	Page 1
1	COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND
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4	Council Meeting
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7	November 4, 2025; 5:00 p.m.
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10	Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland
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12	COUNCIL MEMBERG.
13	COUNCIL MEMBERS:
14 15	Chuck F. Callahan Pete Lesher
16	Keasha N. Haythe
17	Lynn L. Mielke
18	Dave Stepp
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20	Reported by
21	Diane Houlihan

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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MR. CALLAHAN: Let's go ahead and I want to welcome everybody. If everybody could go ahead and stand. And we'll do the Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag and the Prayer.

(Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank everybody for coming tonight.

So we've had the agenda before us. Is there any additions, deletions, or corrections to the agenda, Council? Okay. All right. Hearing none, the chair moves that the minutes be accepted as unanimous consent.

MR. LESHER: The agenda.

MR. CALLAHAN: Agenda. I'm sorry. The agenda.

What did I say, minutes?

MR. LESHER: Yeah. Jumping ahead.

MR. CALLAHAN: That's the next one.

21 Sorry.

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Okay. Next is the minutes of
October 14th. Council has had a chance to take
a look at that. Is there any additions,
deletions, or corrections to the minutes?
Okay. All right. Hearing none, the chair
moves that the minutes be accepted as unanimous
consent.

Next is the disbursements of November 4th.

We've had a chance to take a look at that,

Council. Is there any additions, deletions, or

corrections to the disbursements? Okay.

Hearing none, the chair moves that the

disbursements be accepted as unanimous consent.

Okay. First, is a very, very important Operation Green Light for the veterans proclamation. Madam Secretary, could you go ahead and read that into the record, please.

SECRETARY: Proclamation, Supporting
Operation Green Light for Veterans.

Whereas, the residents of Talbot County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost

gratitude for all who have selflessly served our country and the Talbot County community in the US Armed Forces.

And whereas, the contributions and sacrifices of those who have served in the US Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens.

And whereas, Talbot County seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all.

And whereas, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as county veterans service officers throughout the nation to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability, and compensation benefits each year.

And whereas, annually approximately

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200,000 service members transition to civilian life, with 44 to 72 percent experiencing high levels of stress during the transition from military to civilian life.

And whereas, an estimated 90 percent of service members who deploy for military operations and experience or witness a traumatic event, are at a higher risk for developing post traumatic stress disorder, PTSD. And many are at a high risk for suicide during the first year following military service, with an average of 17.6 veterans dying by suicide every day.

And whereas, various organizations, including the Cambridge VA Outpatient Clinic, Healthcare for Homeless Veterans, Maryland's Commitment to Veterans, Perry Point VA Medical Center, Supportive Services for Veterans's Families, and the Veteran and Military Support Alliance, provide critical resources across Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's,

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Talbot, Worcester, and Wicomico Counties.

These resources include health care, mental health support, housing assistance, crisis intervention, substance use services, and peer support for veterans.

And whereas, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes, and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans.

And whereas, Talbot County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be accorded to them.

Therefore, be it resolved in observance of Operation Green Light for Veterans, Talbot County encourages its citizens to recognize the importance of honoring those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in their place of business or residence from November 4, 2025, to November 11, 2025.

Given under our hands and the great seal of Talbot County this 4th day of November in the year of our Lord, 2025.

MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary. Okay.

Is there a motion?

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MR. STEPP: So moved as read.

MS. MIELKE: Second.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and second to put it into the record. Madam

Secretary, could you call the vote.

SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

MR. STEPP: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.

MR. LESHER: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

MS. MIELKE: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is there anybody here? Yes, come on up.

Katie or Lisa?

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MS. STOYANOV: Rachel.

MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, Rachel. Okay. I got you.

Please sit down. Yes, yes. Introduce yourself, if you don't mind.

MS. STOYANOV: Hi. I'm Rachel Stoyanov with Mid Shore Behavioral Health. I've been sent to share this message with you.

The midshore region is home to a strong and diverse veteran community. Approximately 6.8 of Maryland's adult civilian population are veterans, many of whom reside in rural areas like the mid shore, where access to health care, mental health support, employment, and social support can be very limited.

About 25 percent of Maryland veterans live with a disability, compared to just 13.2 percent of non-veterans, which further

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underscores the importance of community awareness and your local support.

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Operation Green Light for Veterans is an important initiative that encourages residents, businesses, and public buildings to display green lights as a visible show of appreciation and solidarity.

Beyond honoring their service, this helps raise awareness of the challenges veterans face and connects them to vital local resources, ensuring that they feel recognized and supported across all ages and stages of their lives.

The Mid Shore Behavioral Health database is regularly updated and a good place to find resources for veterans in this community.

Please reach out to Mid Shore Behavioral Health with any additional questions or if we can provide any further support to your veteran. Thank you.

MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. I appreciate

Page 10 1 it. 2 Mr. Stepp. 3 MR. STEPP: No. Just --You can stay. Yup. We got 4 MR. CALLAHAN: 5 something for you. Okay. Don't go nowhere. Yeah. Okay. All right. 6 7 MR. STEPP: Just it is a pleasure to do this every year for you guys. So number one, 8 thank you for that. 9 10 But most importantly, I just want to thank all of our veterans that are either here or 11 12 tuning in and live here in Talbot County. Just 13 thank you, again, for your service and sacrifice as well as your family's. 14 15 And an extra special thank you to all 16 Marines out there as they're celebrating their 250th year come November 10th. So thank you. 17 18 MS. MIELKE: And the Navy. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. 20 MR. LESHER: Well. And I see that we have

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a number of veterans in the room now in

uniform.

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But the truth of the matter is that we look around this community, and you don't know, you don't recognize how many veterans are around us and contributing in so many different ways to this community.

And thank you for your service. And we are honored to be able to do something along these lines to recognize you.

MS. MIELKE: Having been married to a Vietnam War veteran, I know firsthand how important these services are.

So very grateful for what's being done. Thank you for Green Light.

MS. HAYTHE: Certainly thank you for coming in this evening.

I want to thank all the veterans that have served that are here with us this evening.

Having a veteran at home in our family, I know the importance of your service and the resources that's available when they come back

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MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. And thank you, veterans. That's for sure. You mean a lot to us in this community. That's for sure. And we appreciate you. We love you guys and really appreciate everything you've done through the years to keep us safe. That's for sure.

