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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

October 10, 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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1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

2

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I want to go ahead

4 and welcome everybody tonight. If everybody

5 could go ahead and stand and we're going to say

6 the prayer and then the Pledge of Allegiance of

7 the Flag.

8 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)

9 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. I appreciate

10 that. That's good. Okay.

11 Starting with the agenda of October the

12 10th before us. Are there any additions,

13 deletions, or corrections to the agenda?

14 MS. HAYTHE: Yes.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

16 MS. HAYTHE: Mr. President, we have one

17 deletion, to remove the proclamation of

18 Certificate of Recognition for Off the Rack by

19 Dinah.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

21 MS. HAYTHE: She's unable to attend this

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1 evening.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. No problem.

3 MR. LESHER: I'll second it.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So we've got a

5 motion and second to remove the proclamation.

6 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

7 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

9 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

10 MR. STEPP: Aye.

11 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

12 MR. LESHER: Aye.

13 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

14 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

15 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

16 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next is

18 disbursements of October 3rd and 10th. Council

19 has had a chance to review the disbursements.

20 Are there any additions, deletions, or

21 corrections to the disbursements? Okay.

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1 Hearing none, the chair moves that be accepted

2 as unanimous consent. Okay.

3 Tonight we have the Election Board and

4 members in front of us. Madam Secretary, could

5 you go ahead and read the proclamation, please.

6 MS. HAYTHE: Council Commendation,

7 Election Board Open House and Voter

8 information.

9 Whereas, the Talbot County Board of

10 Elections strives to help voters feel empowered

11 and confident in the voting process, encourages

12 them to help others do the same.

13 And whereas, the Talbot County Board of

14 Elections seeks to encourage voter

15 participation by providing voter registration

16 information to promote fair, equitable

17 elections, and to serve as a reliable source of

18 information about the election process.

19 And whereas, voter education is important

20 to ensuring transparency in the election

21 process. And in recognition of this, the

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1 Talbot County Board of Elections has scheduled

2 an open house on Wednesday, October 18, 2023,

3 from four p.m. to seven p.m. at their offices

4 located at 215 Bay Street, suite seven, Easton,

5 Maryland.

6 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of

7 Talbot County, do hereby urge all citizens of

8 the county to recognize the importance of

9 exercising their right to vote and encourage

10 citizens to attend the open house and to

11 consider signing up to serve as an election

12 judge to help strengthen our democracy and

13 ensure we have safe, accurate, and efficient

14 elections.

15 Given under our hands in the great seal of

16 Talbot County this 10th day of October in the

17 year of our Lord, 2023.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.

19 Is there a motion?

20 MR. STEPP: So moved.

21 MR. LESHER: Second.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 2 second to approve the proclamation. Madam
 3 Secretary, could you call the vote.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
 7 MR. STEPP: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 9 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 10 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 11 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 13 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You guys want to
 15 come on up?
 16 MS. STAFFORD: Good evening.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening, Tammy. How
 18 are you?
 19 MS. STAFFORD: I'm well. How are you?
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Good.
 21 MS. STAFFORD: I'm Tammy Stafford. I'm

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1 the director of the Talbot County Board of
 2 Elections. This is our board president, Susan
 3 MacKinnon.
 4 I would like to thank you for the support
 5 of the Talbot County Board of Elections.
 6 Historically, Talbot County has a high voter
 7 turn-out percentage, ranked in the top five
 8 counties over the past seven elections.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: You can bring it down to
 10 you. There you go.
 11 MS. STAFFORD: We expect this trend
 12 continue during the 2024 presidential election
 13 cycle.
 14 This proclamation is meant to encourage
 15 voters to learn more about the election process
 16 by going online and reviewing their voter
 17 information and locating their polling places.
 18 Voters can also learn about voting in
 19 Maryland and how they can serve as an election
 20 judge by attending one of our upcoming outreach
 21 events.

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1 We will be at the Talbot County Community
 2 Resource Expo Saturday, October 14th, from
 3 ten a.m. to one p.m. at Easton Elementary
 4 School. Or stop by the Elections Open House at
 5 our Bay Street office Wednesday, October 18th,
 6 from four p.m. to seven p.m.
 7 In an effort to recruit more election
 8 judges and with the support of our board
 9 members, we have participated in two voter
 10 outreach events this year. One being the
 11 Talbot County 4-H Fair, and the second one
 12 being the National Night Out Here in Easton at
 13 Moton Park.
 14 At both of those events, we've been
 15 working diligently to recruit election judges
 16 and with the support of our board members.
 17 Election judges are important to the
 18 election process, helping to ensure the
 19 integrity of the election.
 20 As of today, we have 110 election judges
 21 committed to serve. 59 percent of those are

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1 Democratic, 31 percent are Republican, and
 2 ten percent are unaffiliated or other. Our
 3 goal is to be as party balanced as possible.
 4 Voters who are interested in serving as an
 5 election judge should call the Talbot County
 6 Board of Elections for more information.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great. Okay.
 8 MS. MACKINNON: I have nothing to say.
 9 Thank you for inviting us to speak, and we
 10 look forward to having another free fair and
 11 very attended election.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. And Tammy, I
 13 know we have a new location. You want to tell
 14 everybody about your new location?
 15 MS. STAFFORD: So August 31st, we
 16 consolidated our two office spaces.
 17 We have an office space located at the Bay
 18 Street office. And then we had a location on
 19 Glebe Road at the Talbot County Business Park.
 20 The Glebe Road location housed our voting
 21 equipment.

