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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

November 28, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Keasha N. Haythe

Lynn L. Mielke

Dave Stepp

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Let's go ahead and get</p> <p>4 started. I want to welcome everybody tonight.</p> <p>5 So if we could go ahead and stand, and we're</p> <p>6 going to hear the prayer and do the Pledge of</p> <p>7 Allegiance of the Flag.</p> <p>8 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's go ahead and</p> <p>10 get started on the agenda. The Council's</p> <p>11 agenda for November is before us. Is there any</p> <p>12 additions, deletions, or corrections to the</p> <p>13 agenda?</p> <p>14 MS. MIELKE: I'd like to move to amend the</p> <p>15 agenda.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure.</p> <p>17 MS. MIELKE: I would like to amend it to</p> <p>18 introduce an Amended Resolution 338 and Amended</p> <p>19 Resolution 347.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>21 MR. LESHAR: I'd recommend that we insert</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>2 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>4 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Next on</p> <p>6 the agenda is the minutes. The Council has had</p> <p>7 minutes of October 24th and November 14th</p> <p>8 before us. Is there any additions, deletions,</p> <p>9 or corrections to the minutes? Everybody good</p> <p>10 with that? All right. Hearing none, the chair</p> <p>11 moves that the minutes be accepted as unanimous</p> <p>12 consent.</p> <p>13 Next is the disbursements for us on</p> <p>14 November 21st and 28th. Council has had a</p> <p>15 chance to take a look at them. Is there any</p> <p>16 additions, deletions, or corrections to the</p> <p>17 disbursements?</p> <p>18 MS. HAYTHE: No.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Hearing</p> <p>20 none, the chair moves that the disbursements be</p> <p>21 accepted as unanimous consent.</p>
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<p>1 those as after item eight on the agenda.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Five, six, seven,</p> <p>3 eight. After eight?</p> <p>4 MR. LESHAR: After eight.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Okay. And being</p> <p>6 that's said, is there a motion?</p> <p>7 MR. LESHAR: I'll second her motion.</p> <p>8 MS. MIELKE: Yes.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: So we got a motion and</p> <p>10 second to go ahead and put two new items on the</p> <p>11 agenda. 338, 347?</p> <p>12 MR. LESHAR: Yeah.</p> <p>13 MS. MIELKE: Yeah.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you</p> <p>15 call the vote.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>19 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshar.</p> <p>21 MR. LESHAR: Aye.</p>	<p>1 Next on the agenda is update from the</p> <p>2 Maryland Environmental Service. You guys want</p> <p>3 to come on up.</p> <p>4 Good evening, guys. How are you?</p> <p>5 MR. FORD: Pretty good. How are you?</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Good, good. You're going</p> <p>7 to talk about trash?</p> <p>8 MR. FORD: Talk about trash.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>10 MR. FORD: I brought Gary up with me.</p> <p>11 He'll liven it up a little bit.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Got you.</p> <p>13 MR. FORD: He's a lot more interesting</p> <p>14 than I am.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you. Introduce</p> <p>16 yourselves. Would you mind?</p> <p>17 MR. FORD: Yes. My name is Tim Ford. I'm</p> <p>18 the managing director for environmental</p> <p>19 operations, which is a division of the Maryland</p> <p>20 Environmental Service.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good.</p>

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<p>1 MR. LASAKO: And I'm Gary Lasako. I'm a</p> <p>2 senior project manager responsible for our</p> <p>3 Eastern Shore operations, including the</p> <p>4 Midshore project as well as the Eastern</p> <p>5 Correctional institution's co-generation</p> <p>6 facility.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Good.</p> <p>8 MR. FORD: Getting up there. So after,</p> <p>9 what, 13, 14 years of doing this review --</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, Gary, could you go</p> <p>11 ahead and you want to click that on?</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Bottom left, Gary. It should</p> <p>13 be on.</p> <p>14 MR. FORD: In this presentation, we</p> <p>15 dispensed with the introduction to Midshore</p> <p>16 partnership. I think everybody --</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.</p> <p>18 MR. FORD: Understands the partnership.</p> <p>19 If you don't, I'd be happy to answer questions</p> <p>20 about it.</p> <p>21 And that concludes our presentation.</p>	<p>1 actual numbers thing there.</p> <p>2 MR. LASAKO: All right. So this is really</p> <p>3 just an update on our performance at the</p> <p>4 transfer station since we last updated you all</p> <p>5 I believe in February.</p> <p>6 We received about 30,000 tons for the</p> <p>7 first nine months of this calendar year, 30,000</p> <p>8 tons of trash, 3,000 tons of yard waste or</p> <p>9 brush, and had nearly 30,000 scale house</p> <p>10 transactions. As you know, that's a very busy</p> <p>11 facility there.</p> <p>12 The tonnages that we received over that</p> <p>13 period are pretty typical of what we see. We</p> <p>14 do about 40,000 tons a year. Of course, all</p> <p>15 that trash and brush is hauled up to</p> <p>16 Midshore II in Ridgley.</p> <p>17 Our homeowner drop-off facility, we had</p> <p>18 about nearly 20,000 customer visits over that</p> <p>19 period, took in about 650 tons of trash. And</p> <p>20 as you can see there, that service is, the</p> <p>21 expenses associated with that service are</p>
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<p>1 MR. STAMP: There you go.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: There we go.</p> <p>3 MR. LASAKO: Thank you, Susan.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Uh-huh.</p> <p>5 MR. FORD: Go ahead, Gary, and hit the --</p> <p>6 so we're going to talk today about obviously</p> <p>7 the Midshore I operations. That's the transfer</p> <p>8 operations and our post-closure activities with</p> <p>9 the Midshore I landfill.</p> <p>10 We'll get you up to date on the Midshore</p> <p>11 II landfill and the goings on there.</p> <p>12 We want to talk about Midshore III. We're</p> <p>13 not real original with the names, as you know.</p> <p>14 Midshore III is the next one up in Queen Anne's</p> <p>15 County, and that's in 2031.</p> <p>16 We're going to talk about the Midshore</p> <p>17 recycling partnership, some detail on that.</p> <p>18 And then we'll talk a little bit about</p> <p>19 community outreach.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>21 MR. FORD: I'm going to let Gary take the</p>	<p>1 offset by the sale of punch cards. Basically</p> <p>2 residents bring in punch cards and it's more or</p> <p>3 less \$2 a punch to dispose of bagged trash.</p> <p>4 Those are some improvements we did back</p> <p>5 over the summer. The transfer station itself</p> <p>6 hadn't had electricity, wasn't serviced by</p> <p>7 electricity. We added -- ran a line over to</p> <p>8 it. And that is six high bay 11,500 lumen LED</p> <p>9 lights. And the purpose of that really was</p> <p>10 safety driven.</p> <p>11 During cloudy days, rainy days, it's a</p> <p>12 little bit, was a little bit darker in the</p> <p>13 building. And of course, there are customers</p> <p>14 in and out of there all morning long. It's a</p> <p>15 very busy facility, and this just provided more</p> <p>16 visibility for our operators of not only each</p> <p>17 other, but of customers.</p> <p>18 MR. FORD: So for Midshore I post-closure</p> <p>19 care, there's a new law and it's promulgated</p> <p>20 recently. It's a landfill methane generation</p> <p>21 rule.</p>

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1 And what it requires us to do is to  
 2 measure surface emissions of methane. And if  
 3 there is a hit from those measurements and  
 4 exceeding 200 parts per million by volume of  
 5 methane, then certain requirements are  
 6 triggered. And those requirements are, next  
 7 slide, I want to go over these pretty quickly  
 8 for you.

9 We have to design a plan for the gas  
 10 modification, gas collection modifications and  
 11 submit that to MDE within one year of the  
 12 exceedance detection, which we did have an  
 13 exceedance in October of 2024 (sic.).

14 We already have a gas collection system  
 15 there. That in its own right isn't going to be  
 16 a major issue. But the flares that we have  
 17 there right now don't -- will not meet the  
 18 requirements of the new rule. They have to be  
 19 enclosed flare.

20 There is an opportunity to get a variance  
 21 for that, depending on how much methane, or,

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1 I'm sorry, how much landfill gas you're  
 2 emitting.

3 And we're pretty close to that. We will  
 4 be when the requirement for the enclosed flare  
 5 in about, what, four years, Gary, becomes a  
 6 need. So we might be able to get a variance  
 7 from that requirement.

8 Those enclosed flares are about a little  
 9 more than a quarter of a million to half a  
 10 million dollars. So they're expensive. So you  
 11 don't get a lot of additional, additional  
 12 destruction, gas destruction. About  
 13 one percent. So it's a lot of money for a  
 14 small, small gain. So we're hoping to get the  
 15 variance on that.

16 Next slide. Midshore I post-closure care.  
 17 Again, we have leachate that we generate both  
 18 at Midshore II, and of course, we're still  
 19 generating leachate from Midshore I even though  
 20 it is capped. And the amount of leachate that  
 21 we generated in the first quarter of FY24 was

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1 621,000 gallons. I feel like the trending on  
 2 it, it is trending down. It's been dry. And  
 3 the landfill itself, again, is drying up. It's  
 4 had a cap now for, what are we, about five  
 5 years, six years now.

6 MR. LASAKO: Six years.

7 MR. FORD: Six years. So it has started  
 8 to dry up on us, which is a good thing.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: So just to stop you. I  
 10 just want to make sure that everybody knows  
 11 we're talking about the Easton one?

12 MR. FORD: This is the Midshore I.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: In Easton?

14 MR. FORD: In Easton, correct.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you.

16 MR. FORD: We do generate leachate from  
 17 Midshore II. That's basically discharged.  
 18 It's essentially discharged directly to Easton  
 19 Utilities.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: But that's in Ridgley?

21 MR. FORD: Pardon?

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: That's in Ridgley?

2 MR. FORD: That's in Ridgely. But we  
 3 transport leachate from Ridgley here and  
 4 discharge it at Easton Utilities.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I just kind of  
 6 wanted to make sure everybody understood that.

7 MR. FORD: Yeah. Good. Thank you.

8 We do get renewable energy credits, RECs,  
 9 from a small engine, we had talked about that  
 10 last time we were here, that we've installed.