So if you guys, the veterans, and everybody come up, would like to come up, we'll take a picture of you guys.

MS. STOYANOV: Thank you.

MR. STAMP: Thank you very much.

MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Yup. Okay.

Madam Secretary, next is an update to the Maryland Environment Service. You guys want to come on up. Yup.

MR. FORD: That's a hard act to follow.

MR. CALLAHAN: That is.

MR. FORD: I wish I could say we're as important.

MR. CALLAHAN: You are important.

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1	MR. FORD: We'll give it a shot.
2	MR. CALLAHAN: Wouldn't trash be
3	important?
4	MR. FORD: Not quite as important.
5	MR. LESHER: Well, you stop collecting it,
6	you'll find out how important it is.
7	MR. CALLAHAN: Exactly. So we got you
8	guys scheduled for ten minutes now. Okay?
9	MR. FORD: Yeah. I know. I can see
10	you've got the clock right there.
11	MR. CALLAHAN: I just want to make sure
12	you see that now. Okay.
13	MR. FORD: We'll keep it on time.
14	MR. CALLAHAN: All right, buddy.
15	MR. FORD: Well, thank you again. It's a
16	pleasure to be here once again. My name is Tim
17	Ford. I am the managing director for the
18	environmental operations for the Maryland
19	Environmental Service. So I'm in the solid
20	waste division of what we do.
21	With me is Gary Lasako, who is our senior

project manager and responsible for our Eastern
Shore operations, including Midshore I and
Midshore II.

Next slide. Next one.

So we'll start with money. This is the Midshore II FY26 tipping fee at 71.50.

I will note that in today's paper,

Baltimore County posted that they're tipping

fee is \$135 a ton. So regional fees are

rising.

We're happy to keep a proverbial trash lid on our tipping fees to the extent that we can. So our fees for '26 will be 71.50 at the landfill, and brush is at \$46.50. There will be a sewage sludge surcharge. It was going to be \$15 a ton. The county weighed in, and we listened. And it's \$5 a ton beginning on January 1, 2026.

MR. STAMP: Thank you.

MR. FORD: You're welcome.

So we still, this is important for the

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county. We are responsible for post-closure care for the Midshore I landfill. Part of that includes the old Easton landfill, which is adjacent to the Midshore I landfill.

We have an exposed geo membrane there. It is a 20-year warranty. We're possibly, what are we, almost ten years into that.

MR. LASAKO: Yeah. We installed it in 2016 and received MDE approval in 2017.

MR. FORD: Yeah. So we test it every year. It's in good shape. As a matter of good responsibility, we're going to begin to reserve for replacement for that cap in terms of money. So when we have to replace it in ten or 15 years, we'll have the cash for it.

Some regulatory changes. There is a methane rule. Midshore I landfill now qualifies under that methane rule. Before, prior, it was voluntarily. The landfill gas collection was voluntary. We were doing it anyway. So this rule really won't have much of

an impact on us other than our ability to collect carbon credits. Because this will no longer be voluntarily, those will no longer be available to us.

And then leachate management. We manage leachate for both the existing landfill at Midshore I. And of course, we bring Midshore II leachate as a pass-through to Easton Utilities.

Go ahead, Gary.

MR. LASAKO: Sure.

MR. FORD: He's the numbers guy.

MR. LASAKO: I guess. These are just some statistics to bring you up to speed on recent trends I guess at the transfer station.

And what's presented there is the last 12 months, a rolling 12 months of inbound trash and brush as well as scale house transactions at the transfer station.

As you can see, this last quarter, first quarter of FY26, so that's July through

September for us. We received about 11,000 tons of trash. So good quarter. Brush was kind of right in line with kind of the general average of about 1,000 tons a quarter.

And as you can see, that's a very busy place there at the transfer station. We get nearly 1,000 transactions there every quarter.

So the biggest takeaway from this slide is that we had a really good first quarter in terms of inbound waste. And right now, we're just sitting slightly above our budgeted inbound trash projection of about 41,000 tons per year.

And this is just the homeowner dropoff facility that is co-located with Midshore I transfer station. And again, it's a very heavily used site. There's cars and constituents in and out of that facility pretty much every minute through the work week as well on Saturdays.

So we had about 24,000 visits over the

last 12 months, including over 6,000 this past quarter.

That operation is partially funded through the sale of punch cards. As you can see there, we sell over 500 \$20 punch cards per guarter.

MR. FORD: So Midshore II landfill, we began 128-foot lift in cell three in September. We're rolling along there.

We have begun -- you can get the next one, next slide.

We are able to begin construction on a new landfill cell. This is the remaining -- we got two landfill cells to finish out the completion for Midshore II. That will get us through 2042. That was all part of the agreements that we reached with Caroline County last year with your help.

And also with your help, we were able to issue service revenue bonds, series 2025 revenue bonds. We just completed that sale.

Thank you, again, to the county for

supporting our efforts to get a double A bond rating and an excellent rate of 3.62 percent with StoneX Financial, Inc. And we closed on that just in the last month. So thank you for your help on that. Your good credit that helps our good credit, and we appreciate it.

And that's debt service. You got to pay those things back, just in case you didn't know that.

Go ahead.

So again, we are working on a new cell construction now. That will include cell five and a leachate tank construction. We're also beginning the design for the cell one, which will be the last cell. We expect to start construction on that in about two years.

We did award a contract to Alan Myers for 6.5 million. And again, they're ongoing.

And then, Gary, this is really probably what you want to talk about, and that's our recycling program. I know there's been some

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issues. Gary, you want to talk about that briefly in our three minutes that we have left. Gary, go ahead.

MR. LASAKO: Sure. So the county requested that we remove the bins from Perry Cabin Park back in July. And we did so.

We redistributed those bins to a number of existing locations within the county, mainly closer to Easton. So the transfer station and then here in town at Auto Zone and Amish Market.

And then kind of shortly after that, we recognized, as well as the county, that the St. Michaels Market, former Graul's, was receiving a lot of the recyclables that were formerly going to the Perry Cabin site. So we worked with the owners there to locate some additional bins there as well as provide some additional collections. Some weekend collections there to alleviate any concerns that they had with recycling material or other

material building up at that site.

Recently, we've worked with the owners of St. Michaels Market as well as Mr. Clarke to develop a concept plan to relocate that existing recycling station to a different area at St. Michaels Market, mainly in the back there where it's kind of out of the way of their inbound deliveries and employee traffic.