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<p>1 With the help of county staff and the</p> <p>2 Council, we were able to consolidate those two</p> <p>3 offices. And we felt that with that move, it</p> <p>4 provided an opportunity for us to invite the</p> <p>5 public in to meet election staff and tour our</p> <p>6 offices.</p> <p>7 So at this time, it will serve as our</p> <p>8 temporary location through the 2024</p> <p>9 presidential election.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.</p> <p>11 MS. STAFFORD: And beyond that, we'll work</p> <p>12 with the Council --</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>14 MS. STAFFORD: -- to find a permanent</p> <p>15 location.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. That sounds great.</p> <p>17 Council, any comments?</p> <p>18 MS. MIELKE: Yes.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Go ahead.</p> <p>20 MS. MIELKE: I want to thank you for all</p> <p>21 you do.</p>	<p>1 can and will be doing to protect our elections.</p> <p>2 So thank you.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>4 MR. STEPP: Just echo the thanks.</p> <p>5 Appreciate it.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Like I say, we're all</p> <p>7 looking forward to being at the open house and</p> <p>8 appreciate all you guys do.</p> <p>9 So you want to come on up?</p> <p>10 MS. STAFFORD: Sure.</p> <p>11 MS. MORRIS: Great. Thank you.</p> <p>12 MR. LESHER: Thank you so much.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next up, we have a</p> <p>14 presentation of the Oxford park project</p> <p>15 proposal. Preston, yup.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Bottom left.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Come on up front. There</p> <p>18 you go. You're not going to get out of this.</p> <p>19 MR. PEPER: No, they're not going to.</p> <p>20 Because I'll be lucky if my voice gets through</p> <p>21 this presentation. So I was going to actually</p>
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<p>1 I was an election judge from 2016 until</p> <p>2 the year I ran for this office. And it was</p> <p>3 probably one of the most rewarding volunteer</p> <p>4 positions that I had undertaken.</p> <p>5 And the staff of the Board of Elections</p> <p>6 was second to none. And I know that continues.</p> <p>7 And I just urge everybody to try and</p> <p>8 volunteer your time and to consider being an</p> <p>9 election judge because it is so rewarding, and</p> <p>10 it's so educational to know this county and</p> <p>11 know its people.</p> <p>12 So thank you for all you do.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>14 MR. LESHER: Well, again, thank you.</p> <p>15 And I'm certainly looking forward to the</p> <p>16 opportunity to come to your open house on</p> <p>17 October 18th. I know that you must do much to</p> <p>18 prepare for this sort of thing. I know how</p> <p>19 important the security of your equipment is and</p> <p>20 everything that you must do in order to be able</p> <p>21 to invite the public in to show them what you</p>	<p>1 turn it over to them.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>3 MR. PEPER: As you guys recall, the Oxford</p> <p>4 Conservation Park --</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Could you explain who you</p> <p>6 are, please.</p> <p>7 MR. PEPER: Preston Peper, Parks &</p> <p>8 Recreation director.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go.</p> <p>10 MR. PEPER: We had done some master</p> <p>11 planning for the Oxford Conservation Park.</p> <p>12 That started in about 2014 for a couple of</p> <p>13 years. The actual construction of the park was</p> <p>14 done in 2016.</p> <p>15 When we did the master plan, we actually</p> <p>16 master planned the whole park, the entire</p> <p>17 acreage. When we actually did the</p> <p>18 construction, we only had the funds to do maybe</p> <p>19 the front two-thirds of it. So the back</p> <p>20 two-thirds, up until today, has been farmed</p> <p>21 over these years.</p>

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1 We've always tried to figure out a way how
 2 we could get that developed, how we could pay
 3 for it, maintain it.
 4 We were lucky enough to have a group
 5 that's here tonight, the Friends of the Oxford
 6 Conservation Park. Three of the founding
 7 members are behind me.
 8 Can I get you guys to raise your hands?
 9 There you go.
 10 They actually came across both Dan and
 11 Larisa and kind of pointed them in my
 12 direction. So this is kind of a not, by any
 13 means, this is not a heavy lift by me. It's
 14 probably been more work on their part.
 15 What this grant will do is it will allow
 16 us to take that property out of farmland and
 17 turn it into grassland.
 18 But that's something that I'm going to let
 19 Dan and Larisa explain to you guys. So with
 20 that, I will turn it over to them.
 21 MR. SMALL: Dan Small from Washington

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1 College. And I run a program called the
 2 Natural Lands Project where, using grant funds,
 3 I work with private and public landowners to
 4 help them convert marginal croplands to
 5 wildlife habitat for both the benefit of the
 6 species, but also for Bay water quality and
 7 health.
 8 MS. PREZIOSO: And I'm Larisa Prezioso.
 9 I'm Eastern Shore Land Conservancy's enhanced
 10 stewardship manager. I help conservation
 11 easement landowners and other private
 12 landowners on the Eastern Shore get connected
 13 with habitat restoration or land management
 14 programs.
 15 And Dan has been a great partner in
 16 realizing the goals of our landowners and
 17 restoring early secessionial grassland habitat.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Great.
 19 MR. SMALL: So we didn't put together a
 20 formal presentation tonight because my
 21 understanding you've seen the proposal with the