11 We also get carbon credits from the  
 12 destruction of carbon through, at this point  
 13 through just the flared.

14 One of the down sides of triggering the  
 15 surface emissions is that because we're no  
 16 longer, we would no longer be a voluntarily  
 17 system, landfill gas collection system, we'll  
 18 lose those credits over time. We won't be able  
 19 to claim those carbon credits.

20 MR. LESHAR: The renewable energy credits  
 21 are coming from what?

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1 MR. FORD: A small (inaudible.)  
 2 MR. LASAKO: Just a small -- so as Tim  
 3 discussed last time, for a number of years we  
 4 had sent landfill gas to, they piped it over to  
 5 Easton Utilities. And they had a larger one  
 6 megawatt engine that they combusted the gas to  
 7 generate electricity from.  
 8 We found that a number of issues were at  
 9 play. But one of them was that the quality of  
 10 gas that the landfill was generating, namely  
 11 its methane concentration, wasn't sufficient to  
 12 support the continued use of that engine.  
 13 So we discontinued that partnership with  
 14 them, and we found -- we partnered with this  
 15 company called Qnergy. They have a sterling  
 16 engine technology. So basically gas is  
 17 combusted externally to generate electricity.  
 18 And they had a lot of market share in the  
 19 oil and gas industry at these remote sites  
 20 putting these little engines where remote sites  
 21 where electricity wasn't anywhere close to

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1 them, and they were capturing gas and  
 2 generating electricity from them.  
 3 They hadn't made it into the landfill gas  
 4 market yet, but they wanted to try to see if  
 5 that sterling engine technology may be  
 6 combatable with gas that's low quality and  
 7 variable quality. So we got a grant to do  
 8 this. We put -- it's only a 5.6 kilowatt  
 9 engine. It's very small. But we got a grant  
 10 from the Maryland Energy Administration to put  
 11 this in, which covered most of the expenses.  
 12 That was installed in August of last year.  
 13 We trialed it without connecting it to the  
 14 grid. It's now connected. And the electricity  
 15 that it generates really just offsets a portion  
 16 of the electricity that we need to operate the  
 17 gas system there at the landfill. That will  
 18 generate the or result in generation of  
 19 renewable energy credits.  
 20 MR. FORD: So the company that markets  
 21 those RECs for us is a company called Anew

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1 Climate. Just a new name for the Blue Source,  
 2 who was marketing our credits prior and who  
 3 also market the carbon credits for us. They  
 4 are currently verifying the amounts that we can  
 5 sell, that we generate in terms of RECs for  
 6 2023. So we'll know that soon.  
 7 What is the timetable on that, Gary; do  
 8 you know?  
 9 MR. LASAKO: A couple of months it should  
 10 be.  
 11 MR. FORD: So and it will generate \$15,000  
 12 or so of RECs.  
 13 Next. So part of the, part of our  
 14 post-closure care is to maintain the exposed  
 15 geo-membrane cap that is at the landfill now.  
 16 And we get pin holes and small tears that are  
 17 repaired annually. We have a contract with a  
 18 company that does that for us.  
 19 This year, particularly after some heavy  
 20 rainfall, the anchors that we have in our down  
 21 shoots, they're basically concrete filled

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1 tubes. They're weight basically. They began  
 2 to fail. So we are looking at either removing  
 3 them or leaving them in place, but we're going  
 4 to anchor those with the same anchors that we  
 5 have on the balance of the landfill in lieu of  
 6 those concrete anchors.  
 7 They're rather expensive. And obviously  
 8 if they failed once, they'll fail again. So  
 9 we're going to go with the standard anchors  
 10 that we have elsewhere on the landfill to  
 11 anchor the membrane in those down shoots.  
 12 MR. LASAKO: All right. These are just  
 13 really more typical numbers of what we see for  
 14 the waste inbound at Midshore II over in  
 15 Ridgely. So our trash incoming for the  
 16 January 2023 to September 2023 period was about  
 17 112,000 tons. We're projecting to be at about  
 18 145,000 tons for the calendar year, about what  
 19 we did last year and about eight or  
 20 nine percent higher than what we had seen for  
 21 the five years previous to those two years. So

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1 trash is up just a little bit.  
 2 Brush, 5,500 tons. It's typical.  
 3 The Holly Road homeowner drop-off area,  
 4 it's a homeowner drop-off that's free to all  
 5 the citizens within the four counties that  
 6 comprise Midshore. We took in 1,500 tons for  
 7 this nine-month period and about 2,200 tons per  
 8 year there.  
 9 As you know, we have a contractual  
 10 obligation or contractual service period for  
 11 Midshore II that ends in 2030. The estimated  
 12 remaining life on a permanent air space basis  
 13 is until about 2042. Tim will touch on that.  
 14 MR. FORD: So that brings us to this  
 15 Midshore II service period extension. As you  
 16 know, we've been in discussions with Caroline  
 17 County. We presented to the county back in  
 18 March about the opportunity to extend the  
 19 landfill. There would be, there would be a  
 20 negotiated host fee if they were to extend.  
 21 And we've been through several iterations

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1 of discussions with Caroline County. And we're  
 2 at the point now where the negotiation will  
 3 cease to be between Caroline County and MES.  
 4 At this point, it is now an issue for the four  
 5 counties to decide. There would be an  
 6 amendment to the four counties.  
 7 So I would expect in the next few weeks to  
 8 a month that the commissioners will receive a  
 9 proposal from Caroline County regarding that,  
 10 regarding that host fee, their proposed host  
 11 fee and the negotiation therein.  
 12 We have made recommendations to Caroline  
 13 County and to the four counties on what we  
 14 believe that host fee should be. Our goal was  
 15 to make sure that we don't present any  
 16 liability to the four counties in a host fee  
 17 that would or potentially cause a shortfall in  
 18 revenues year over year.  
 19 We certainly can address those with an  
 20 increase in the tipping fees, but we're also  
 21 attempting to not increase those tipping fees

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1 because we need to maintain or be competitive  
 2 in the marketplace or we lose volume.  
 3 We don't have flow control on the four  
 4 counties. The private haulers that operate  
 5 within the four counties and that generate the  
 6 most amount, it isn't generate the trash, but  
 7 they're the ones that collect the most amount  
 8 of trash here, can go anywhere they want. And  
 9 so we have to be competitive at the same time.  
 10 So we're real hesitant or careful in terms of  
 11 what our tipping fees are relative to the  
 12 market.  
 13 So we've made that presentation. The  
 14 county has an idea on what they think, the  
 15 county, meaning Caroline County, what they  
 16 think the extension should be for them. And  
 17 they'll make that presentation to you. And  
 18 then we'll have an opportunity at that point to  
 19 have further discussion.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 21 MR. FORD: The county has also, has been

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1 looking at all our financials. We've provided  
 2 them audited financials for the last five  
 3 years. And they have looked at it, looked at  
 4 those. And they have their own audit firm who  
 5 does the county's audits for them advising them  
 6 as well.  
 7 Basically what they wanted to make sure  
 8 was that what we presented to them and what we  
 9 thought we could afford was actually backed up  
 10 by what our financial statements state.  
 11 So that brings us to at the same time,  
 12 concurrent to that, we're moving ahead with,  
 13 because we have to, the Midshore III landfill  
 14 permitting process. So we have submitted a  
 15 refuse disposal permit to MDE. There was a  
 16 required public informational meeting in  
 17 October. And we're moving forward with the  
 18 phase two permitting.  
 19 There's several phases to a landfill  
 20 permit. It takes about six to seven years to  
 21 get a permit for a landfill and it consists of

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1 four phases. So we're moving into phase two,  
 2 which is about a two-year period. And we  
 3 expect to get moving on that within the next  
 4 month or so.

5 We are debating and probably leaning more  
 6 towards continuing with that permitting process  
 7 regardless of what goes on with the Midshore II  
 8 extension. We can hold that permit and  
 9 basically just moves it along so we have that  
 10 in hand. But that's also in discussion with  
 11 Queen Anne's County at that point since they're  
 12 responsible for providing the site.

13 All right. Gary.

14 MR. LASAKO: All right. The Midshore  
 15 Regional Recycling Program. So this was  
 16 originally set up amongst just the counties,  
 17 just the four counties. MES became involved in  
 18 2012 at the request of the counties. We took  
 19 over operations at that point and changed out,  
 20 provided capital to change out some of the  
 21 infrastructure, the existing infrastructure.

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1 And those were kind of a crane truck and some  
 2 old igloo containers.

3 Over several years, we transitioned to  
 4 front-loader trucks, as you see here, and  
 5 larger four-yard, eight-yard containers to  
 6 facilitate the resident drop-off program. And  
 7 that's really the core of this program.

8 There's 35 of these sites distributed  
 9 throughout the four counties where residents  
 10 can take their cardboard, paper, plastic, and  
 11 metal and glass and recycle those products  
 12 there. We pick them up with these trucks and  
 13 deliver those materials to local markets.

14 In addition to that program, we hold the  
 15 household hazardous waste events. They're  
 16 currently on a six-month schedule. We provide  
 17 electronics recycling, education and outreach,  
 18 and also obviously administer the program.

19 So that's the program. It was set up in  
 20 2012, the original contract with MES. We just  
 21 renewed it for the second ten-year period,

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1 which allows us to continue this service  
 2 through 2032, June of 2032.

3 The program itself is funded primarily  
 4 through a surcharge in the tip fee at  
 5 Midshore II of \$5 per ton for trash and 2.50  
 6 per ton for brush. And the balance of the  
 7 revenue is provided by the sale of commodities.  
 8 So those materials that we're taking to market.

9 All right. So over the first nine months  
 10 of the calendar year, we collected about  
 11 2,200 tons. Pretty much on par with what we've  
 12 done over the last five years, which is  
 13 anywhere between 3,000 to 3,300 tons.

14 The mix of commodities is pretty  
 15 consistent, although over the last several  
 16 years we've seen paper decline. Newspapers, we  
 17 see those go down five to ten percent every  
 18 year. Mailers in your mailbox have decreased  
 19 over the last three or four years. But that's  
 20 kind of been buoyed by some other materials.  
 21 Right now, we're getting \$140 per ton for

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1 mixed metal and plastic, \$90 per ton for paper,  
 2 \$60 per ton for cardboard. And for glass, the  
 3 clear glass we get \$30 a ton, and the gramber,  
 4 which is green and amber glass, a mixture of  
 5 those two, we get \$17.50 per ton.