And I would just add to that, you know, so we continue to work with the St. Michaels

Market as well as Mr. Clarke to make sure that all parties are satisfied with the service now.

This is -- I believe these are now finally, the audit is finally completely on these. But just a summary of our recycling program over the last fiscal year. So this was fiscal year 25.

We took in about 1.1 million in revenue and had a little over \$900,000 in expenses. The net income for that project was about \$200,000.

That is distributed equally amongst the counties after the project's operating reserve is satisfied.

And as you can see there, Talbot County will yield about \$48,000 into their county surplus account, on top of \$26,000 that was in there previously for their balance in that account, which, again, can be used for recycling activities in the county.

MR. FORD: Including improvements at the market. That's your money.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

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MR. LASAKO: And lastly, in the last 30 seconds, we will once again be providing recycling services at the Waterfowl Festival this year. We've been in close contact with them over the last few weeks to make sure that there's an appropriate number of bins and placed in the right locations for this year's festival.

MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.

MR. FORD: I'm told Santa will be making a return visit as well.

MR. CALLAHAN: That's good. Okay.

MR. FORD: Any questions?

MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

MR. LESHER: Two quick ones.

One. Thank you for the increased pickups at the St. Michaels Market. That's probably the most important thing that you could do for the happiness of our Talbot County constituents.

When somebody comes up to one of these stations with a car full, the last thing they want to do is see all the bins are full.

They're not going to take them back home with them. They're probably not going to drive them all to the clear far side of Easton to the transfer station. And that's when we get the backups, which we don't want anybody to do. We tell people not to do it, but that's what, in fact, happens.

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So the increasing the frequency, are you doing the same thing when you see or anticipate similar issues at the Amish Market or any of the other locations?

MR. FORD: We monitor all the sites. And if we need to increase pickups, we route them in that direction. So yes, we do.

Specifically at the Amish Market, have we had to increase pickups there?

MR. LASAKO: No. You know, what we do do on top of just the pickups, though, is when our folks go around and collect the recyclables, if they notice non-recyclables there, like perhaps somebody leaves a piece of furniture or what have you, we will send out another employee later in the day to remove those non-recyclables so that additional things that shouldn't be there don't accumulate.

MR. LESHER: It doesn't invite more.

MR. LASAKO: Yeah. To try to stop it in the past.

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1	MR. LESHER: Thank you.
2	MR. FORD: We're very much sensitive to
3	the need to maintain volume there and to keep
4	these things from being unsightly. Because if
5	they're unsightly, then you're going to have
6	problems with your folks, landowners.
7	MR. LESHER: Well, I know our constituents
8	down in the St. Michaels area are looking
9	forward to the expeditious redevelopment of the
10	site on the north end of town there. So thank
11	you for working with us toward that.
12	MR. LASAKO: Absolutely.
13	MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other questions
14	from Council? You good?
15	Okay, guys. Thanks a lot. I appreciate
16	it.
17	MS. MIELKE: Thank you.
18	MR. CALLAHAN: Good report. Yup.
19	MR. STAMP: Thanks, Gary.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda

MR. LASAKO: You're welcome.

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is presentation of the FY26 Senior Care Plan.

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MS. OTTEY: You guys are serious about the ten-minute rule.

MR. CALLAHAN: We got the clock. Yup. We got the clock.

MS. OTTEY: I will do my best.

MR. CALLAHAN: We're just trying to get people used to it. Okay?

MS. OTTEY: I understand completely.

All right. Well, thank you for having us here this evening. We'd like to present our Senior Care Program, some statistics from FY25 and then our plan for FY26.

I'm Carrie Ottey. I'm the nurse program supervisor. And with me is Dr. Fahmi, our health officer.

So I know you're all quite familiar with the program at this point. So I'm going to try to keep it brief.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

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MS. OTTEY: Senior Care is a statewide grant program funded through the Maryland Department of Aging. It provides services for people 65 and older who may be at risk of nursing facility placement. The goal is to help seniors remain as safely as possible in the community for as long as possible.

And the cost to the State is a lot less by funding programs like this than to pay for the cost of a patient's care in a nursing facility.

So we have four core services. Screening for eligibility for all available supportive programs, comprehensive assessment of individual needs, and that's conducted in the home, a case manager to secure and coordinate services, and the pool of gap-filling funds to purchase services for those who are eligible.

A little on the history of the program.

It began as a pilot program administered by the Health Department in 1982. It's a formal partnership between the Health Department,

Upper Shore Aging, Social Services, and Talbot County government.

We're one of only two counties in Maryland in which the local Health Department directly administers the Senior Care Program in conjunction with the AERS Program.

The AERS Program stands for Assessment,
Evaluation, and Review Services. Every county
has an AERS Program at their local health
department.

We use an evidence-based assessment tool to evaluate the client's physical health, functional abilities, cognitive, and psychosocial health. And the assessment is conducted by a trained nurse or social worker in the client's home.

Following the assessment, we develop a personalized comprehensive care plan to address each client's individual needs. And the client and the family are involved in the process in order to prioritize their needs.

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As I said, on the last slide, we're one of only two counties in Maryland that administer their Senior Care Program through their local Health Department. And this benefits the clients in several ways.

The nurse or social worker that conducted the assessment then becomes the client's primary case manager. Our clients aren't passed along to another agency after their assessment, which is usually what happens in our jurisdictions.

And then the client has one point of contact, who is a skilled professional. They get to know that person, and the nurse or social worker gets to know them. And they become a trusted source for guidance and information in the health care system.

Our annual client satisfaction survey consistently yields high marks. And again this year, we achieved 98 percent of our clients reporting that they are satisfied or very

satisfied overall with their services.

So who is eligible for the program. They need to be a Talbot County resident who is age 65 or older, they must have a moderate or severe functional disability, and then they also need to meet financial eligibility requirements that are set forth by the Department of Aging.

For an individual, they can have income up to \$3,997 a month and assets less than 11,000. A married couple can have income up to 4,565 a month and assets less than 14,000. And the asset limit does not count the home they live in or the car that they drive.

The budget plan for FY26 includes seven percent for administration, 23 percent for case management, and 70 percent for gap-filling for direct services for seniors.

