks 29:2,3,4 67:3 thing 30:21 66:14 things 10:4 13:5 32:3 39:9 41:10 66:3 87:13 89:17 think 11:19 15:11 33:16 66:18 68:10,14 73:7 81:6 82:6 82:10 83:9,16 83:18 89:8,12 89:13 thomas 84:13 thought 13:17 three 7:16 8:8 8:8 15:13,17 21:19,21 34:11 34:14 35:9 40:17 59:6 89:21 thursday 86:2 tied 47:17 time 9:3 12:7 13:17 14:4 30:8 34:18 41:1 77:1	79:20 83:12 86:20 89:7 92:4 timeline 81:13 81:15 times 40:1 52:8 56:16 tired 67:15 tis 62:9 title 29:14 37:19 today 19:13 29:18 31:10 35:5 36:16 38:8 41:20 43:11 59:21 72:1 85:8 together 14:1 17:13 47:4 52:3 65:20 87:18 88:14 togetherness 4:16 tonight 88:14 89:11 91:4 tonya 8:16 total 44:17 47:6 53:11,18 55:9 56:7 73:3 73:6,10 80:21 totally 27:13 touch 60:6,8 tournament 8:5 tours 4:14 toward 39:11 town 75:14,16 76:6 79:14,19	towns 35:18 36:8,13,14 track 19:4 traffic 16:15 trail 76:12 trails 76:2 trained 83:5 training 31:10 transcribed 92:6 transcript 2:1 transcription 92:7 transfer 47:7 47:13 48:2 80:19 transfers 46:18 46:20 transportation 16:13 75:21 76:10 trappe 78:9,10 78:11,16 79:19 81:17 82:3 83:10 trappe's 79:15 84:10 treating 82:14 treatment 29:21 42:16 72:18 73:2,17 78:10,20,21 79:14 80:7,14 81:17 82:9,15 84:11 tremendous 13:13 60:16	trips 4:14 trivia 86:14 truck 79:1 true 52:16 92:7 truly 30:5 70:12 trust 78:9 trustees 67:9 try 29:5 39:13 81:8 trying 27:18 31:16 40:12 43:3 78:20 79:7 89:14 tuesday 36:20 71:14 89:19 turn 58:18 59:1 86:17 tutoring 4:9 twice 20:7 two 7:6 15:13 15:17 21:18,20 34:11,13 35:4 43:20 61:11 75:13 76:15 77:10 ty 11:13 type 19:12 types 55:14 typically 58:5 72:16,21 78:15 78:19 80:4
u			
ultimately 72:15 73:9 79:1 82:10			