6 So the mixed metal and plastic, that goes  
 7 to another processing facility where those  
 8 materials get separated and sent to different  
 9 markets. Our paper goes to CreaFill Fibers up  
 10 near Chestertown. They use it as cellulose  
 11 product for blow insulation.

12 Cardboard goes to Data Guard in  
 13 Bridgeville right now. And our glass goes to  
 14 Cap Glass in Connellsville, PA.

15 All right. So our household hazardous  
 16 waste events. We just had one this past  
 17 October in Caroline County at the Hobbs Road  
 18 landfill. It was moderately well attended. We  
 19 had about 300 vehicles there for that event.

20 The next two events have already been  
 21 scheduled. And those will take place April 6th

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1 in Queen Anne's County at the Department of  
 2 Public Works. And in October, October 26th,  
 3 that will be back at the Midshore I transfer  
 4 station here in Easton.  
 5 MR. FORD: Those are free to all four  
 6 counties.  
 7 MR. LASAKO: Yeah, free to the citizens of  
 8 the counties. And the locations of the events  
 9 rotate amongst the four counties.  
 10 We also, for the second year, second  
 11 consecutive year, assisted Talbot County with  
 12 the citizen scrap tire event. These are events  
 13 that have been funded for the last two years by  
 14 the Maryland Department of the Environment for  
 15 the collection and disposal of tires that are  
 16 generated or kept by citizens. So this past  
 17 event, we operated that at the Midshore I  
 18 transfer station again. We collected 332  
 19 tires, or about five tons of tires.  
 20 There's no disposal cost to the county on  
 21 this. There's also no disposal cost for

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1 citizens. It's free. Essentially trying to  
 2 keep tires off roadways and out of piles on  
 3 farms. So another good event.  
 4 MR. FORD: All right. Community outreach.  
 5 We like to be good neighbors. So we attempt to  
 6 try to participate in as many events as we can.  
 7 We were at the Chestertown Earth Day back  
 8 in April, Tidy Up Talbot also in April. We  
 9 provided recycling services at summer MML and  
 10 MACo conferences. We were here at the  
 11 Waterfowl Festival. We had booked a booth and  
 12 we provided recycling services there.  
 13 And if you notice my beard. We do, I  
 14 volunteer, we do the Ridgely Lions Club parade  
 15 the Ridgely Christmas Festival, which are  
 16 coming up, by the way. Saturday is the Ridgely  
 17 parade and the week after is the Ridgely  
 18 Christmas. And Santa Claus will be in  
 19 attendance. And for those children that might  
 20 be listening, I know Santa Claus very well.  
 21 Growing my beard out for him. And we'll be

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1 there as well.  
 2 And I'll just comment on the value of the  
 3 MRRP agreement, the Midshore Recycling  
 4 Partnership. And actually, as you know, the  
 5 disposal agreement. It's an 80-year agreement.  
 6 It does not require that the counties invest in  
 7 this infrastructure to provide waste management  
 8 for the citizens within their four counties.  
 9 It's been a really good program. Continues to  
 10 be a good program. We thank you for allowing  
 11 us to participate in this. And can't argue  
 12 with the economics of it.  
 13 And it's been, again, as I said, it's been  
 14 successful and we thank you for that. And  
 15 thank you for the opportunity to talk today.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.  
 17 Appreciate it.  
 18 Council, any questions?  
 19 MS. HAYTHE: No. I just appreciate the  
 20 updates. I thank you for coming in this  
 21 evening.

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1 MR. FORD: You're welcome.  
 2 MR. STEPP: I'll echo the same. Thank  
 3 you.  
 4 MR. LESHER: I'm encouraged about what I  
 5 heard tonight regarding the extension of the  
 6 life, the negotiations to extend the life of  
 7 Midshore II. And I hope that that comes to  
 8 fruition. And I appreciate the negotiation  
 9 that you've done to bring it this far.  
 10 MR. FORD: And again, at this point, it  
 11 really is -- and we're not passing the buck  
 12 here. It really now becomes an issue between  
 13 Caroline County and the other three counties in  
 14 this partnership.  
 15 Everybody understands and recognizes the  
 16 importance of the agreement. Nobody wants to  
 17 do anything to upset the apple cart when it  
 18 comes to the agreement in general. And that's  
 19 what we hope continues in terms of the  
 20 dialogue.  
 21 MS. MIELKE: Thank you for the thorough



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1 report.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: We thank you guys.

3 Appreciate it.

4 MR. FORD: Good.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Stamp.

6 MR. STAMP: I just want to give a shout

7 out to both Tim and Gary. You're excellent

8 partners and working with us, working with Ray

9 Clarke, our county engineer. I want to thank

10 you publicly for the service. It's great

11 service.

12 Council will be talking to you. Once we

13 get this proposal presented to Council, we'll

14 be asking you whether you want to have a work

15 session or how you want to handle that. We'll

16 probably -- we may very well invite you to come

17 help inform that.

18 MR. FORD: Sure.

19 MR. STAMP: For the Council, along with

20 our county engineer. So thank you.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thanks a lot, guys.

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1 Appreciate it.

2 MR. FORD: Thank you.

3 MR. LASAKO: You're welcome. Thank you.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda

5 is an update from Talbot Humane. Ms. Patty,

6 you want to come on up. How are you?

7 MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: I'm well. Good

8 evening. Patty Quimby, executive director for

9 Talbot Humane and chief animal control officer

10 for Talbot County.

11 I want to start with providing some fiscal

12 year 23 statistics to you. We received 526

13 stray animals, 384 owner surrenders, 15 animals

14 were born at the shelter, we transferred eight

15 animals in from other shelters, and we had one

16 confiscated under Animal Control.

17 Outcomes. We had 587 adoptions, 99

18 reunited with their owners, 87 animals were

19 transferred to wildlife rehabilitation centers

20 or other 501(c)(3) animal organizations, we did

21 have 42 animals either die or arrive deceased,

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1 and we had 104 shelter animals euthanized.

2 Fiscal year 23 numbers were up six percent

3 from the year before, from fiscal year 22. But

4 when we look at fiscal year 22, we had

5 19 percent increase over the previous year. So

6 we're doing better than -- we're actually doing

7 better than the national average.

8 Right now, shelters across the state and

9 the nation are in a position of having to

10 euthanize healthy and adoptable animals.

11 Thankfully, and I'm knocking on wood, we are

12 not in that position.

13 We as an industry are attributing much of

14 this to the economy, housing issues, and

15 behavioral issues, which we feel probably stem

16 somewhat from lack of socialization during the

17 COVID-19 pandemic.

18 Currently at Talbot Humane, we have 116

19 animals in our care between foster care and the

20 shelter.

21 Our animal control officers responded to

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1 347 initial calls. Almost 90 percent of these

2 calls were bite cases, stray animal cases, or

3 violation investigation. Of that 90 percent,

4 70 percent of these complaints required

5 follow-up contact or further investigation.

6 Programming. This is where the Talbot

7 Humane umbrella comes in to support animal

8 control. We spayed or neutered 1,162 animals.

9 In 2024, next year, we'll be celebrating 20

10 years of this program. And we directly

11 attribute the decline in organic intake at the

12 shelter to this program.

13 When I started 24 years ago, we were

14 seeing almost 2,000 animals come into the

15 shelter. Now we're seeing just around 1,000

16 animals come in.

17 We provided intervention service,

18 behavioral or medical, to 181 animals. These

19 are 181 animals that potentially would have

20 been surrendered to the shelter without our

21 services.

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1 We provided more than six tons of pet  
 2 food.  
 3 713 animals, this does not include shelter  
 4 animals, were microchipped.  
 5 We provided end-of-life services to 72 ill  
 6 or injured pets euthanized for private owners.  
 7 And we provided supplies such as litter  
 8 pans, litter, dog crates, cat carriers, all  
 9 those items on the daily basis to the public.  
 10 We don't generally keep track of what it is.  
 11 If we have it donated and somebody needs help,  
 12 we provide it to them.  
 13 I want to talk a little bit about our  
 14 community cat program. Often people contact  
 15 our office or call animal control or bring in  
 16 cats that they find in an area. Maybe they see  
 17 a few cats and they're afraid they're going to  
 18 have a cat colony. We know three cats turns  
 19 into 30 very quickly. Or they worry about a  
 20 cat out. They've seen a cat out for six  
 21 months, but a night like tonight, they're

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1 worried about that cat.  
 2 If these cats are not human friendly, such  
 3 as your neighbor's pet, which honestly those  
 4 are few and far between, that are out there  
 5 like this, what happens when you trap a cat and  
 6 bring it to Talbot Humane or any other shelter?  
 7 Most of these cats are community cats or  
 8 feral cats, which were born outside. They live  
 9 outside like wild animals their entire life.  
 10 They're accustomed to living in the wild,  
 11 finding their own food and shelter.  
 12 When you bring them to a shelter in a  
 13 trap, we hold them for seven days just on the  
 14 odd, at least seven days, on the odd chance  
 15 that they're somebody's pet. But they're  
 16 miserable, and they can be very dangerous when  
 17 they're caged if they're actually feral cats.  
 18 And most of these are.  
 19 They're not accustomed to human contact,  
 20 and it's inhumane to keep them caged. And it  
 21 doesn't actually stop the problem that perhaps

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1 people are perceiving in the community.  
 2 The option for these cats for too many  
 3 years has been euthanasia. In fiscal year 22,  
 4 almost 30 percent of our shelter euthanasia  
 5 were feral cats. The other 70 percent were  
 6 animals euthanized due to severe illness,  
 7 injury or dangerous behavior issues.  
 8 Of our shelter euthanasia, these cats are  
 9 those which we can prevent the euthanasia of by  
 10 community education.  
 11 Last year we worked on educating everyone  
 12 who called about ferals or brought a cat in a  
 13 trap about community cats, what it means when  
 14 you bring a trapped cat to Talbot Humane, and  
 15 the benefits of having these cats in the  
 16 community. They are natural rodent  
 17 eliminators. And if we spay and neuter them  
 18 and you keep three or four instead of turning  
 19 into 30, they do eliminate other cats from  
 20 coming into your area.  
 21 We offered free spay neuter, vaccinations,

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1 and return of the cat. We also offered to help  
 2 with food.  
 3 We have had an overwhelmingly positive  
 4 response. Most people didn't know what  
 5 happened to the cats. They thought they came  
 6 and we found homes and everything was  
 7 hunky-dory.  
 8 But for fiscal year 23, our feral cat  
 9 euthanasia dropped to 16 percent, which is  
 10 almost half from the year before. So we are  
 11 hoping this year it goes down even more with  
 12 the continuing education.  
 13 We encourage the community to contact us  
 14 before bringing feral cats to the shelter so we  
 15 can discuss ways to deter them from your  
 16 property if you don't want them there.  
 17 We often find people are actually a food  
 18 source in some way. Maybe they're feeding  
 19 their dog outside or they actually put out cat  
 20 food for their own cat that goes in and out.  
 21 Or they're putting food out on the edge,

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1 dumping their chicken bones or something out on  
 2 the edge of their property. And we can talk to  
 3 them about scheduling a trapping to bring them  
 4 in on a spay neuter day so they don't have to  
 5 be at the shelter for any period of time taking  
 6 up a space in the shelter, stressing out the  
 7 cat, and ultimately it does cost money for  
 8 that. So please call if you have questions on  
 9 that.