The chart here shows the past five years of the numbers of clients served and the funding for the program. In FY25, we served

223 clients, 223 unduplicated clients. So that has been the highest in recent history. I even went back a little further than this five-year period, and it continued to be the highest number we've served in recent history.

Thankfully due to county support and an increase in the Department of Aging funding, we did not have to have a wait list in 2025. I'm hopeful that we will not have to start one this year. Our clients are often in a crisis situation when we meet them, and getting services in place right away can avert a negative outcome.

And then I also just want to point out that in FY25, our average spending per client works out to just over \$1,000 per client. The median cost of nursing facility care is \$146,000 per year. So I'm not saying that Senior Care can fix everything, but what we can do with \$1,000 for a year if it prevents or even just delays a nursing facility placement,

then it's a huge savings to the system.

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So I've referred to our gap-filling funds, but here is a breakdown of how the funds were spent in FY25. Our biggest chunk went to chore services at 23 percent of the funding. Chores are one of the first things that people start to struggle with as they age and their mobility declines.

Emergency response systems. That's the little buttons they can wear around their neck to summon help if they need it. That was 22 percent of our spending. And that's really important because so many of our clients live alone and they need access to help if they were to have a medical emergency or fall.

Medical supplies accounted for 22 percent of the spending. And that includes incontinence supplies, nutritional supplements, medical equipment such as shower chairs, bedside commodes, rollator walkers, etc.

Personal care accounted for 20 percent of

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the funds we've spent. We have an awesome CNA, Donna. She provides our personal care services, but we still have not figured out how to clone her yet. So we're supplementing that with an agency provider.

And then 12 percent of the funds went to prescription medication copays. Cost is a big reason sometimes for non-compliance with medication regiments. So we're really trying to reduce that obstacle for people.

And then finally, adult day care services is just a small little sliver at one percent there. We have a separate grant that pays for most of this service. But Senior Care does supplement it a little bit.

And I'll run quickly through our statistics for FY25. Most haven't changed a whole lot from the previous year.

73 percent of our clients are female, 27 percent are male. 54 percent of our clients are white, 45 percent are black or African

American.

By age, our biggest age group continues to be our 75 to 84-year-olds. But interesting, for the past two years, our younger age group has increased by several percentage points each. That's our 65 to 74-years-olds.

And then living arrangements, 55 percent of our clients live alone. And that increases the risk of injuries, social isolation, depression, anxiety, malnutrition, and a host of other things.

Other clients' average monthly income, this year we saw an increase in the percent that are living at or below the poverty level, which is a monthly income of \$1,304 or less. So it went from 31 percent last year to 37 percent this year.

Also of note, 43 percent of our clients have Medicare only, no supplemental insurance to cover that 20 percent that Medicare does not.

Functional status, our assessment includes an evaluation of their functional abilities.

That's their activities of daily living;

bathing, dressing, toileting, ambulating, meal prep, chores, etc. And 39 percent had a severe impairment in their activities of daily living.

And then also, 38 percent of our clients received a nursing facility level of care when we submit assessments in the Department of Health system. That means we've got 38 percent of our clients that are living in the community that are needing the level of care that would be provided in a nursing facility. They're supported at home by family, friends, neighbors, other community programs, and our Senior Care Program.

And our program and our clients depend on all of our support and partnerships from all other sources. County government, in addition to funding that supplements our program, you all have stepped up to advocate for our program

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as well when there was threats of funding cuts in FY25. Your advocacy really got the attention up at the State level. And those cuts did not happen. So I really wish to extend the gratitude for that.

And then we're also grateful for the support we receive from the Health Department, our health officer, Upper Shore Aging,

Department of Social Services, Commission on Aging, and then many civic, church, and community organizations.

This year I want to give special recognition to the Midshore Community

Foundation, who forwarded us some grant money from the Albert and Diane Miller Fund to provide additional support to our seniors. So we are extremely grateful for that support.

Program challenges. A challenge for us is always the growth of the aging population, especially here in Talbot County where we have the highest percent population of seniors in

the State. That's not expected to change at all.

The Department of Aging has a new initiative called Longevity Ready Maryland. I put their website on the slide here. It really has a lot of useful data. Allows you to drill down to county level data. And they also have some great details about their ten-year plan and goals.

We continue to face some of the other challenges, too. The growing preference for aging at home is going to place an additional strain on already limited resources, such as housing, transportation, and a shortage of workers to provide in-home care.

Just a quick acknowledgement that November is National Family Caregivers Month. And family caregivers are providing invaluable, unpaid care to their loved ones, all while trying to juggle work and children and their own health care needs.

In FY27, the Department of Aging plans to transition the name of the Senior Care Program to SOAR, which stands for Supporting Older Adults with Resources. So we're excited and we look forward to being a part of that transition and the planning and implementation. More details are available on the website.

And just want to wrap up by first thanking you again as our county leaders for your continued support of this program. We would not have such a successful program if we did not have your support like we do. And we would not be able to serve the number of clients that we serve. So thank you so much.

My favorite part, if I can have a few seconds, I'd really like to share a couple client testimonials in their own words. We ask them what the Senior Care Program means to them. And I'll just share a couple.

I think the Senior Program is great.

You've given me all the help a person can ask

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for. It's a great thing to get what I ask for and have a good feeling about everybody that I talk to. They're so nice and cooperative.

It's a great service to help people.

And then the second one. I believe that the Senior Program of the Talbot County Health Department in Easton epitomizes the meaning of the word team. They are one accord and never procrastinate on, forget, or minimize any issues for which I seek their guidance or help. They help me to feel that there's still those who want me to be my best self, and I'm truly grateful for them.

And I could not have put that better myself, which leads me to the people that deserve the biggest gratitude, our team back here. They do the work and serve our clients day in and day out with their knowledge, experience, passion for Talbot County's older adults.

So our nurses Kimberly Mitchell, Veronica

Reingold, Kate Stinton, and Judy Fontleroy.

Our social workers (indiscernible) and Mary

Sellers. Our CNA, Donna Jenkins. So much

gratitude. (Indiscernible.)

And I'm sorry I went over ten minutes.

MR. CALLAHAN: Good job. Really good job.

Dr. Fahmi, you got to say something now.

Come on now. I'll give you 15 seconds.

DR. FAHMI: This is tough to go over what she just described. Humbling to be part of her team. Result of support and knowledge and a wonderful team behind her. I can't take any credit. This is not me. It's all them.