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1 maps. We do -- we have the ability to put the
 2 map up if you have questions.
 3 Do you want to start with questions, if
 4 there are any?
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. If you could just go
 6 ahead and put that map up so everybody could
 7 see it, that would be great.
 8 So Preston, I just kind of want to make
 9 sure that everybody understands. The land
 10 itself is already in the park. Right now, it's
 11 just tilled.
 12 MR. PEPER: Correct. So the front part of
 13 the property has been already established as a
 14 passive park --
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 16 MR. PEPER: As you can see on this, it's
 17 yellow and that bottom part. That is basically
 18 just all farmed right now. So that's the part
 19 that we're talking about taking that out of
 20 agriculture and turning into a grassy
 21 grasslands area.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: And that's going to add
 2 like more walkway and stuff like that?
 3 MR. PEPER: Exactly.
 4 MR. SMALL: Yeah. At the moment, that
 5 trail there is kind of hypothetical just for
 6 visual, but it will be laid out in a grass
 7 trail.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 9 MR. SMALL: I do have two s, positive
 10 updates since this was written and presented to
 11 you.
 12 Larisa and I did have a really good walk
 13 of the property with our grant manager for
 14 other grants and a project manager that
 15 oversees some of these types of projects.
 16 And I had asked if we could put in -- and
 17 I should have prefaced. This proposal is all
 18 contingent on getting a yes from the Council,
 19 but then also receiving grant funds to move
 20 forward.
 21 But if we could actually put in some

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1 management of the current habitat that's
 2 already there, that is having some invasive
 3 plant issues with this current proposal. And
 4 we got a positive on that.
 5 So I think that's really good because
 6 ideally, ultimately this park will all be
 7 managed as one. And so while we're enhancing
 8 the new acreage, we can then help manage some
 9 of the existing issues.
 10 And then additionally, the left western
 11 side, that sort of smaller block which is
 12 actually a really nice area, is kind of getting
 13 invaded by sycamore trees. And so we propose
 14 actually trying to plant additional trees in
 15 there to increase the diversity of that wood
 16 lot that's developing.
 17 So they are also in favor of that as well.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good.
 19 MR. LESHHER: So that more southern portion
 20 would become wooded over time?
 21 MR. SMALL: The very southern portion, if

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1 I could stand up here. So this section here
 2 within, those will be planted in trees to
 3 create kind of a screen and add additional
 4 wooded areas to existing woods there.
 5 The orange will all be meadow. And then
 6 obviously just north of there is meadow
 7 currently surrounding the wetlands. And our
 8 goal is to keep that open meadow landscape,
 9 which is critical for grassland birds, which
 10 are all suffering heavy population declines.
 11 The area that's developing into a wood lot
 12 is this section here.
 13 MR. LESHHER: The portion closest to the
 14 Oxford Firehouse?
 15 MR. SMALL: Yeah. And so that's the area
 16 I was talking about adding additional species
 17 of trees just to add diversity to the wood lot
 18 there, which is beneficial to woodland roads.
 19 MR. LESHHER: I'm aware that we've had a
 20 challenge with phragmites in the space, in the
 21 wetland part of the space already. I hope

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1 we've managed to nip that problem in the bud.
 2 What are the other issues that you're
 3 seeing there?
 4 MR. SMALL: I think the phragmites is
 5 ongoing and probably will be just because of
 6 its nature.
 7 The Callery pear is an invasive pear tree.
 8 Also known as Bradford pear. That,
 9 unfortunately, is still sold in nurseries.
 10 It's really invasive and quickly will invade
 11 the area. And so that is sort of the biggest
 12 concern to keeping the grassland as a
 13 grassland.
 14 MR. LESHHER: And does this require a
 15 periodic kind of mowing to keep out the woody
 16 plants in that area?
 17 MR. SMALL: It's kind of a combination of
 18 mowing and herbicide application.
 19 MR. LESHHER: Okay.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 21 MR. STEPP: I'm not sure. Preston, this

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1 might be directed to you, but it might not be.
 2 So are we still planning on connecting
 3 East Pier to this area as well?
 4 I know there was some talks of connecting
 5 East Pier to I guess there was a trail that's
 6 there already.
 7 MR. PEPER: I think you're referring to
 8 the bike path.
 9 MR. STEPP: Yes.
 10 MR. PEPER: So there's already a mowed
 11 bike path that takes that direction.
 12 I know it was a desire from the Town of
 13 Oxford to do that.
 14 It's really not an easy task because
 15 trying to get a path to go up and over that
 16 private drive is really hard to do because it's
 17 got such a -- it's almost a six-foot rise and
 18 fall. And then you've got ditches on both
 19 sides.
 20 So at the present time, we've left it
 21 as-is for now.