10 We've been very busy in the community.  
 11 We've hired our first director of development,  
 12 Kate Richards, who has hit the ground running.  
 13 We are excited to have her on our team as we  
 14 move into our next exciting phase of growth.

15 Our volunteer force has had an amazing  
 16 year. They fostered 375 animals.  
 17 Mr. Callahan's family is one of those which has  
 18 fostered some animals for us. Helped us get  
 19 animals out to community events almost weekly.  
 20 They man our PetSmart cat center, they answer  
 21 phones, they do anything we need. If you walk

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1 into the shelter at any time, you don't know  
 2 what they'll be doing.

3 They come to us with ideas of how to help  
 4 the animals. And they provided over 10,000  
 5 hours of volunteer service last year. So we  
 6 are very thankful for our volunteers, and we  
 7 welcome anyone who is considering joining to  
 8 contact us. Our volunteer coordinator, Megan  
 9 Dorton, would be happy to talk to you.

10 Unleashed is returning in 2024. We'll be  
 11 running the Frederick Running Festival. Our  
 12 informational meetings will be in early  
 13 January. And the program will start in  
 14 February.

15 This is a fabulous program for anyone. I  
 16 was not a believer 12 years ago. And I have  
 17 run many races now, and I do not look like a  
 18 marathoner or a half marathoner. So you can do  
 19 it. It's a great way to make friends, raise  
 20 funds for the animals, and get moving.  
 21 And this holiday season we are extremely

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1 busy. You'll be able to see our pets for  
 2 adoption in the local holiday parades.

3 Our holiday boutique, which is right next  
 4 door to Talbot Humane, is open Thursdays  
 5 through Saturdays until Christmas weekend. And  
 6 we're having a ladies night this Friday night.  
 7 We're open late on Friday night until eight.

8 Santa will be visiting the shelter on  
 9 Sunday, December 10th.

10 And our 14th year of doing our cookie  
 11 sale. All that information is on our website  
 12 for anyone interested in knowing about our  
 13 events that are coming up.

14 And I welcome all of you. I thank you for  
 15 having me tonight. I welcome you if you're  
 16 interested in a tour of the shelter or to learn  
 17 more about what we do at the Humane Society, my  
 18 door is always open. Just reach out and let me  
 19 know that you want to come by.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. Okay.  
 21 MS. HAYTHE: It's always great hearing the

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1 good work that you do at the Humane Society.  
 2 So thank you for keeping us updated.

3 MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: We have a great  
 4 team there.

5 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah. The feral cat decline,  
 6 that was, that's good, that's a good number.

7 MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Yeah.

8 MR. STEPP: Love the updates, Patty.  
 9 Thank you so much.

10 MR. LESHER: I'm impressed by the low  
 11 number one, I think you said confiscation. So  
 12 I presume that the education work that you've  
 13 been doing in the community, that the  
 14 legislative changes that we made are having  
 15 some impact out there.

16 MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Oh, most  
 17 definitely. I can speak to having been here  
 18 for two decades.

19 My first year, I personally had to remove  
 20 more than 60 animals and we had three officers.  
 21 So for them to only have one animal this year

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1 speaks to the Council's support of keeping us  
 2 in best practices for our ordinances and our  
 3 team's education of the community.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Great.  
 5 MS. MIELKE: I have a fur baby that I  
 6 adopted from you all four years ago. And she  
 7 warms my heart every day. So I'm 100 percent  
 8 behind all that you do.  
 9 And it's so impressive, all the projects  
 10 and all the support you get from the community,  
 11 too.  
 12 So thank you for all you do.  
 13 MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Thank you.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: For the record, when you  
 15 live with a cat lady, you have no choice but to  
 16 foster. Okay.  
 17 So but it's been great. I do support it.  
 18 And it's been fun. I mean I can honestly say  
 19 the kittens running around and stuff, it's  
 20 pretty cool. I really enjoy it.  
 21 MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: And you get to turn

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1 them back over.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: You get to turn them over.  
 3 That's the problem.  
 4 MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: I know.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: That's the problem, the  
 6 give back. Has to give back.  
 7 But no. You've done a great job. And we  
 8 really, really do appreciate all you do. And  
 9 especially with the running group and all that  
 10 stuff. You guys do a great job. And you know,  
 11 you raise a lot of money and it goes to good  
 12 things. And you work very, very hard with that  
 13 and all your volunteers, too. So we really do  
 14 appreciate it.  
 15 MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Thank you.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.  
 17 MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Have a good  
 18 evening.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Talking about good  
 20 things and next on the line here is Easton  
 21 Utilities to give us an update on broadband.

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1 So we're getting there. How are you guys  
 2 doing?  
 3 MR. GRUNDEN: Good. Well. Thank you.  
 4 MS. VANHOOSER: Good evening, Council.  
 5 Cassandra Vanhooser, director of Economic  
 6 Development and Tourism.  
 7 I brought my friends here from Easton  
 8 Utilities, Hugh Grunden, president and CEO, and  
 9 John Horner, who is senior vice president and  
 10 chief operating officer.  
 11 We are here to ask permission to apply for  
 12 and accept a \$1.1 million grant from the  
 13 Maryland Department of Housing and Community  
 14 Development Office of Statewide Broadband.  
 15 That's why they're here.  
 16 So the name of this program is Connect  
 17 Maryland FY24 Home Stretch Difficult to Serve  
 18 Properties Grant Program.  
 19 This grant opportunity will focus on  
 20 bringing high-speed Internet access to premises  
 21 that have difficulty obtaining service due to

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1 that their remoteness, distance from broadband  
 2 infrastructure, or other geographic issues that  
 3 may discourage an ISP from delivering broadband  
 4 service.  
 5 The State has just over \$24 million that  
 6 they will divide equally between the  
 7 jurisdictions should they choose to apply.  
 8 The applicant must be the local  
 9 government, which would be us, and along with  
 10 an ISP partner.  
 11 Mark Cahoon and I, along with Ryan Snow,  
 12 will be overseeing the application and the  
 13 reporting on this grant. Applications are due  
 14 December 22nd, and the funding announcements  
 15 will be made in February.  
 16 So now I'm going to turn it over to John  
 17 and Hugh, and they'll give us a brief update on  
 18 what's going on and how we would use this  
 19 money.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 21 MR. GRUNDEN: Okay. Good evening,

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1 President -- two mikes. President Callahan.  
 2 I'm in stereo. But it's always a pleasure to  
 3 appear before you tonight.  
 4 You may recall that I appeared before this  
 5 body back in March of 2022, and we talked about  
 6 the grants that we had received from the USDA  
 7 and the fact there was a requirement in the  
 8 original grant that we have the customers  
 9 contribute as well.  
 10 So when we came before you in March of  
 11 2002, we laid upon the table a proposal that we  
 12 would each look at the cost, about \$4 million  
 13 to lay all the requirement from the potential  
 14 customers. And the county offered  
 15 \$1.75 million out of your American Rescue Plan  
 16 Act funding. Easton Utilities obligated  
 17 \$1.25 million, and the remaining million  
 18 dollars or so was to come out of this grant.  
 19 The State had advertised this grant  
 20 program. They've since modified it a bit.  
 21 They delayed its application window, and

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1 they've changed it a bit. So that's what you  
 2 have before you tonight.  
 3 So Cassandra I think has sent you a  
 4 memorandum and basically asking for permission,  
 5 this body's consent to apply for the grant and  
 6 administer said grant.  
 7 So basically what that does, that closes  
 8 the gap that I came before you in March of 2022  
 9 and spoke of.  
 10 While I'm up here, I must say it's always  
 11 a pleasure to come before you, particularly as  
 12 a bearer of good news. And the good news I  
 13 bring to you tonight is the partnership that we  
 14 forged in 2019 with the county is, in fact,  
 15 bearing fruit. That partnership was to bridge  
 16 the digital divide, to get high-speed Internet  
 17 access to the families in the county that  
 18 didn't have it at the time.  
 19 And I'm pleased to report that we've  
 20 connected over 1,000 families that did not have  
 21 high-speed Internet connections. There's not a

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1 week that goes by that I don't have somebody  
 2 come to me, one of the new customers, and tell  
 3 me their story and use terms like life  
 4 changing.  
 5 Recently I had a physician approach me and  
 6 regale me with his story and he used the term  
 7 life-saving.  
 8 So we're doing good work. This  
 9 partnership has the rubber on the road, as it  
 10 were. We've done a lot of good work. There's  
 11 a lot more good work to be done, and this grant  
 12 that is laid before you tonight will facilitate  
 13 getting that work done. So appreciate your  
 14 support in that grant application.  
 15 To give you a little more detail, I'd like  
 16 to turn to my colleague, John Horner. And just  
 17 while we're up here, give you a little more  
 18 detail about where this project stands.  
 19 MR. HORNER: Thanks, Hugh.  
 20 And good evening, Council members.  
 21 The first thing I want to do is actually