MR. CALLAHAN: You definitely got a phenomenal team behind you. That's for sure. We really appreciate everything you guys do for Talbot County because we need you, and we really, everything that you do means so much to the seniors and just people in general. You do very good care.

DR. FAHMI: And also I will add something

that Council is humbling. I mean you could see that all this is coming. The Council support is really felt and sensed and (indiscernible) and very humbling and very appreciative.

MR. CALLAHAN: Well, it's a partnership.

DR. FAHMI: Thank you.

MR. CALLAHAN: It's a partnership is what it is.

So Council.

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MS. HAYTHE: I just want to thank you for all that you do, your staff and the team back there, because you truly do make a difference in the lives of the people that are trying to stay in their homes that are seniors. So thank you so much for your support and all that you do for the seniors here in Talbot County.

MS. MIELKE: Ditto to that.

And also, given the demographic of our county, it's truly, truly appreciated what you do.

MS. OTTEY: Thank you.

MR. LESHER: Well, this I find to be the easiest decision we get to make every year because the most compassionate thing that we can do to help people age in place is also the most fiscally and economically responsible move. It just makes sense.

I'm grateful to you for leading this effort and for all involved and look forward to the way this program evolves from Senior Care into SOAR in the coming year.

MS. OTTEY: Thank you.

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DR. FAHMI: Thank you.

MR. STEPP: I'll keep it simple. Thank you. Great job. Appreciate each and every one of you for what you'll do. Thank you.

DR. FAHMI: Thank you.

MS. OTTEY: Thank you.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That being said, is there a motion?

MR. LESHER: I'll move for the Senior Care
Plan --

Page 43
1 MS. MIELKE: Second.
2 MR. LESHER: for the coming year.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great. So we got a
4 motion and second to go ahead for the plan for
next year. Madam Secretary, could you call the
6 vote.
7 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
8 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
9 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
MR. STEPP: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
MR. LESHER: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
MS. MIELKE: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thanks a lot. I
appreciate you guys coming, too, tonight.
MS. OTTEY: Thank you so much for having
20 us.
MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay.

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Next on the list is the Finance Officers

Administration. Martha and her team, come on

up here.

MS. SPARKS: Good evening, Council.

Martha Sparks, finance director for Talbot
County.

MS. FOSTER-CLARK: Kaitlin Foster-Clark, assistant finance director.

MS. SPARKS: The Government Finance
Officers Association of the United States and
Canada has awarded the Certificate of
Achievement for Excellence in Financial
Reporting to Talbot County for its annual
comprehensive financial report for the fiscal
year ended June 30, 2024.

This report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to

read the report.

This Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounts and financial reporting. And its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

This is the 25th year that Talbot County has received this award.

In addition to the certificate of the award, there were also three awards for myself; our assistant finance director Kaitlin Foster-Clark; and recognition of our entire finance team.

This award could not be possible without the daily and constant dedication to excellence that all of our staff in the Finance Office provide to our residents, our businesses, the County Council, the county manager, and all of our departments. I am very proud to work with all of these people.

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And I'd like to introduce four of -actually three, Kaitlin is four, of the people
tonight that are here tonight. We have Linda
Pittman, who is our accounts payable and
payroll manager. And then we have Jen Butler,
who is our accounts payable specialist. And
Melodie Haufe, who is our accounting manager.

MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds great. Okay.

Mr. Stepp, you want to say a few words. Yup.

MR. STEPP: You guys rock. Especially as like we get through budget stuff and the amount that you all go through to just keep, not only get us in a good spot where we are, but more importantly to maintain that. And like I said, to have this for 25 years is just awesome.

So kudos. Job well done to each and every one of you. Thank you for what you guys do.

MS. SPARKS: Thank you.

MR. LESHER: Well, of course, we get to see something of an inside look of the

professionalism, the superior work that you do for the county and for our constituents. It's great when somebody outside also recognizes that excellence that you bring to the job.

Thank you so much and congratulations.

MS. SPARKS: Thank you.

MS. MIELKE: It's great what you do and getting this award. You really deserve it.

And it's not a participation award.

MS. SPARKS: No.

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MS. MIELKE: You've really earned it. And we thank you very much.

MS. SPARKS: Thank you.

MS. HAYTHE: Congratulations to you and your team. Job well done.

MS. SPARKS: Thank you so much.

I will say that this award is kind of -there are two ways that we can get a report
card for how we do on our budget.

So when we're going through the budget, that's putting up -- that's one part of it.

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So then the results of our budget, how we actually perform with our revenues, our expenses, is the other report card.

And then how we communicate it is what this is. So we're really proud of it.

MR. CALLAHAN: We're proud of you.

MR. STAMP: So as your county manager, I couldn't be more proud of our finance team under Martha's leadership with Kaitlin and her staff. We depend on them every day. They work with all of our department heads. And we have certainly elevated the bar each year with them in place.

So I just wanted to publicly thank you for the job that you all do.

MS. SPARKS: Thank you.

MR. CALLAHAN: Martha, you want to get your team and come on up.

MS. SPARKS: Yeah. That will be great. That will be good for them.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Come on up.

MS. SPARKS: Thank you.

MR. CALLAHAN: You're welcome. Thank you.

Get your hair right, get your hair right.

MS. SPARKS: Thank you so much.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That was great.

Okay.

Madam Secretary, next on the agenda is introduction of legislation. You want to go ahead and read that into the record for us.

SECRETARY: A bill to amend Chapter 11 of the Talbot County Code, alcoholic beverages, for the purposes of permitting on-premises consumption of beer, wine, and liquor at alcohol dispensary bistros, expanding the seating capacity for alcohol dispensary bistros, exempting class I licenses issued for an urban location from the market test set forth in Section 1188(D)(2) if the municipality in which the urban location is located does not have an existing alcohol dispensary bistro holding a valid class I license, and exempting

Oxford Conservation Park from the 500-foot
distance restriction for new off-sale licenses.

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MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Madam Secretary. Sounds great.

Show of hands for introduction.

MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill Number 1623, and the public hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 9th, at 5:30 p.m.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds great. I appreciate it. Okay.

Next on the agenda will be some discussion on the cannabis zoning text amendment to the Planning Commission.

MR. THOMAS: Yes. Council President, before we proceed.

MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.

MR. THOMAS: I can give a summary of the bill. Or we have -- this was actually requested by Adam Lynn on behalf of his client.