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<p>1 I know the Town of Oxford had put together</p> <p>2 a grant proposal to see about doing a</p> <p>3 feasibility study. So I think we'll wait and</p> <p>4 see when that comes back and see what they came</p> <p>5 up with out of that.</p> <p>6 MR. STEPP: Thank you.</p> <p>7 MR. SMALL: And I will say that with the</p> <p>8 grant, if we're successful, it's a three-year</p> <p>9 period. So establishment costs and management</p> <p>10 are all covered during that three-year period.</p> <p>11 And then we're committed, as I am with all</p> <p>12 these other projects that we work on, to</p> <p>13 working with the county to help manage that</p> <p>14 property so it stays in optimal condition and</p> <p>15 doesn't kind of get a little bit away from us</p> <p>16 where it is kind of at this stage now.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great.</p> <p>18 MS. HAYTHE: So Preston, just one</p> <p>19 question. So if the feasibility study comes</p> <p>20 back for the trail, they would still be able to</p> <p>21 do the trail? It wouldn't interfere with one</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>4 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>8 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>10 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>12 MR. PEPER: Thank you.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: You guys got it.</p> <p>14 MS. PREZIOSO: Thank you very much.</p> <p>15 MR. SMALL: Thank you.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate you coming</p> <p>17 tonight.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHER: Nice of you to give us an</p> <p>19 easy vote here.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda</p> <p>21 is the Senior Care Plan presentation of FY24.</p>
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<p>1 another, the park?</p> <p>2 MR. PEPER: No. So if the path, if they</p> <p>3 decided to do the asphalt path or the county</p> <p>4 decided to do the asphalt path, that is totally</p> <p>5 separate from this project.</p> <p>6 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Lynn, anything?</p> <p>8 MS. MIELKE: No.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right, then. So</p> <p>10 we're asking for...</p> <p>11 MR. PEPER: Right. So we're looking for a</p> <p>12 letter of support for Dan and Larisa to submit</p> <p>13 with this grant.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>15 MR. LESHER: I'll move for the letter of</p> <p>16 support.</p> <p>17 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>18 MS. HAYTHE: Second.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>20 second for a support letter. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>21 could you call the vote, please.</p>	<p>1 Good evening.</p> <p>2 DR. MAGUIRE: Good evening.</p> <p>3 MS. OTTEY: Good evening. Thank you for</p> <p>4 having us here.</p> <p>5 My name is Carrie Ottey. I'm a nurse</p> <p>6 supervisor in our Senior Care Program at the</p> <p>7 Talbot County Health Department. And everybody</p> <p>8 knows Dr. Maguire.</p> <p>9 DR. MAGUIRE: Hello, again. Maria</p> <p>10 Maguire, health officer.</p> <p>11 MS. OTTEY: So very excited to be here</p> <p>12 tonight to be able to share our wonderful</p> <p>13 Senior Care Program with you all. It's a</p> <p>14 program we're very proud of.</p> <p>15 So Senior Care is a Maryland Department of</p> <p>16 Aging program, and it's administered by the</p> <p>17 Talbot County Health Department.</p> <p>18 So what is the Senior Care Program? It's</p> <p>19 a statewide grant program that's funded through</p> <p>20 the Maryland Department of Aging. Every county</p> <p>21 in the state has a Senior Care Program.</p>

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1 The program allows for a high degree of
 2 flexibility in design and administration based
 3 on the county's resources and needs. So each
 4 county's program is unique. They each have
 5 their similarities and differences to each
 6 other.
 7 The program provides services and funds
 8 for people that are age 65 and older who might
 9 be at risk of nursing home placement.
 10 The goal is to help seniors remain safely
 11 in the community for as long as possible.
 12 So there's four core services that are
 13 involved in the Senior Care Program. The first
 14 being the screening and eligibility for all
 15 available support programs. Our staff knows
 16 the other resources that are available to
 17 seniors and the eligibility criteria for them.
 18 So we refer also to any other programs that can
 19 help meet our clients' needs.
 20 The second core service is a comprehensive
 21 assessment of individual needs. This

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1 assessment is conducted in person during a
 2 visit to the client's home. Visiting the home
 3 allows us to get a really good idea of what is
 4 going on with the client.
 5 Third core service is a case manager to
 6 secure and coordinate services. So the primary
 7 case manager is the nurse or social worker who
 8 goes out to visit that client to do the
 9 assessment. We also have two part-time case
 10 managers that assist us when we have more
 11 complicated or in-depth needs.
 12 And then the final core service is a pool
 13 of gap-filling funds to purchase services for
 14 those that meet the program eligibility.
 15 So a little on the history of the Senior
 16 Care Program in Talbot County. It began back
 17 in 1982 as a pilot program with the Talbot
 18 County Health Department. It's a formal
 19 partnership between the Health Department and
 20 our area agency on aging, which is Upper Shore
 21 Aging, and our Department of Social Services

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1 and our county government.
 2 So we are one of only two counties in
 3 Maryland that administer the Senior Care
 4 Program at their health department through
 5 their AERS program.
 6 So what is the AERS program? The AERS
 7 program, the acronym stands for Adult
 8 Evaluation and Review Services. It's a program
 9 that we use an evidence-based assessment tool
 10 that evaluates the client's physical health,
 11 their functional status, their cognitive and
 12 psychosocial health. The assessment is
 13 conducted by a trained registered nurse or
 14 social worker.
 15 So following the assessment, we then
 16 develop a personalized comprehensive care plan
 17 that addresses each client's individual needs.
 18 So what are the advantages of
 19 administering the Senior Care Program at the
 20 Talbot County Health Department? So as I said
 21 in the last slide, we're one of only two

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1 counties in the State that administer the
 2 program through their local Health Department.
 3 And we really believe that it's best practice
 4 to have the AERS and the Senior Care Programs
 5 embedded together like we do.
 6 And the reasons being the AERS staff
 7 complete the assessments and care plans. It's
 8 the same assessment that is used for our
 9 Medicare recipients who are requesting home and
 10 community-based services.
 11 The AERS program is reimbursed by the
 12 State for conducting these assessments. And
 13 that provides additional revenue for the
 14 program, allowing funding for our case
 15 management services.
 16 The nurses and social worker assessors
 17 double as our Senior Care case managers. So
 18 thereby, it reduces the number of staff that we
 19 need to deliver the services.
 20 And program eligibility determination,
 21 enrollment, and services can occur on the day