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1 thank you, once again. This is a partnership,  
 2 as Hugh said, that's been underway for quite  
 3 some time. I know a couple of you have been  
 4 involved in this partnership since we pulled it  
 5 together.  
 6 And I also want to thank the members of  
 7 your team. Cassandra, Mark, Jessica, Clay,  
 8 Martha, Kaitlin have all been involved behind  
 9 the scenes to help make this happen. And it's  
 10 been a pressure to work with them.  
 11 To give you a little bit of an update, in  
 12 your packet you have a one-pager that we've  
 13 used in the past. It's also got a map on the  
 14 back of it that shares the current status of  
 15 the project.  
 16 And what I'm excited to share is along  
 17 with our 1,000th customer, we're actually at  
 18 1,050 now that actually have taken service.  
 19 We've also provided access to broadband to well  
 20 over 2,000 locations.  
 21 And so as we continue to build fiber out

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<p>1 into the county, those locations that already                  2 have access are ringing our bell and saying can                  3 you please come out and provide us with                  4 service.                  5 Some other interesting tidbits, because                  6 you'll be able to read about how many miles                  7 we've installed in the county so far. As you                  8 look at the map, what you will notice is we                  9 have very little left to do in the north and                  10 south areas of the county. We're actively                  11 working in those areas. And within the next                  12 six months or so, we should have all those                  13 areas with access.                  14 And what that leaves us is really the Bay                  15 Hundred area out past St. Michaels. And we                  16 have, since the last time we met with you,                  17 achieved a franchise agreement with the Town of                  18 St. Michaels, and we've also executed a                  19 franchise agreement with the Town of Oxford.                  20 And what that's done is enable us to be                  21 able to build in those towns in their public</p>	<p>1 20th. Many of the folks in the room were in                  2 attendance, and it was a great opportunity for                  3 those folks who work for the USDA and really                  4 don't get the chance to spend time in the field                  5 to come and learn about what a project of this                  6 magnitude is all about and be able to really                  7 feel good about themselves as they go back to                  8 work in their offices in D.C. or elsewhere in                  9 the country.                  10 It was not only a great weather day, but                  11 it was a great opportunity for them to meet                  12 with our employees.                  13 And I really do want to spend some time                  14 thanking Ted Book and his entire team at Easton                  15 Velocity for all the great work that they've                  16 done. They really take customer service                  17 seriously, and it's been a pleasure just to                  18 work alongside him and his team and watch them                  19 not only impress the USDA that day, but also to                  20 do the work day in and day out to serve the                  21 customers.</p>
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<p>1 right of ways in order to facilitate getting                  2 broadband access to all of the grant-funded                  3 areas within the county.                  4 The last thing that I thought I would                  5 share with you is we will be using this grant                  6 funding, as Hugh mentioned, to help support                  7 those private lanes and long driveways where,                  8 in the past, customers have had to provide a                  9 contribution in aid of construction. This                  10 grant funding is going to close the last piece                  11 of what will be required for them not to have                  12 to pay that CIAC.                  13 Since Hugh met with you in March of 2022,                  14 we certainly have hooked up a lot of those                  15 customers and basically have been using our own                  16 cash balances in that part of our company in                  17 Easton Velocity to take care of making that                  18 happen for those customers.                  19 And the last thing I think I want to                  20 share, and it's a great story, the USDA did                  21 come to visit with us back on September the</p>	<p>1 So thank you.                  2 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. Okay.                  3 Council, any discussion?                  4 MS. HAYTHE: I had the opportunity to                  5 attend the USDA event, and it was a good day.                  6 It was great having USDA employees here.                  7 Also, I had the opportunity to meet the                  8 owners of Triple Creek Winery. And they raved                  9 about the service that they now have for                  10 broadband. I mean they are excited. I mean                  11 that, for that business, that was life                  12 changing. And that's very important to the                  13 businesses here in our community.                  14 So thank you for all the work that you do                  15 to keep us connected.                  16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Stepp.                  17 MR. STEPP: I'll echo what Keasha said.                  18 Just wonderful work. Thanks for getting the                  19 Internet to those who are in most need of it in                  20 Talbot County. And like I said, hearing                  21 nothing but great things so far. So wonderful</p>

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1 job.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.

3 MR. LESHER: I, too, am always hearing

4 from constituents who have recently gotten

5 their connection and are enthusiastic about it.

6 I'm hearing from constituents,

7 particularly west of St. Michaels, who wish

8 the timeline were a little shorter on that map.

9 And I appreciate the updates that you are

10 constantly giving us on that map.

11 How often are you doing those updates?

12 MR. HORNER: So those updates are done

13 weekly, Mr. Leshner. We take information from

14 our team, both internally and our contractors,

15 and that's when we provide those updates to the

16 externally phasing website that we provide to

17 all the customers.

18 And just to be clear, we work very hard,

19 and this is the great shadow that the man to my

20 left casts. He's a visionary in this area of

21 getting broadband out into the communities.

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1 And one of the things we want to make sure

2 of is that whatever timeline we provide, we

3 meet that timeline. So we're going to under

4 promise and over deliver. We're really excited

5 to get to the Bay Hundred area.

6 MR. LESHER: So you haven't shortened any

7 of your projections yet?

8 MR. HORNER: No. But as soon as we get to

9 the other side of St. Michaels, which should

10 be within the next six to 12 months for sure,

11 we'll be able to then really provide a very

12 strong update on when we'll be getting to each

13 of the areas in that Bay Hundred area.

14 MR. LESHER: That's terrific. That's very

15 good news.

16 Thank you so much. And thank you for all

17 the good work that you and your contractors are

18 doing.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Mielke.

20 MS. MIELKE: Providing broadband to our

21 county is a huge undertaking. And I commend

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1 you on putting one foot in front of the other

2 and delivering the way you are. It's great.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: And I'll just add to that.

5 It's a pleasure being partners with you since

6 '19, right. And it's been a pleasure being

7 partners with you. And I'm proud to be a part

8 of that and this Council being a part of that.

9 So I see the guys hard at work, you know,

10 especially in the Bay Hundred area. You know,

11 they're hard at it. That's for sure.

12 So appreciate all you guys are doing.

13 MR. STAMP: No. I was just whispering we

14 need a vote.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, okay. I was getting to

16 it. I'm just thanking them. That's all. All

17 right.

18 And Cassandra, with your team. And I see

19 Mr. Snow back there.

20 MS. VANHOOSER: And Mark Cahoon.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. And Mark back there.

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1 Yeah. He's hiding back there.

2 So I appreciate you guys, too.

3 So okay. We've got -- is there a motion?

4 MR. STEPP: I move for the letter.

5 MS. MIELKE: Second.

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

7 second to go ahead and provide support for a

8 grant application. Madam Secretary, could you

9 call the vote.

10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

12 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

13 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

15 MR. LESHER: Aye.

16 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

17 MR. STEPP: Aye.

18 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

19 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Well, thank you,

21 guys. Appreciate it.

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1 MR. GRUNDEN: Thank you for your  
 2 consideration, and happy holidays to everyone.  
 3 MS. HAYTHE: You, too.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. You, too, now.  
 5 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you, Council.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next up is Martha.  
 7 You want to come on up, your team here. You're  
 8 doing good work with the association and the  
 9 award and must be doing something right, you  
 10 know?  
 11 MS. SPARKS: Yup.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go. We put the  
 13 spotlight on you, spotlight on you.  
 14 MS. SPARKS: Spotlight on me?  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.  
 16 MS. SPARKS: So I'm Martha Sparks. I'm  
 17 the finance director at Talbot County. And I  
 18 have with me our assistant finance director,  
 19 Kaitlin Foster Clark.  
 20 As you can see, we've received for I think  
 21 it is the 21st year, Talbot County has received

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1 the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for  
 2 Excellence in Financial Reporting.  
 3 The GFOA established their Certificate of  
 4 Achievement for Excellence in Financial  
 5 Reporting program in 1945 to encourage and  
 6 assist State and local governments to go beyond  
 7 the minimum requirements of generally-accepted  
 8 accounting principles to prepare annual  
 9 comprehensive financial reports that evidence  
 10 the spirit of transparency and full disclosure  
 11 and then to recognize individual governments  
 12 that succeed in achieving that goal.  
 13 The Certificate of Achievement is the  
 14 highest form of recognition in governmental  
 15 accounting and financial reporting.  
 16 So I wanted to take this time to highlight  
 17 your Finance Department and tell you a little  
 18 bit about us. We have approximately 14  
 19 employees. And I want to first give a shout  
 20 out to our assistant finance director, Kaitlin  
 21 Foster Clark.

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1 She started with us in February when I was  
 2 trying to wrap up this audit report and we were  
 3 trying to start the budget at the same time.  
 4 And it was, it was a very stressful time. And  
 5 the way she pitched in and immediately started  
 6 making an impact. And we're very, very  
 7 fortunate to have her.  
 8 We have, as I've told our team when I  
 9 invited them all, we have several of our  
 10 department here. We have our accounting  
 11 manager, Melanie Haufe. We have our  
 12 administrative assistant, Jennifer Butler. And  
 13 we have our accountant, Craig Atwood. And we  
 14 also have Rolinda Pierce is our treasury manager,  
 15 Tracy Smith is our tax accountant. He makes  
 16 sure all those tax bills get out in the mail.  
 17 Deonn Fletcher, Paige Hicks, Leslie Leadbeater,  
 18 Stacey Ruckart, Carol Ludwigsen, Jasmine Johns,  
 19 and Caitlin FitzGerald are also very, very  
 20 integral parts of our department.  
 21 I told them while they were not -- they

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1 did, may not have directly contributed to this  
 2 report, the work that they do every day flows  
 3 through that report.  
 4 We also are a very diverse department.  
 5 There are 14 of us, and we're very diverse in  
 6 range of age and gender and race and  
 7 backgrounds. And we are a really, really good  
 8 fit.  
 9 We've had some transition in the last  
 10 several years, and there are only five people  
 11 out of those 14 people that have been there for  
 12 five years or more.  
 13 And during that transition, we had some  
 14 vacancies for a long time. And the people that  
 15 were there really pinched in, even with their  
 16 newbie, green-behind-the-ears status and really  
 17 helped to immediately contribute.  
 18 And as of July this year, we have been  
 19 fully staffed since July. It's been a long  
 20 time since I've worked in a finance office  
 21 that's been fully staffed. So it's been nice.