MR. CALLAHAN: Sure.

MR. THOMAS: And Mr. Lynn and his client I believe are here and they may want to just speak a little bit about the nature of what it is they're proposing.

MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. No problem. Yup.

MR. LYNN: Good evening. Thank you. I'll be brief.

So the class I license --

MR. CALLAHAN: Could you introduce yourself, please.

MR. LYNN: I'm sorry.

MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

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MR. LYNN: Adam Lynn. I'm the attorney for the (indiscernible) family, who is pushing the bill forward.

So class I license is a relatively new license in Talbot County. And it's always -- it's gone through I think one other amendment since it was enacted. And it's always been kind of tailored for somebody trying to do

something.

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And we're trying to give it a practical approach that's going to allow for others at a limited scope, where people aren't going to have to come back in the future.

It's not going to create a -- there's a restriction on how many class Is would be able to be granted. And I think it's just a little bit more broad but specific enough to achieve its goals without having any problems for the community.

So any questions?

MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds great. That's good.

Any questions, Council?

MR. LESHER: No questions, no.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. We appreciate it, guys.

MR. LYNN: Thank you.

MS. MIELKE: Thank you.

MR. CALLAHAN: And we are talking about

	Page 53
1	the establishment of Latitude 38, correct?
2	MR. LYNN: Correct.
3	MR. CALLAHAN: And we're trying to open
4	that up.
5	Is it going to be trying to open that up
6	next year?
7	SPEAKER: Spring.
8	MR. CALLAHAN: Spring. Okay.
9	SPEAKER: Yup.
10	MR. CALLAHAN: Got you. Okay. Good. We
11	wish you luck.
12	MR. LYNN: Thank you very much.
13	SPEAKER: Thank you.
14	MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Patrick.
15	Anything else from you or you good?
16	MR. THOMAS: Not on that, no.
17	MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
18	MR. THOMAS: I'll have some comments on
19	the cannabis.
20	MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yeah. Let's go
21	ahead and discuss the cannabis zoning text

amendment. Okay?

MR. THOMAS: Yes. So you have proposed cannabis regulations that were requested by Council Member Haythe for referral to the Planning Commission.

These are similar to the regulations that the Council previously considered with some changes.

Those changes are increasing the minimum setbacks from 500 feet, which could be reduced in the prior bill to 200 feet with consent.

This actually increases them to 1,000 feet from any property containing a preexisting residential or institutional use.

It increases the minimum lot size from 20 acres in the original bill to 75 acres for growing.

It separates cannabis processing for cannabis grown on site versus cannabis grown off site. So the cannabis, processing for cannabis grown on site would be agricultural,

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and cannabis processing for cannabis grown off site would be industrial.

And it makes cannabis growing and on-site processing a special exception use rather than a permitted use, as it was in the prior bill.

And last, it makes off-site processing a special exception use in the VM and GC zoning districts and permitted in the LI zoning district, which is similar to alcohol production facilities and food and beverage packaging and processing.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. So at this time, we need a motion to go ahead and send that to the Planning Commission.

MS. MIELKE: So moved.

MR. LESHER: Second.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and second. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

	Page 56
1	SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
2	MR. STEPP: Aye.
3	SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
4	MR. LESHER: Aye.
5	SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
6	MS. MIELKE: Aye.
7	SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
8	MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
9	MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's good. Thank
10	you, Patrick. I appreciate that.
11	MR. LESHER: Mr. Callahan, I may have
12	missed it. Did we announce a hearing date and
13	bill number for the alcohol beverage?
14	MR. CALLAHAN: We did. We did. Yup.
15	16
16	SECRETARY: December 9th, 5:30.
17	MR. LESHER: Okay.
18	MR. CALLAHAN: And Bill 1623.
19	SECRETARY: Right.
20	MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
21	MR. LESHER: Okay.

	Page 57
1	MR. CALLAHAN: It's hard to believe I
2	remembered that. Okay.
3	Good job.
4	MR. LESHER: Just keeping on top of it.
5	MR. CALLAHAN: Trying to keep on top of
6	it. Yup.
7	Okay. Next is elections for the Council
8	up here.
9	And this will be for president?
10	MR. THOMAS: Yes. Correct.
11	MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.
12	MR. THOMAS: Congratulations, Council
13	President Callahan.
14	MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
15	Appreciate it, Council. Thank you.
16	MR. LESHER: Congratulations, Chuck. And
17	thank you for serving.
18	MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Thank you, guys. I
19	appreciate it.
20	And this would be for vice president.

MR. LESHER: Just a note for the public.

Page 58 This is the only thing during the year that we 1 2 do by secret ballot. 3 MR. STAMP: But it's announced immediately the results. 4 MR. LESHER: Yes, it is. 5 MR. STEPP: No mail-in votes. 6 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Exactly. MR. THOMAS: Congratulations, Vice 8 President Lesher. 9 10 MR. LESHER: Thank you. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Congratulations, 12 congratulations. Yeah. 13 Okay, Council. Appreciate it. 14 And we got Clay's stuff next. 15 MR. STAMP: Here we go. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: County manager. 17 MR. STAMP: Good evening. Congratulations, Council. Look forward to 18 19 working with President Callahan and Vice

> Veritext Legal Solutions 202-803-8830 -- 410-494-8300

President Lesher and the Council to complete a

lot of things you started. And it's going to

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Page 59 1 be an exciting next year. Under county manager report, I'd like to 2 ask -- you have no boards and committee 3 appointments this week. 4 I'd like to ask Cassandra Vanhooser to 5 come up, your director of Economic Development 6 7 and Tourism. She has a request for you 8 regarding awarding contract for Bid Number 24-05, Talbot County Travel Guide. 9 10 And I'll fill in anything that is 11 necessary. 12 I'll hand it to you. 13 MS. VANHOOSER: All right. Good evening. Good evening, Council. 14 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening. 16 MS. VANHOOSER: Congratulations on your elections. 17 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup. 19 MS. VANHOOSER: Look forward to working

with you all again, all five of you.

MR. CALLAHAN: You, too.

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MS. VANHOOSER: So I'm here to request an amendment to the agreement with APG Chesapeake.

They printed our guide last year. And when we put out the RFP, we put in a clause that it could be renewed upon approval by both parties, written approval.