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<p>1 of the assessment. So it's a seamless process</p> <p>2 for us. When the nurse or the social worker</p> <p>3 makes a home visit, she also has all of the</p> <p>4 Senior Care enrollment paperwork ready to</p> <p>5 complete at the same time with the client.</p> <p>6 In other counties, the AERS staff would go</p> <p>7 out to assess the client, and then they would</p> <p>8 refer out to the Senior Care Program that might</p> <p>9 be housed at their Department of Social</p> <p>10 Services or their area agency on aging.</p> <p>11 A couple of other benefits. The AERS</p> <p>12 nurses also provide oversight for our personal</p> <p>13 assistant services that are provided by the</p> <p>14 grant funds. So we have a certified nursing</p> <p>15 assistant who performs our personal care</p> <p>16 services, such as bathing, grooming, and</p> <p>17 dressing with clients in their home.</p> <p>18 Supervision is required for these services</p> <p>19 by a registered nurse. So that supervision is</p> <p>20 provided by our AERS nurses. And also, our</p> <p>21 AERS nurses can monitor the client's health and</p>	<p>1 So who is eligible for the Senior Care</p> <p>2 Program? Talbot County residents who are age</p> <p>3 65 and older and have either a moderate or</p> <p>4 severe functional disability. They also need</p> <p>5 to meet the financial eligibility requirements,</p> <p>6 which are given to us by the Maryland</p> <p>7 Department of Aging. Their guidelines are</p> <p>8 based on 60 percent of Maryland's median income</p> <p>9 in a given year.</p> <p>10 So for fiscal year 24, an individual can</p> <p>11 make up to \$4,112 a month and have assets less</p> <p>12 than 11,000. A married couple can make up to</p> <p>13 \$4,700 a month and have assets less than</p> <p>14 14,000. So the income test for fiscal year 24</p> <p>15 had a bit of a substantial increase over fiscal</p> <p>16 year 23. Where back in fiscal year 23, the</p> <p>17 eligibility was about 3,100. So it's about</p> <p>18 \$1,000 more a month now.</p> <p>19 So funding for the Talbot County Senior</p> <p>20 Care Program. The grant award is \$120,000 from</p> <p>21 the Maryland Department of Aging, and then the</p>
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<p>1 functional status and can provide feedback to</p> <p>2 their primary care practitioners and give them</p> <p>3 some insight on what might be going on in the</p> <p>4 home that they might not see on a medical</p> <p>5 appointment in the office with the doctor.</p> <p>6 So overall, this approach of having Senior</p> <p>7 Care and AERS together at the Health Department</p> <p>8 is better for the clients as well. They have</p> <p>9 one point of contact. They aren't getting</p> <p>10 passed along from one agency to the next. And</p> <p>11 they're being case managed by a skilled</p> <p>12 professional, a registered nurse or a social</p> <p>13 worker, which doesn't necessarily happen in</p> <p>14 other counties.</p> <p>15 Our clients also report being very</p> <p>16 satisfied with the services they receive from</p> <p>17 us. We do a satisfaction survey every year.</p> <p>18 In fiscal year 23, 99 percent of our</p> <p>19 respondents reported being satisfied or very</p> <p>20 satisfied with the services they received from</p> <p>21 us.</p>	<p>1 Talbot County contribution is \$65,000, for a</p> <p>2 total of \$185,000 for fiscal year 24.</p> <p>3 Our plan is eight percent of that for</p> <p>4 administration, 29 percent for case management,</p> <p>5 and 63 percent for gap filling, which is our</p> <p>6 direct services that we provided to seniors.</p> <p>7 So the graph at the bottom there that just</p> <p>8 goes historically through the past five years,</p> <p>9 the number of seniors we served each year and</p> <p>10 the total project funding that we had each year</p> <p>11 and then an average amount that could have been</p> <p>12 spent per senior for fiscal year. So that</p> <p>13 average amount is just the total project</p> <p>14 funding divided by the number of seniors that</p> <p>15 we served in that year.</p> <p>16 So in fiscal year 23, the average amount</p> <p>17 was about \$925 allocated to spend for each</p> <p>18 senior in our program.</p> <p>19 The actual amounts spent per client for</p> <p>20 direct services ranged anywhere from \$33 for</p> <p>21 the year to \$4,908 for the fiscal year, with</p>

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1 that higher amount being used for some of our
 2 most needy clients.
 3 So the point I kind of wanted to make with
 4 this slide is the \$925 per year spent on a
 5 senior, the cost of nursing home care is \$316
 6 per day. So that translates to over \$115,000 a
 7 year for a patient to be in the nursing home.
 8 So the little things that we do, that \$925 a
 9 year, if it can prevent or even just delay
 10 nursing home admission, it's really a huge
 11 savings.
 12 The final column here, we have not had a
 13 wait list for our services and funds for the
 14 past five years. Probably on the brink of
 15 starting one at this time, which I can get into
 16 later, the increased costs of running this
 17 program. I have a slide at the end about
 18 program challenges where I'll get a little more
 19 into that.
 20 So what are gap-filling funds? These are
 21 our direct services that we provide to our

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1 seniors. These are the things that Medicare
 2 doesn't pay for. Senior Care is used as a
 3 payer of last resort when there's no other
 4 resource available. We would use funds from
 5 federal, State, or other local programs first.
 6 The funds are allocated based on the
 7 identified needs in the assessment and plan of
 8 care completed by the nurse or social worker.
 9 So what exactly are we paying for? This
 10 graph shows what we spent our money on in
 11 fiscal year 23. The biggest chunk going
 12 towards chore services. About a third of our
 13 gap-filling funds were used for chores in
 14 fiscal year 23. It's really one of the first
 15 things that folks start to struggle with.
 16 Laundry, vacuuming, mopping floors, cleaning
 17 the bathroom are all very difficult when you
 18 have mobility issues.
 19 The second biggest chunk would be for
 20 personal care services. That's our bathing,
 21 dressing, grooming, things like that, which we