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1 So they just do a wonderful, wonderful job  
 2 for us internally, the fellow departments, and  
 3 for the residents in Talbot County. And I  
 4 wanted to take the chance to recognize them  
 5 because while my name might be the one that is  
 6 on it, theirs all should be on it as well.  
 7 And I think that that covers just about  
 8 everything I wanted to say.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Kaitlin, I know she  
 10 wants to say something.  
 11 MS. FOSTER CLARK: Oh, you want me to say  
 12 something.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Just say hey.  
 14 MS. FOSTER CLARK: I'm not just going to  
 15 say hey.  
 16 But I am really thankful to be on such a  
 17 great working team, and everyone is really  
 18 supportive no matter what the problem is or the  
 19 question is. Everyone is ready to pitch a  
 20 hand. So very thankful.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. We thank

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1 you.  
 2 Council.  
 3 MS. HAYTHE: You're starting this way?  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: I'll start with Lynn.  
 5 MS. HAYTHE: No, no. I'm just kidding.  
 6 Martha, I just want to thank you for your  
 7 leadership with the Finance Office. Coming on  
 8 board and being a new Council member, you  
 9 certainly got us through the budget, along with  
 10 your assistant director there.  
 11 And to just list and name all of your  
 12 employees that work with you in the Finance  
 13 Department truly does show the type of person  
 14 you are, whom I've known for a long time, and  
 15 the leadership.  
 16 So thank you so much for providing that  
 17 information.  
 18 And to the employees that are here  
 19 tonight, thank you for the hard work and all  
 20 that you do to make Talbot County look so good.  
 21 Thank you.

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1 MR. STEPP: Thank you both for being here,  
 2 as always.  
 3 I'm looking here at the certificate that  
 4 you guys have. I mean it just doesn't surprise  
 5 me one bit.  
 6 First time going through the budget here  
 7 this past year, Kaitlin, you wanted to let me  
 8 know that you'd just been here for a month  
 9 before we started that.  
 10 Martha, still the same.  
 11 This is a well-oiled machine. It's no  
 12 wonder we have the ratings that we do is a  
 13 testament to both your leadership, the entire  
 14 department. You guys got it going on.  
 15 So keep doing what you're doing. We  
 16 appreciate that. We appreciate the under  
 17 promise, the over deliver that you always bring  
 18 to us and make all of us look good here in  
 19 Talbot County. So thank you.  
 20 MS. SPARKS: Thank you. Kaitlin's first  
 21 day on the job was a budget meeting with

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1 department heads and the county manager. So  
 2 talk about drinking from a fire hose. We  
 3 started her out and she stuck with us. So  
 4 we've very grateful.  
 5 MR. STEPP: Great work.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.  
 7 MR. LESHNER: Just want to add my  
 8 congratulations to you for building such an  
 9 effective team that is now getting this  
 10 recognition, that you're making the right kind  
 11 of headlines when other entities are not. So  
 12 we know that that's no small feat.  
 13 And to your staff, I have experienced, not  
 14 only in my official capacity as a Council  
 15 member, but also coming in for constituent  
 16 services, how effective and responsive your  
 17 team is. So thank you for all that.  
 18 MS. MIELKE: Thank you and  
 19 congratulations. I'd say keep up the good  
 20 work, but I know you will.  
 21 Thank you, you and your staff.

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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: And I want to say the same.</p> <p>2 Congratulations. We really appreciate you guys</p> <p>3 being here.</p> <p>4 Not only that, it's the community and</p> <p>5 Talbot County is benefiting from you and your</p> <p>6 knowledge, your professionalism. So you know,</p> <p>7 we're really blessed to have somebody like you</p> <p>8 guys that are knee deep in the trenches.</p> <p>9 Last budget couldn't have went any better,</p> <p>10 other than it could have been a little lower.</p> <p>11 But that's okay, you know.</p> <p>12 But at the end of the day, you guys</p> <p>13 actually did a phenomenal job, made us feel</p> <p>14 comfortable. You did everything I thought, you</p> <p>15 know, sort of being there and new, like</p> <p>16 Mr. Stepp said, you would have never known you</p> <p>17 weren't working here.</p> <p>18 So we're really happy to have all your</p> <p>19 employees here. And anything that we can do to</p> <p>20 help you guys, we're here to help you, too, and</p> <p>21 work together.</p>	<p>1 in front of Council for a photo opportunity?</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, sure. Yeah.</p> <p>3 Absolutely. Yeah.</p> <p>4 MS. KILMON: All right, guys. You're</p> <p>5 looking great. One, two, three. Very nice.</p> <p>6 SPEAKER: All right. Ready? One, two,</p> <p>7 three. Thank you.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job.</p> <p>9 Okay. Next on the agenda is the two</p> <p>10 amendments.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHER: Right.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So do we want to do</p> <p>13 one at a time?</p> <p>14 MR. THOMAS: Yes.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So do we want to go</p> <p>16 ahead and read the amendment or do we want</p> <p>17 to --</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Well, I have copies, if you</p> <p>19 want me to hand them out.</p> <p>20 MS. MORRIS: We will do it one at a time.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: You want to do --</p>
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<p>1 MS. SPARKS: I do -- I would be remiss. I</p> <p>2 meant to -- I don't know how I missed her. But</p> <p>3 our previous finance director, Angela Lane did</p> <p>4 a lion's share of the audit work when I first</p> <p>5 started here.</p> <p>6 So this is still a continuation of the</p> <p>7 good work that she did for the county. So we</p> <p>8 are very grateful, I am very grateful for the</p> <p>9 contribution that she made to us after she had</p> <p>10 retired.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: And that's a good point.</p> <p>12 We really appreciate her being in the trenches</p> <p>13 to kind of help you along and show you and</p> <p>14 guide you, you know, with what you needed.</p> <p>15 MS. SPARKS: I was very fortunate to have</p> <p>16 Angela's guidance when I first came. So very</p> <p>17 grateful.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: So Mr. Stamp, you want</p> <p>19 to...</p> <p>20 MR. STAMP: I just wanted to ask if it</p> <p>21 would be okay if you brought your team forward</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: 338.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We'll do 338</p> <p>3 amendment first.</p> <p>4 Mr. Thomas, you want to go ahead and</p> <p>5 explain where we're at with this?</p> <p>6 MR. THOMAS: So both of these amendments</p> <p>7 were requested by Council Member Mielke.</p> <p>8 Before you is the amendment one to</p> <p>9 Resolution 338. This tracks with our</p> <p>10 discussion, the discussion during the work</p> <p>11 session with the Planning Commission last week.</p> <p>12 It adds in table one, the part that reads</p> <p>13 table one, Lakeside wastewater treatment plant</p> <p>14 permit limitations and requirements, there's a</p> <p>15 subsection one under that table that reads as</p> <p>16 stated in Permit 19DP3460, a major permit</p> <p>17 modification is required for any future</p> <p>18 expansion of the Lakeside wastewater treatment</p> <p>19 plant. Such expansion shall also require</p> <p>20 amendment to this plan. The proposed amendment</p> <p>21 adds the language including a certification by</p>

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1 the Talbot County Planning Commission that the  
 2 amendment is consistent with the Talbot County  
 3 Comprehensive Plan pursuant to the Maryland  
 4 Annotated Code, environment section 9506A12.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion?  
 6 So we're just going to introduce?  
 7 MR. THOMAS: We will just introduce this.  
 8 And then if introduced, it would be the  
 9 Planning Commission could take it up on the 6th  
 10 when they take up the other.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. Yup.  
 12 MR. LESHER: Show of hands.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Show of hands of  
 14 introducing.  
 15 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Ms. Mielke and  
 16 myself.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Next is  
 18 it 347? Yup. Okay. You want to go ahead and  
 19 go over this one, too?  
 20 MR. THOMAS: Yes. So again, as I said,  
 21 this was proposed by Council Member Mielke.

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1 And what this amendment proposes to do is  
 2 strike the language the phases represent  
 3 defined land uses only and do not represent the  
 4 timing or sequence of development, provided,  
 5 however, that all under the Trappe area water  
 6 system future planning and Trappe area sewer  
 7 system and future planning sections.  
 8 So those sentences would simply read all  
 9 phases of the Lakeside development, or portions  
 10 thereof, classified W-2 or W-3 shall be  
 11 reclassified as W-1 through an amendment to  
 12 this plan before receiving water service from  
 13 the Town of Trappe. And also, all phases of  
 14 the Lakeside development, or portions thereof,  
 15 classified as S-2 or S-3 shall be reclassified  
 16 as S-1 through an amendment to this plan before  
 17 receiving sewer service from the Town of  
 18 Trappe.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So once again, show  
 20 of hands to introduce this. Okay.  
 21 MR. LESHER: So introduced by Ms. Mielke

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1 and myself.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay. Okay. At this  
 3 time, that's all we need, and this kind of goes  
 4 off to the Planning Commission, correct?  
 5 MR. THOMAS: That is correct.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Okay.  
 7 Next on the agenda, we've come to the end of  
 8 the year, and Council goes ahead and elects  
 9 officers for the Council.  
 10 So Mr. Thomas, can you go ahead and run us  
 11 through the process with that?  
 12 MR. THOMAS: Yes. So under the Charter,  
 13 annually the Council selects a president and  
 14 vice president for the next year.  
 15 So the way we do it is that Ms. Morris  
 16 will hand out the ballots to each of you for  
 17 president first.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 19 MR. THOMAS: And you will make your --  
 20 each write down your selections for president.  
 21 And I will read them and announce who the

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1 Council president will be.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 3 MR. THOMAS: Congratulations, Council  
 4 President Callahan.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.  
 6 Thank you, Council. Appreciate it. Okay.  
 7 MR. THOMAS: Congratulations, Vice  
 8 President Leshner.  
 9 MR. LESHER: Thank you, all.  
 10 MS. MIELKE: Congratulations, guys.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Okay.  
 12 Clay's stuff, next.  
 13 MR. STAMP: Yeah. Your county manager  
 14 report for this week.  
 15 And congratulations, President Callahan,  
 16 Vice President Leshner.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.  
 18 MR. STAMP: Look forward to working with  
 19 you in those roles in the next year.  
 20 Under your county manager report this  
 21 week, I have several items.