And we have come to an agreement with them for the same terms as we had last year for them to do the advertising sales and printing of our guide. They did a beautiful job. I think we've got the best looking guide we've ever had.

And the cost to us would be approximately 11,951. We budget for that. And we do that in advertising. We purchase our adds in the quide.

And so they'll do the sales and do the printing. We do the production, the writing, the content, everything.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Do I have a motion?

MR. LESHER: I'll move approval of the

	Page 61
1	amendment.
2	MS. HAYTHE: Second.
3	MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
4	second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
5	vote.
6	SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
7	MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
8	SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
9	MR. STEPP: Aye.
10	SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
11	MR. LESHER: Aye.
12	SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
13	MS. MIELKE: Aye.
14	SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
15	MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
16	MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you so much.
17	MR. STAMP: Thank you, Cassandra.
18	MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Cassandra. Good
19	job.
20	MR. STAMP: I'd now like Micah Risher to
21	come forward, your airport manager. He has

three items for you this evening.

The first item that he has he's going to speak to you about is requesting Council approval for a sole source procurement from East Coast Aviation to furnish and install a new TCS3000 unit on fuel pumps for both jet fuel and avgas.

Micah.

MR. RISHER: Thanks, Clay.

Council, good evening. Micah Risher, your airport manager.

So, of course, you know our fuel farm is literally the lifeblood, the heart of the operation out there. If we can't move fuel, you know, all the other fancy stuff doesn't really count.

Earlier this year -- our fuel farm is aged. Most of the components are 20 to 30 years old. Earlier this year, we had a meter fail. It was our jet meter, which is a big deal. Thanks to the crew and the ingenuity of

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our staff, we got it back running quickly by robbing Peter to pay Paul. We took parts from the avgas meter to get the jet meter running.

All summer we've been manually metering avgas from the tank into the fuel trucks as a temporary resolution while we researched the best fix.

We found the best fix to be this TCS3000 electronic register that's a meter register equipment.

We contacted the manufacturer. They recommended that we contact Eastern Aviation. They finally came out and gave us a price on it of about \$53,000 is the estimate. Could rise a little bit once we actually dig into the system and start making some repairs, which is why I requested an amount not to exceed \$65,000 in case once we dig into both of these systems, there's other repairs of piping or other ancillary things that need to be replaced.

MR. STAMP: And I'm just reaffirming that

they do have ample funds in place in their budget to cover the request.

MR. RISHER: Yes, that's correct.

MR. LESHER: So the manufacturer provided this one source to you that --

MR. RISHER: That's correct. We --

MR. LESHER: -- has regional, a regional monopoly on installation of these systems?

MR. RISHER: They are the one in the area that they referred us to.

We tried to call other companies. You know, it's not a lot of fuel dispensing metering equipment in the region. We were unlucky. We couldn't get anybody from Baltimore to give us a call back.

And the old supplier that we used to use, a company called Merdoch's, I literally think they're down to like one or two employees because they just, they stopped returning our -- they helped us with the emergency repair, but then they never called us back to

give us a quote.

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So really we're dealing with a situation where the equipment is kind of specialized and there's not a lot of companies that do it. And this is who the manufacturer recommended us to.

We've verified again with the vendor that they can get the work done quickly. And so we think they're the best option to use.

And we do believe the quote is fair.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

MR. STEPP: I'll make a motion we move forward as --

MS. MIELKE: Second.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and second. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

MR. STEPP: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.

1 MR. LESHER: Aye.

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SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

MS. MIELKE: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

MR. STAMP: And if you'd like, go ahead and move forward with your two other items regarding the stormwater management project.

MR. RISHER: Yup. Thank you, Council.

The second and third items are related to the stormwater management features that are being installed as part of the modernization program. We already have some stormwater that we installed in package one. More coming in package two and three.

So essentially, and this is a standing thing. Once the stormwater features are in, the Town of Easton is the inspecting authority for that.

We already have agreements at other locations on the airport where they come in

periodically and inspect the stormwater, make sure things are, you know, the vegetation is proper, things aren't eroding, things of that nature.

So what this is is literally adding the new stormwater feature easements and covenants, which we already have in place with the town.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

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MR. STEPP: If it's possible, I'll make a motion to move forward with both easement requests, items C and D.

MS. MIELKE: Second.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and second. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

MR. STEPP: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.

MR. LESHER: Aye.

	Page 68
1	SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
2	MS. MIELKE: Aye.
3	SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
4	MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
5	MR. STAMP: Thank you, Micah. I
6	appreciate that.
7	MR. RISHER: Thank you.
8	MR. CALLAHAN: Good job.
9	MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.
10	The only last thing I have, I wanted to
11	make an announcement that county offices will
12	be closed on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, in
13	observance of Veterans Day.
14	And that completes your county manager
15	report for this evening. Thank you, Council.
16	MS. MIELKE: Thank you.
17	MR. STAMP: And again, congratulations on
18	your elections. Look forward to working with
19	you all.
20	MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. Good
21	job. Okay.

	Page 69
1	Next, Jess, is there anything?
2	MS. MORRIS: Not tonight.
3	MR. CALLAHAN: Nothing tonight. Okay. No
4	list out there.
5	So public comment. Anybody want to come
6	up? Huh?
7	MR. RIGGIN: There's nobody left, right?
8	MR. CALLAHAN: Nobody left. It's all you.
9	MR. STAMP: Just you.
10	MR. CALLAHAN: It's all you. I'll give
11	you 30 seconds. Yup.
12	MR. RIGGIN: I do not waste your time.
13	(indiscernible.)
14	MR. CALLAHAN: I'm kidding you. I'm
15	kidding you. You know you're our favorite, you
16	know that.
17	MR. RIGGIN: Sorry?
18	MR. CALLAHAN: You're our favorite.
19	You're our favorite, you know that.
20	MR. RIGGIN: To reintroduce myself for the
21	record, wherever that record may be, Phil

Riggin. Resident of Easton, 29736 Sullivan Drive.

One of my near-term objectives is going to be to learn everything I possibly can about an alcohol dispensary bistro, because I have no idea what that is. Fascinating term.

In any case, you folks have your fingers on the pulse of what's going on here in the county. It's obvious.

But there are things that I would like to share with you, which I've shared I guess one or two times before, but I think they deserve some emphasis, specifically has nothing to do with anything that's been on your agenda today or yesterday or last week or whenever.