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1 have a CNA that provides those services.
 2 Unfortunately, she's only one person. So we do
 3 also contract with an agency to provide some of
 4 these services to our clients.
 5 Personal emergency response systems.
 6 Those are the buttons that someone would wear
 7 around their neck or as a watch that they could
 8 push if they were to have a fall or a medical
 9 emergency. And a good deal of our clients live
 10 alone. So we feel it's very important to
 11 provide them with that.
 12 Prescription copays, 16 percent of our
 13 spending in fiscal year 23. We want our folks
 14 to take their medications that are prescribed
 15 by the doctor. And if not being able to afford
 16 them is an obstacle for them, we want to step
 17 in and be able to do that for them.
 18 And then the remaining six percent is just
 19 medical supplies, incontinence supplies,
 20 equipment, and transportation.
 21 And I'm just going to go through some

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1 statistics quickly. In fiscal year 23, these
 2 statistics are all based on fiscal year 23
 3 numbers, we served far more females than males.
 4 74 percent female, 26 percent male, which is no
 5 surprise there. The life expectancy is
 6 generally longer for females.
 7 And then the breakdown by race.
 8 53 percent of our clients reported identifying
 9 as white, 46 percent identified as black or
 10 African American, with one percent as other.
 11 So as you can see, this program focuses on
 12 equity for people that may have experienced
 13 some disparities in their lives.
 14 Some more statistics by age. Our biggest
 15 age group is our 75 to 84-year-olds. But we
 16 have a good chunk there of the 85-plus, which
 17 is really wonderful to see people living that
 18 long these days.
 19 So their living arrangements. A majority
 20 of our clients live by themselves, 59 percent
 21 of them. Some of that is by choice. Many of

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1 them it's due to loss of their spouse. Many of
 2 them report not wanting to be a burden to their
 3 family, and many of them just don't have family
 4 nearby. So living alone puts them at higher
 5 risk for injury, social isolation, depression,
 6 anxiety, malnutrition, and a host of other
 7 issues.

8 The monthly income of our Senior Care
 9 clients in fiscal year 23, as you can see from
 10 this, about a third of our clients are living
 11 at or below the federal poverty level, which is
 12 about \$1,215 per month. That's 31 percent of
 13 them. And then it just expands out from there.
 14 Less than \$1,500 a month, we have 58 percent of
 15 our clients living below that amount.

16 In the side box over here, I just had a
 17 little fact about our clients. 44 percent of
 18 our Senior Care clients have Medicare only with
 19 no supplemental insurance. So nothing to cover
 20 that 20 percent that Medicare doesn't cover.

21 We do have some clients that have partial

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1 Medicaid that pays for their copays, and then
 2 some clients are paying privately for a
 3 supplemental insurance plan. But 44 percent of
 4 them have nothing. So they are responsible for
 5 the 20 percent that Medicare is not covering
 6 when they go to the doctor.

7 And then impairment and activities of
 8 daily living. So our assessment includes an
 9 evaluation of the client's functional
 10 abilities. These are activities of daily
 11 living like bathing, dressing, toileting,
 12 ambulating, meal preparation, chores, managing
 13 their finances, things like that.

14 So we assess to see whether they can do
 15 these tasks independently, whether they need
 16 some help, or whether they need total
 17 assistance with those. So as you can see,
 18 54 percent of our clients have a severe
 19 impairment in their activities of daily living.
 20 46 percent have a moderate impairment.

21 MR. LESHER: And I'm sorry to interrupt

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1 you.

2 MS. OTTEY: No. Please.

3 MR. LESHER: But I presume that by
 4 providing even that level of service in the
 5 home, allowing somebody to stay in the home,
 6 this is still better for their being in
 7 familiar surroundings, but it saves costs, too,
 8 over moving --

9 MS. OTTEY: Absolutely. And most people
 10 these days want to age in their homes. So I
 11 mean if you talk to people, they have
 12 unfortunately heard a lot of bad stories from
 13 nursing homes or they know somebody who has had
 14 a bad experience. So there's really been an
 15 increase in wanting to age in place and age in
 16 their homes. So we like to do what we can to
 17 try to make that happen for them.

18 Also, over to the side there, 32 percent
 19 of our Senior Care clients receive a nursing
 20 facility level of care when we assess them. So
 21 when we submit our assessment, the level of

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1 care is generated based on their responses.
 2 It's either generated by the computer or
 3 reviewed by a doctor to generate the level of
 4 care.

5 So 32 percent, about a third of our
 6 clients, are living in the community but
 7 needing the level of care that would be
 8 provided in a nursing facility.

9 So our support and partnerships. We
 10 certainly don't do this alone. We rely on a
 11 lot of support from other agencies. The
 12 support from the county government for the
 13 funding of this program. We would not be able
 14 to run this program like we do without the
 15 additional funds that we receive from the
 16 county.

17 The Talbot County Health Department
 18 obviously provides us with support, including
 19 in-kind staffing, including fiscal and admin
 20 support. Our area agency on aging, Upper Shore
 21 Aging, provides us with support to run the

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1 program and also other programs that support
 2 our clients. Meals on Wheels, our respite care
 3 grant, and senior centers.
 4 And thanks to Upper Shore Aging for being
 5 here today to show their support of the
 6 program.
 7 Our Talbot County Department of Social
 8 Services, we have a close partnership with
 9 Adult Protective Services and share quite a few
 10 clients. And they also provide us with
 11 additional funding for particular client issues
 12 when we need help with that.
 13 The Talbot Commission on Aging has done a
 14 huge senior supply drive over the past few
 15 years. And we have collected, the Commission
 16 on Aging has collected through that over
 17 \$16,000 worth of donated supplies. And this is
 18 things like incontinence supplies, Pull-ups,
 19 pads, things like that that people in the
 20 community really need and have difficulty
 21 affording.