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1 First, I have no committee and commission  
 2 appointees or recommendations this week.  
 3 But I will call Rich up, the golf pro, and  
 4 Bryce.  
 5 The first item we have in your packet, we  
 6 have a request from the Hog Neck Golf Course to  
 7 enter into an option and ground lease agreement  
 8 with Crown Castle Tower for 199-foot cell phone  
 9 tower.  
 10 And as you read in your packet, Hog Neck  
 11 Golf Course is seeking Council approval to  
 12 enter into an option and ground lease agreement  
 13 with Crown Castle Tower for 199-foot tower  
 14 contingent upon review and approval by the FAA.  
 15 If approved, the lease terms would be for  
 16 a period of five years with renewal terms of  
 17 nine additional five-year terms.  
 18 The county will receive \$6,000 upon  
 19 approval of the agreement and \$20,400 in rent  
 20 per year.  
 21 And you have Rich here and Bryce to speak

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1 to you about this.  
 2 And I know Patrick is here. He's reviewed  
 3 the proposed lease as well.  
 4 Rich, the floor is yours.  
 5 MR. SETTER: Good evening. Rich Setter,  
 6 general manager, Hog Neck Golf Course.  
 7 MR. YELTON: Bryce Yelton, assistant  
 8 planning officer.  
 9 MR. SETTER: And this was not something  
 10 that we searched out. They came to us with  
 11 this proposal.  
 12 And I think it's a good thing for the  
 13 county. We do lack cell service in that area.  
 14 The location that they've chosen is an  
 15 area, a wooded area coming in right at the  
 16 entrance. I don't think you'd even be able to  
 17 see the tower unless you were right near it  
 18 just because it's such a treed area. So it's  
 19 very non-invasive.  
 20 I know a lot of these things are an  
 21 eyesore in the community. People don't like

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1 it. But that location would be very, very  
 2 discreet.  
 3 So I think it's a good thing going forward  
 4 pending approval.  
 5 MR. YELTON: I have just one more thing to  
 6 add. This location for the tower on the Hog  
 7 Neck Golf Course property was designated in our  
 8 Comprehensive Plan as a priority placement area  
 9 for cell towers in the county.  
 10 In the Talbot County Code, is specifies  
 11 that the locations of towers in these priority  
 12 placement areas is to the greater benefit over  
 13 other locations in the county that are outside  
 14 of those areas.  
 15 This is one of those areas that does not  
 16 currently have a cell tower in it. And so the  
 17 code does support this location for it.  
 18 I'm also here to answer any questions  
 19 about the code moving forward with the approval  
 20 process if this does go through the site plan  
 21 process with the Planning Commission.

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1 Thank you.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great.  
 3 Ms. Mielke.  
 4 MS. MIELKE: No questions.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.  
 6 MR. LESHER: No.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Well, that's great.  
 8 And I'm assuming that the company, the  
 9 company has come out there and surveyed that  
 10 that's the best place for service or it doesn't  
 11 matter, so to speak?  
 12 MR. YELTON: So I can speak to this. So  
 13 this is just the preliminary agreement. This  
 14 is what they call the option.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 16 MR. YELTON: So once, if the Council were  
 17 to sign the option, that's when they would do  
 18 all the preliminary work to come out there and  
 19 actually survey to see if it's viable. That's  
 20 the \$6,000 that the county would receive.  
 21 After that, if they were to move forward

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1 with it, they would take the full option and  
 2 continue with this contract to actually go and  
 3 go through the site plan process and construct  
 4 the tower.  
 5 So this is pre any on-site work.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you.  
 7 Is there opportunities? Is this,  
 8 obviously, it's cell, but as far as fire and  
 9 EMS, is any of that on that tower, too?  
 10 MR. STAMP: This present location would  
 11 not be a necessary area for us. There are  
 12 other areas that we are interested in.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good. So guys,  
 14 that's fine. What do we have to do for you?  
 15 MS. MORRIS: Motion and a second.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is there a motion?  
 17 MS. MIELKE: So moved.  
 18 MR. LESHER: Second.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Got a motion and  
 20 second to move forward with the request that  
 21 they've outlined with the tower. Madam

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1 Secretary, could you call the vote, please.  
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.  
 5 MS. MIELKE: Aye.  
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 7 MR. LESHER: Aye.  
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.  
 9 MR. STEPP: Aye.  
 10 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.  
 11 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Great.  
 13 MR. SETTER: Thank you.  
 14 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council. And we're  
 15 going to keep Rich up here with us for a few  
 16 minutes.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 18 MR. STAMP: We have several more items  
 19 that Rich wants to bring forward. Each of  
 20 these items falls under the capital improvement  
 21 program project, which was outlined in Bill

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1 1539. It was appropriately budgeted, as  
 2 Council recalls.  
 3 The first item that Rich is interested in  
 4 asking Council for in your packet, Hog Neck  
 5 Golf Course is seeking Council approval for a  
 6 66-month lease with Golf-Tech, Incorporated for  
 7 the lease of 15 power tees at a monthly lease  
 8 amount of \$4,138.31, \$49,659.72 a year. If  
 9 approved, the power tees would be installed in  
 10 March 2024.  
 11 This is a sole source procurement as  
 12 Golf-Tech, Incorporated is the only provider of  
 13 this system.  
 14 There are sufficient funds in the golf  
 15 budget.  
 16 And I think, Rich, you can elaborate on  
 17 some of the due diligence work you did to  
 18 ensure that the sole source wasn't done without  
 19 that.  
 20 MR. SETTER: So currently, there's no  
 21 government entities that have this equipment at

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1 any of the properties.  
 2 So I reached out to Golf-Tech and asked  
 3 them to give me some numbers and finances from  
 4 other properties within the Mid Atlantic  
 5 region. And I provided those to Clay and  
 6 Jessica there showing that the money that would  
 7 be involved is in line. It's actually better  
 8 pricing than some of the other options that  
 9 they've had out there that they're already  
 10 doing business with.  
 11 So these are -- I've given you all the  
 12 information. You know what these things are  
 13 now. If you have any questions on those, I can  
 14 certainly answer them.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion?  
 16 Okay.  
 17 Is there a motion?  
 18 MS. MIELKE: So moved.  
 19 MR. STEPP: Second.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. There's a motion and  
 21 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the

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<p>1 vote.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>5 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>7 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>9 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>11 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>12 MR. STAMP: And Rich is here to ask you,</p> <p>13 and I'm just going to pitch the heading and</p> <p>14 then let you have it for the rest of it. But</p> <p>15 he is requesting that he be able to enter a</p> <p>16 lease agreement with Trackman Range for a</p> <p>17 driving range enhancement system.</p> <p>18 I'll pitch it to you now and pick up</p> <p>19 whatever you don't cover.</p> <p>20 MR. SETTER: Okay. Trackman Range.</p> <p>21 There's three different companies in the world</p>	<p>1 contract. And there are sufficient funds in</p> <p>2 the golf course budget.</p> <p>3 The system would be installed in May of</p> <p>4 2025.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Is there a</p> <p>6 motion?</p> <p>7 MS. MIELKE: So moved.</p> <p>8 MS. HAYTHE: Second.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. There's a motion and</p> <p>10 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>11 vote, please.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>15 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>17 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>19 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>21 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p>
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<p>1 basically that offer this type of product.</p> <p>2 There's Trackman Range. There's the one that's</p> <p>3 used at all the Top Golfs in the country.</p> <p>4 You've heard of Top Golf. That's called Top</p> <p>5 Tracer. And then there's a company out of</p> <p>6 Johannesburg, South Africa, called In Range.</p> <p>7 And the reason for Trackman Range was the</p> <p>8 pricing was better and more favorable for us.</p> <p>9 So that's what I'm recommending. I also think</p> <p>10 it's the best product out there also. So it</p> <p>11 kind of really goes in line.</p> <p>12 MR. STAMP: Just for details, to read into</p> <p>13 the record, Council, as you read in your</p> <p>14 packet, this will be to enter a lease with</p> <p>15 Trackman Range for a driving range enhancement</p> <p>16 system, which includes 30 bays with 32-inch</p> <p>17 monitors.</p> <p>18 A total of three prices were received,</p> <p>19 with Trackman Range being the lowest, \$57,600.</p> <p>20 At this time, the golf course would</p> <p>21 approve a down payment of \$4,800 to lock in the</p>	<p>1 MR. STAMP: And finally, Council, the Hog</p> <p>2 Neck Golf Course is asking your permission to</p> <p>3 award a contract to Tex-Net, Incorporated for</p> <p>4 the installation of poles and netting at the</p> <p>5 practice range.</p> <p>6 Rich, I'll pitch it to you.</p> <p>7 MR. SETTER: Again, this was the lowest</p> <p>8 bid that we had come in.</p> <p>9 This is to create a safer environment</p> <p>10 since we will be going up in height on the</p> <p>11 range. Executive hole number one is in close</p> <p>12 proximity to the right side of the range. And</p> <p>13 executive hole number nine is on the left side.</p> <p>14 And so we need to put netting up both</p> <p>15 sides to create a safer environment there for</p> <p>16 hitting and then increasing the net height at</p> <p>17 the end because of these young studs that are</p> <p>18 out hitting golf balls over the net. This way</p> <p>19 we can kind of control them a little bit.</p> <p>20 I wasn't looking at you when I said that,</p> <p>21 Chuck.</p>

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1 MR. STAMP: And Council, this would be a  
 2 cost of \$241,920, which includes material,  
 3 labor, and installation. There are sufficient  
 4 funds in the golf course budget.  
 5 MR. LESHER: I'll move to award the  
 6 contract.  
 7 MS. MIELKE: Second.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and  
 9 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the  
 10 vote, please.  
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 13 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.  
 14 MS. MIELKE: Aye.  
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 16 MR. LESHNER: Aye.  
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.  
 18 MR. STEPP: Aye.  
 19 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.  
 20 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. There's one thing.