<p>unanimous 2:16 3:2,12 63:1 65:4</p> <p>uncertain 39:21</p> <p>under 5:18 17:16 24:21 39:14 40:20 58:7 71:19</p> <p>underbudgeti... 48:3</p> <p>underestimat... 39:15</p> <p>underscore 60:11 61:1</p> <p>understand 33:2 60:3 69:20</p> <p>understanding 82:6</p> <p>unfortunately 81:7</p> <p>unincorporated 36:6</p> <p>unit 80:17</p> <p>unite 17:6</p> <p>unnoticed 29:9</p> <p>update 66:7</p> <p>upgraded 72:19</p> <p>upgrades 43:1</p> <p>urgent 83:17</p> <p>urgently 83:13</p> <p>use 39:13 40:15 42:8 45:6</p> <p>used 12:1 45:19 46:3 49:6,20</p>	<p>users 17:5</p> <p>using 50:7</p> <p>utilization 78:8 79:12 80:5</p> <p>utmost 24:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <hr/> <p>vacant 63:19</p> <p>valuable 49:1 60:14</p> <p>valuation 35:16</p> <p>variety 23:16</p> <p>vary 54:1</p> <p>vehicle 16:5</p> <p>vehicles 46:4</p> <p>village 12:3</p> <p>vision 5:12</p> <p>visit 68:19</p> <p>visitors 24:19 50:2</p> <p>volatile 46:13 53:2 58:3</p> <p>volatility 48:1 56:16</p> <p>volunteers 68:2</p> <p>vote 18:5 25:11 49:1 71:14 74:20 77:11 84:16 90:13</p> <p>voters 44:2 48:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">w</p> <hr/> <p>wage 53:4</p> <p>wait 64:4 83:13</p> <p>waiver 78:7 81:12 84:14</p>	<p>walk 9:21</p> <p>walls 23:17</p> <p>walmart 27:19</p> <p>want 2:4 6:19 7:4 8:21 10:21 11:19 12:15,19 18:16 26:2,20 27:18,19 28:5 29:3,12 31:17 31:17,18,21 32:9,10 33:10 34:1 37:5 39:8 59:13,18,20 60:2,11,13,15 61:1,4,13,18 62:7,21 63:7 64:3 65:17 67:21 68:4 69:20 70:9 76:4 79:21 80:13 85:11 87:2 88:13,20</p> <p>wanted 7:5 14:1 68:9 82:18</p> <p>warnings 74:9</p> <p>waste 79:2,5 80:19 81:16</p> <p>wastewater 42:16 72:18 73:16 78:10,20 79:14 80:7 81:17 82:9,15 84:10</p> <p>watch 19:10</p> <p>waters 40:4 74:14</p>	<p>way 13:4 16:15 31:18 41:10 61:15 79:10 81:8 83:2 92:11</p> <p>ways 13:8 27:17</p> <p>we've 3:6 8:5 9:5 21:15 41:10 42:3,15 46:12 48:5 51:4 53:8 67:20 73:7 74:1 77:9 84:5 89:8,13</p> <p>wear 16:14</p> <p>website 51:10 68:19</p> <p>weeds 82:20</p> <p>week 22:12,16 23:1 24:12,14 26:16,19 27:4 62:9,10</p> <p>weekend 7:21 8:2 10:9</p> <p>weeks 63:3</p> <p>welcome 2:4 12:18 18:17 26:3 43:8 88:16</p> <p>wellness 5:2</p> <p>went 14:7 51:16</p> <p>whitman 67:12</p> <p>willing 27:15</p> <p>wilson 11:4,4</p> <p>win 86:15</p>
--	--	---	--

[wish - yup]

Page 25

wish 5:16 35:6 86:16	yard 20:12	yup 2:5 7:13,15
wishes 37:2	yeah 6:21	7:15 10:18
witness 92:13	12:12 20:21	20:17 21:9
wonderful 61:5	27:2 28:18	30:3 62:14
63:17 65:18	62:2 65:16	69:13,13 84:15
66:2 68:11	81:20 84:15	
69:4 74:4	year 5:19 8:6	
word 32:19	12:10,13 17:17	
64:13	20:6 21:1,2,15	
words 20:18	23:2 25:1	
33:9	26:18,20,21	
work 14:5,8,10	29:6 35:14	
23:19,21 31:2	36:5,16,18	
32:1,18 38:9	42:4,12 43:13	
38:17 58:16	48:17,18 49:19	
73:5 75:12	50:3,9 53:20	
80:4 90:1,4	54:2,2 55:15	
worked 8:16	55:15 63:7,20	
27:6 39:4	64:17 65:21	
80:12 89:4	66:10 70:1,1	
workforce 5:4	72:16 73:15,19	
9:16 41:1,2	80:5 89:1	
working 9:14	years 5:17 9:5	
19:8 31:3,8	12:4 13:5,19	
66:9,11,20	21:15 27:5,12	
78:17	28:7,8 29:8	
works 72:5	31:8 46:12	
worthy 24:6	48:8 53:9 60:4	
wow 21:16,17	64:8 67:18	
writers 10:11	69:6	
written 71:1	yield 34:21	
wye 80:9,20	35:13 36:3,14	
81:8	37:17	
y	yonkers 67:11	
y'all 15:17	67:11 68:18	
26:20	youth 4:21 5:5	
	8:9	