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1 And then last but not least, our civic,
 2 church, and community organizations. We
 3 couldn't do this without them, either. So St.
 4 Vincent de Paul, Union Dorcas, the Bay Hundred
 5 Community Volunteers, Partners in Care,
 6 Community for Life, The Lions Club, the
 7 Neighborhood Service Center, St. Marks
 8 Ministries, Home Instead, and Delmarva
 9 Community Services, just to name a few there.
 10 So program challenges. This map that I
 11 put up here is from the Maryland Department of
 12 Aging State plan on aging for 2022 to 2025.
 13 And it projects an increasing number of seniors
 14 in Talbot County's population, a projected
 15 15 percent increase in the population 60-plus
 16 from 2020 to 2030. So that's huge. Will we
 17 see an increase in our Senior Care clients? I
 18 guess it's yet to be seen.
 19 And some other program challenges. The
 20 biggest challenge we have is the increasing
 21 cost of goods and services. Over the past

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1 year, incontinence supplies have increased
 2 anywhere from 15 to 50 percent, depending on
 3 the type of supply. Our nutritional
 4 supplements, like Ensure and Glucerna, have
 5 increased 50 to 100 percent in the past year
 6 and really skyrocketed in the past few months.
 7 Medication copays, we saw a 20 percent cost
 8 increase in the past year. The personal care
 9 services that we pay through an agency for, an
 10 18.5 percent cost increase. The personal
 11 emergency response systems, a 19 percent cost
 12 increase in the past year.
 13 And then salary increases for the past
 14 year for Talbot County Health Department
 15 employees, who are State employees. There's
 16 been some pretty significant salary increases
 17 depending on job classification.
 18 And so another challenge for the program
 19 is just a challenge that's across the health
 20 care field is an increasing need for
 21 caregivers, both paid and informal. There's a

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1 huge shortage of direct care workers right now
 2 who aren't paid adequately for the important
 3 job that they do. The impact of the COVID-19
 4 pandemic on the health care workforce has been
 5 huge.
 6 And then like I said before, a growing
 7 preference for people aging at home and kind of
 8 the things they're hearing these days about
 9 nursing facilities and really wanting to stay
 10 at home instead.
 11 And then family and caregivers stress and
 12 burnout and limited resources for respite for
 13 those families.
 14 So thank you for letting us be out here
 15 today to speak with you. I want to thank the
 16 county for their continued support of this
 17 program. We would not be able to serve the
 18 number of clients that we serve without the
 19 additional county funds.
 20 I want to thank Dr. Maguire and the Health
 21 Department, too, for the support that they

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<p>1 always provide us. And thank you to Upper</p> <p>2 Shore Aging for their support. I know I can</p> <p>3 always reach out to them when I need them.</p> <p>4 And I also want to give a big thank you to</p> <p>5 my senior services team. They are some of the</p> <p>6 most caring and dedicated professionals I've</p> <p>7 ever had the pleasure of working with.</p> <p>8 So our nurses, Kimberly Mitchell, Veronica</p> <p>9 Reingold, Judy (Inaudible), and our social</p> <p>10 workers Mary Sellers and Debbie Tofe. Our CNA</p> <p>11 Donna Jenkins, and our care coordinator, Marcy</p> <p>12 Stenson.</p> <p>13 So together our team has about 115 years</p> <p>14 of combined experience in the AERS and Senior</p> <p>15 Care programs. So I think that's really huge.</p> <p>16 We have a ton of just experience and knowledge</p> <p>17 to refer to.</p> <p>18 So I'd like to leave you with a few thank</p> <p>19 yous from the clients themselves. I have three</p> <p>20 short letters that I'd like to present you from</p> <p>21 our clients, and these are in their own words.</p>	<p>1 whatever I need. Saying nice things about you</p> <p>2 is easy because my grandmother always said that</p> <p>3 telling the truth is easy. And you make me</p> <p>4 feel good as a person and that you really want</p> <p>5 to help me with whatever I need.</p> <p>6 And then finally, approximately 15 months</p> <p>7 ago I suffered a debilitating stroke.</p> <p>8 Subsequently, I spent almost a year in the</p> <p>9 hospital and in rehab. Since returning home</p> <p>10 with no family in the area, I have relied on</p> <p>11 the services of Talbot County Health Department</p> <p>12 Senior Services Program for my personal care.</p> <p>13 Being unable to care for myself made it</p> <p>14 difficult, as well as embarrassing, to go out</p> <p>15 for doctors' appointments and other</p> <p>16 appointments in the community. I ask that you</p> <p>17 please consider funding the above very valuable</p> <p>18 program so that seniors such as myself can</p> <p>19 maintain the dignity that we so desire.</p> <p>20 So thank you, again, for letting us be</p> <p>21 here to present this and to inform you about</p>
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<p>1 We ask them what does the Health</p> <p>2 Department Senior Care Program mean to you.</p> <p>3 So the first response is I've lived in</p> <p>4 Talbot County a long time, and I love living</p> <p>5 here. I don't have much money, and it's hard</p> <p>6 to buy the things I need. I've been with the</p> <p>7 Health Department Senior Program a long time,</p> <p>8 and I know and love the people that work with</p> <p>9 me. They always treat me very kind. I know</p> <p>10 they'll help with whatever I need. Every</p> <p>11 month, they bring me supplies I wouldn't be</p> <p>12 able to buy, and they help me when problems pop</p> <p>13 up. They have been really good to me, and I</p> <p>14 love them so much.</p> <p>15 Our second letter, the Health Department</p> <p>16 has been excellent and has helped with whatever</p> <p>17 I have needed. You need to feel good because</p> <p>18 you've been there for me and have made me feel</p> <p>19 important as a person. You think about doing</p> <p>20 things for me without even hesitating. Each</p> <p>21 time we talk, you show utmost concerns about</p>	<p>1 what we do and how important we think it is.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Council.</p> <p>3 MS. HAYTHE: So health care has a very</p> <p>4 special place in my heart because my daughter</p> <p>5 is in nursing school getting her MSN.</p> <p>6 MS. OTTEY: Wonderful.</p> <p>7 MS. HAYTHE: So excited about that.</p> <p>8 But I know the gap that you fill in this</p> <p>9 community. I know so many seniors that use</p> <p>10 this program, and they rave about the program.</p> <p>11 I had interaction with a 70-year-old woman</p> <p>12 that had no family, was calling her family</p> <p>13 members and got no answer, and tried to take</p> <p>14 her own life.</p> <p>15 So I know the mental health capacity that</p> <p>16 you provide for some of these individuals that</p> <p>17 live alone. Someone over 70 years old should</p> <p>18 never, ever consider anything like that. So I</p> <p>19 know how valuable this program is.</p> <p>20 So thank you to all the health care</p> <p>21 workers. Thank you to all the nurses and for</p>