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1 I think you are doing a wonderful job. I want  
 2 you to take two seconds, if you would, to help  
 3 people understand what we're trying to achieve  
 4 here because it's sort of in my world, I'm  
 5 thinking it's a mini Top Golf.  
 6 MR. SETTER: Yeah. It's not really that.  
 7 It's an enhancement to the practice  
 8 center.  
 9 So from a business standpoint, I'll back  
 10 up and give you the big 30,000-foot --  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Just give us a quick so  
 12 everybody understands.  
 13 MR. SETTER: Yup. Real quick.  
 14 So back in 2018, we received 96 inches of  
 15 rain. We had a horrible, horrible financial  
 16 performance there because golf is so dependent  
 17 on weather.  
 18 So we started to make steps to try and  
 19 become less dependent on weather so we can have  
 20 a continued revenue stream down there so that  
 21 things don't -- when it goes bad with the

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1 weather, things are still good from a financial  
 2 performance perspective.  
 3 So we enclosed the pavilion down there,  
 4 which we now rent that. I have a Christmas  
 5 party for the hospital on Friday evening down  
 6 there, as a matter of fact.  
 7 And then this practice range is the next  
 8 step to that. So we will have these bays.  
 9 Will be heated, propane heaters in there. So  
 10 on a day like today when we did like three  
 11 rounds of golf because it was so cold and windy  
 12 out there, I expect that being full with people  
 13 because you'll be in a climate-control  
 14 environment, heated, practicing hitting golf  
 15 balls.  
 16 This high technology stuff that's out  
 17 there, this is what's attracting all the new  
 18 people to the game of golf. It's very, very  
 19 high tech. When you hit a golf ball, it tells  
 20 you exactly where it's going. You can play  
 21 virtual golf courses there, Hog Neck being one

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1 of them. You have all kinds of different games  
 2 for the kids. It's a family environment.  
 3 It's just the wave of the future. And  
 4 everything we see all around the country have  
 5 the success that these properties are having,  
 6 it's just the way to go.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: And at night.  
 8 MR. SETTER: And at night. And we add  
 9 lighting to it. So now we take a business  
 10 model where you can only have revenue streams  
 11 during the daylight hours, now you can extend  
 12 that into the evening hours, and especially  
 13 this time of year when it gets dark at  
 14 five o'clock at night.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.  
 16 MR. SETTER: You've got something for  
 17 people to do in the evenings when they come  
 18 home from work.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Well, good job, you  
 20 and your committee.  
 21 And I know Ms. Mielke was really

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1 instrumental in this, too.  
 2 MS. MIELKE: Exciting.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: And excited about it.  
 4 So your committee is doing a great job.  
 5 Really appreciate you. Enterprise fund trying  
 6 to survive on your own. This is going to be  
 7 huge for us and huge for Talbot County.  
 8 MR. SETTER: Yeah. It really is. I  
 9 appreciate all your support. Thank you.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. I appreciate the  
 11 hard work you're doing out there, too, and all  
 12 your staff. All right. Thank you.  
 13 MR. SETTER: Thank you.  
 14 MR. STAMP: And Mr. Council President,  
 15 that concludes your county manager report for  
 16 the week.  
 17 I want to thank you for your continued  
 18 support for the County Manager's Office and  
 19 staff as well as all your department heads.  
 20 Most recently we had a strategic planning  
 21 session where you were able to spend the day

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1 with all the department heads. And it was very  
 2 productive, and it meant a lot to the  
 3 department heads to be able to have that time  
 4 with you. So thank you for your ongoing  
 5 support.  
 6 And again, that concludes my report for  
 7 this week.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds great.  
 9 I appreciate that. You're doing a good job,  
 10 all of you. Okay.  
 11 Next is public comment.  
 12 MS. MORRIS: Nobody has signed up this  
 13 evening.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Anybody want to come  
 15 on up? Sarah? Okay. All right.  
 16 Next, Council comments. I'm going this  
 17 way, going this way. Ms. Mielke.  
 18 MS. MIELKE: I just wanted to express  
 19 sympathy for the passing of Rosalynn Carter.  
 20 Her funeral was today. It was beautiful. And  
 21 she certainly was a showcase for first ladies

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1 and also the role that women can play in our  
 2 government.  
 3 That's all I got.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Leshner.  
 5 MR. LESHER: I'm going to speak at greater  
 6 length than I usually do here because today I  
 7 served as Council's liaison to the Department  
 8 of Social Services. And while at the board  
 9 meeting today, I heard a particularly  
 10 heartwarming story.  
 11 We always have a staff presentation. And  
 12 today's presentation was from the director of  
 13 child support services. This is not where you  
 14 expect to find heartwarming stories, but she  
 15 told the story of a client of theirs who had  
 16 become delinquent in payments. And it had gone  
 17 along enough that they took the usual measures,  
 18 including having his driver's license revoked.  
 19 Nothing seemed to work. And he was  
 20 getting angry, and he was calling in making  
 21 threats to their staff to the point where the

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1 case worker really did not want to even return  
 2 his call, even deal with him at all.  
 3 And the director of child support services  
 4 reached out, phoned him, and said what's your  
 5 story. He said well, at my age, I've got an  
 6 old felony conviction and I always disclose  
 7 that on my job applications. And it meant that  
 8 I couldn't get good jobs. And the last job I  
 9 had really was a physical challenge. And he  
 10 quit that job. And without income, of course,  
 11 he didn't have the income to make his  
 12 obligations to his family.  
 13 The director of child support services  
 14 reached out to the community partner at Shore  
 15 Legal Access and helped him get an expungement  
 16 of his record and helped him locate a job,  
 17 which he applied for, within walking distance  
 18 of his home so he didn't have the  
 19 transportation problems.  
 20 And when he started that job, and this has  
 21 just happened, he phoned back up in



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1 appreciation to Child Support Services and said  
 2 take it out of my pay, I'm starting my job,  
 3 let's get this set up. And he's happier, he's  
 4 a better person.  
 5 For so many, for so long, he had been  
 6 feeling like the system was rigged against him,  
 7 that he didn't have a chance. And somebody in  
 8 the system reached out and worked with him and  
 9 he felt like now the system is on my side.  
 10 That type of problem solving is happening  
 11 in our government here locally and it's  
 12 something I think we can all be proud of.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: That's a great story.  
 14 Good.  
 15 Mr. Stepp.  
 16 MR. STEPP: It was wonderful to be out and  
 17 about here around Thanksgiving. It's a  
 18 wonderful time in Talbot County.  
 19 It was great to serve the seniors at  
 20 Brookletts Place a week before Thanksgiving.  
 21 That was a wonderful experience as well.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.  
 2 MR. STEPP: Congratulations, again, Chuck  
 3 and Pete, president and vice president. I look  
 4 forward to working with you both as well as the  
 5 rest of the Council for another year.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate it. Yeah.  
 7 MS. HAYTHE: So I had a constituent call,  
 8 and this may be something that County Manager  
 9 Stamp may have to help me with.  
 10 So I had a constituent call about cameras  
 11 on, the need for cameras on Blake Street, which  
 12 is in Easton, because that is a -- they have  
 13 apartments which are elderly people.  
 14 And so I don't know if we need to reach  
 15 out to the chief of police to find out if there  
 16 are cameras on Blake Street or if there's any  
 17 plan to put cameras on Blake Street because  
 18 there was a recent murder there.  
 19 MR. STAMP: Yes. If you give me that  
 20 information, I'll see to it that we reach out  
 21 to Easton Police Department as well as our

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1 technical services who manage those cameras for  
 2 the police departments. And we'll try to get  
 3 some information for you.  
 4 MS. HAYTHE: Great. Excellent.  
 5 That's all I have.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, I don't have hardly  
 7 anything.  
 8 I just want to thank Council. And I'll do  
 9 my best for you guys. Me and Mr. Leshner will  
 10 do the best we can for Council and this  
 11 community. And I really appreciate it. That's  
 12 for sure.  
 13 And Mr. Stepp stole a little bit of my  
 14 thunder.  
 15 MR. STEPP: What did I do now?  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: The senior citizens, the  
 17 seniors. That dinner was phenomenal. I really  
 18 enjoy doing that every year. I didn't get  
 19 there last year. So Marilyn and her crew, and  
 20 it just --  
 21 MS. HAYTHE: Childlone.


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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Childlone. I'm sorry.  
 2 Childlone do such a phenomenal job.  
 3 And there was 120 people there maybe or  
 4 more. So I think they really appreciated us  
 5 being there, and it's good to see all the  
 6 faces. It means a lot to me because I have an  
 7 aunt there and I have family there. You know,  
 8 it's a good place for them to have a  
 9 Thanksgiving dinner and be thankful.  
 10 So that being said, Mr. Leshner, you want  
 11 to go ahead and wrap things up for us?  
 12 MR. LESHNER: The County Council's next  
 13 meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12th,  
 14 beginning at six o'clock p.m. The Council will  
 15 be convening in open session at 4:30 p.m. and  
 16 then adjourning into closed session, as listed  
 17 on the statement for closing that meeting.  
 18 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn  
 19 this meeting and reconvene as noted?  
 20 MR. STEPP: So moved.  
 21 MS. HAYTHE: Second.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and  
 2 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the  
 3 vote.  
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 6 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.  
 7 MS. MIELKE: Aye.  
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 9 MR. LESHNER: Aye.  
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.  
 11 MR. STEPP: Aye.  
 12 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.  
 13 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, everybody.  
 15 Appreciate it.  
 16 (Meeting concluded at: 7:34 p.m.)  
 17  
 18  
 19  
 20  
 21

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1 STATE OF MARYLAND  
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and  
 for the State of Maryland, County of Baltimore City,  
 3 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot  
 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me  
 4 at the time and place herein set according to law,  
 was interrogated by counsel.  
 5  
 I further certify that the examination was  
 6 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed  
 from my stenographic notes to the within printed  
 7 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription  
 in a true and accurate manner.  
 8  
 I further certify that the stipulations  
 9 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my  
 presence.  
 10  
 I further certify that I am not of counsel  
 11 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,  
 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way  
 12 interested in the outcome of this action.  
 13 AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 4th  
 day of December, 2023 at Easton MD  
 14  
  
 15  
 16 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Diane Houlihan  
 Notary Public  
 17  
 18  
 19 My commission expires September 16, 2025  
 20  
 21

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