It has to do with what I consider to be the characteristics of the people who live in Easton Club East, which is where I'm from, where I live.

Those people care about Easton's future.

They care about the people who live here, to

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include those people in special needs categories because they volunteer to assist some of these people as members for organizations that are of a nonprofit nature. It's clearly, clearly established record.

And the people in Easton Club East stay engaged with officials like you who are decision-makers to ensure that we have a voice when or before even some of the decisions are made.

We stay engaged. We try to stay engaged by monitoring all the meetings of the County Council and the Town Council. We invite county and town officials to our community to talk with us in town hall settings. And in 2025, we hosted the County Council president, the mayor, various Planning Commission officials, the town director of economic development, our own Town Council representative, the town engineer.

I realize these are town officials to the great extent, with the exception of

Mr. Callahan. But I don't think you can really separate the two. I mean obviously the two of your two groups have to work together.

We intend or I intend to make a recommendation within our community to expand the list of people to be invited to our community on key issues, to include asking some department heads to join us. Now, I realize I have to have your permission or your permission, Mr. Stamp, to do that. But I do think there are opportunities and I do think there are some issues that -- or even just a matter of the nature of how they work and what they do. We'll talk about that as those things approach.

One of the most significant things we did last year, this past year, to stay engaged is that we actually hosted a 90-minute debate between the two candidates who were running for Town Council president at the time,

Mr. Abbatiello and Mr. Gunsallus. So we do try

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to stay engaged.

We're taxpayers. We don't use a lot of tax supported services. And interestingly enough, and probably unlike most other residents in Talbot County, we've made decisions to spend the rest of our lives here. That's pretty much the way it is. You know, nobody is a spring chicken who lives in Easton Club East, to include Mr. Stepp's parents and me.

Anyhow, I wanted to share these things with you because I think it's important to give you a sense for when I come here to talk, who I represent and what we do and what we care about and how committed we are to the community of Easton and the larger community of Talbot County.

Finally, just one more minute or 30 seconds. I want to congratulate Ms. Sparks and her staff. This is not the first time they've been recognized, as I remember. You are served

well. Is she still here, by the way? You are served well, and I'm sure that she is served well by all the people who work with her. And ultimately, the residents of our county are served well.

I want to thank you for publicizing Operation Green Light in recognition of military veterans.

Thank you for reminding me. I had forgotten, Ms. Mielke, that you were married to a Vietnam veteran. That's who I am, not your husband, but...

MS. MIELKE: Glad you clarified that.

MR. RIGGIN: I wanted to make that distinction.

And it's showing up already because as I walked around the front of the courthouse coming over to the meeting tonight, there are nothing but green lights. I assume they're there for that purpose.

MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

MR. RIGGIN: And I think it's extraordinary for veterans, current military people on active duty, and those who might be future active-duty members.

Again, thank you very much.

MS. MIELKE: Thank you.

MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Really appreciate it.

Okay. All right. Next is Council comments. Mr. Stepp.

MR. STEPP: I'll, again, just parlay off of Mr. Riggin's statements. Just, again, another thank you to all our veterans, and especially I called it out earlier, to all the Marines out there. A special 250th, my dad included, veterans, my father-in-law included, Mr. Riggin. All of our veterans here in Talbot County, just a big thank you for all you do.

And again, happy waterfowl to everyone as well. Again, hope that's a safe and enjoyable time to everyone.

Yeah. Looking forward to next one just before Thanksgiving.

MR. CALLAHAN: Pete.

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MR. LESHER: Today Talbot County Public Schools received a bomb threat, which led to the evacuation of the school.

This, of course, is enormously disruptive for the education of our students. And I speak as not only a member of the community and a member of this Council, but as a parent of a Easton High School student who was impacted by this.

I'll say that the response to this was gratifying. Talbot County Public Schools' staff coordinates well with local law enforcement, both Talbot County Sheriff's Office and Easton Police Department as well as Emergency Services.

Everyone is, in fact, safe and the school has been cleared.

And I want to thank all involved for their

professionalism and ensuring the safety of students and staff.

It is clear that there are very detailed processes in place and leadership to ensure that those processes are adhered to.

Even as we sit here, I have received one follow-up communication from Talbot County

Public Schools during this meeting with further information. Thank you. It's an unfortunate situation, but kudos to all involved in the response.

MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Lesher.

MS. MIELKE: Thank you.

I wanted to supplement what Councilman Stepp mentioned. It's also the 250th anniversary of the US Navy. And as a Navy brat, my father served in both World War II and Korea in the Navy, I'd like to recognize that.

And also recognize all veterans and just emphasize that on November 11th, there will be a Veterans Day ceremony at VFW Post 5118 on

Glebe Road. And our great Sheriff's Deputy
Mr. Coleman will be a guest soloist and Paul
Callahan of Trappe will be the guest speaker.
And it's at 5 o'clock. And I would urge
everybody to attend and honor our veterans.
Thank you.

MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

MS. HAYTHE: Nothing.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I think the only thing I would like to say is that I would like to recognize David McWade unfortunately passed away. I think it was about a week ago or so. He lived in Tilghman. Big part of the community, big pillar of the community in Tilghman, and really a big part of doing things for the county, too. So we want to give our best to the family and everything. And if they need anything from us, we're here to help them.

Other than that.

MR. LESHER: The County Council's next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 25th,

beginning at 5 o'clock p.m. The Council will be convening in open session at 3:30 p.m. and then adjourning into closed session, as listed on the statement for closing that meeting.

Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn this meeting and reconvene as noted?

MR. STEPP: So moved.

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MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

MS. MIELKE: Second.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and second. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

MR. STEPP: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.

MR. LESHER: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

MS. MIELKE: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

	Special Degistative Day 110 ventoer 1, 2025
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1	MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
2	MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thanks everybody.
3	Really appreciate it.
4	(Meeting concluded at: 6:12 p.m.)
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1	STATE OF MARYLAND
2	I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and
	for the State of Maryland, County of Talbot, do
3	hereby certify that the within named, Talbot County
	Council Audio, personally appeared before me at the
4	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	in a true and accurate manner.
O	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 Notorial Seal this 7th
	day of November, 2025, at Eas
14	Vione Heuliha
15 16	
16	——————————————————————————————————————
17	Notary Public
18	mocary rabite
19	
	My commission expires September 16, 2029

20 21

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