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1 all that you do for the seniors in this
 2 community because it is a very, very, very good
 3 resource for us in Talbot County. So thank
 4 you.
 5 MS. OTTEY: Thank you.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Well said.
 7 MS. MIELKE: Thank you for the very
 8 informative presentation, particularly for the
 9 public, as well as us, of course.
 10 And I can't say much more than that. And
 11 it was wonderful. Keep doing what you're
 12 doing.
 13 MS. OTTEY: We hope to. Thank you.
 14 MR. LESHER: Ms. Ottey, thank you for
 15 sharing not only the work that the program is
 16 doing, but the impact on those clients who
 17 wrote in. That's really quite touching.
 18 MS. OTTEY: Thank you.
 19 MR. STEPP: I'll echo what Vice President
 20 Leshner just said, especially the letters.
 21 Hearing what they're writing towards and the

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1 care that they received. I mean that's just
 2 the icing on top of the cake. So thank you.
 3 MS. OTTEY: Great. Thank you.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Thanks so much. I
 5 mean you guys are special. We really need what
 6 you've done here for Talbot County. That's for
 7 sure, because the community and stuff, and we
 8 have so many seniors.
 9 The time that you spend and the letters
 10 and all that stuff, it's pretty special. So I
 11 really appreciate it.
 12 Being that's said, do we need to...
 13 MS. MORRIS: This is just a presentation
 14 tonight.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's good. No
 16 action.
 17 DR. MAGUIRE: Yeah. And we just want to
 18 thank you again for your support for this
 19 program. It's really something that other
 20 counties sort of think about emulating but they
 21 just can't without the resources that we have

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1 here.
 2 And so we're really grateful for the
 3 county's support and also the support of all
 4 the other agencies that we work with.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. We got special
 6 people back here in the agency. We've got Kate
 7 and we've got Andy back here. So he hates when
 8 I do this. He hates it. But we appreciate
 9 what you guys do for us, too. It's definitely
 10 a team effort on all of you, and we really
 11 appreciate everything you do.
 12 MR. HOLLIS: Council, it's one of the
 13 strongest programs I ever saw on my 17 years as
 14 county manager. And I really, you all deserve
 15 a boatload of credit for adding the extra
 16 funding to it. We need to keep that going.
 17 I appreciate Dr. Maguire, who has assured
 18 me it will be staffed in the same drive as it
 19 was previously. So thank you all.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys.
 21 Appreciate it. All right.

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1 Next is going to be Council discussion on
 2 this amendment for the educational legislation
 3 for FY24 for the session. So we need to kind
 4 of discuss on how we want to go about that.
 5 Mr. Thomas, you want to go ahead and get
 6 us started.
 7 MR. THOMAS: Sure. So at our last
 8 meeting, Council Member Stepp had proposed an
 9 amendment to 3-12A-01 of the Education Article
 10 regarding filling of vacancies on the county's
 11 Board of Education.
 12 Under the current law, the governor fills
 13 any vacancies that arise.
 14 The proposal Council Member Stepp brought
 15 forward would have the Council filling that
 16 vacancy.
 17 In response to some of the comments from
 18 the Council at the last meeting, I worked with
 19 Council Member Mielke to prepare another
 20 proposal. As you all probably know, there's
 21 seven elected members. They currently have

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1 staggered terms. So four are elected and two
 2 years later another three are elected.
 3 So under this proposal, if there was a
 4 vacancy, the Council would still fill it. But
 5 if the vacancy occurs before the filing
 6 deadline for the general election occurring in
 7 the second year, then the person appointed to
 8 fill that vacancy by the Council would only
 9 serve until the election. And then at that
 10 election, the voters would elect, from that
 11 district, would elect somebody to serve out the
 12 remainder of the term.
 13 And then if it occurs after that filing
 14 deadline, then the person appointed by the
 15 Council would just serve out the term.
 16 And this proposal is generally consistent
 17 with how other counties fill vacancies in that
 18 manner. It's either governor appoints, the
 19 elected body appoints, or the elected body
 20 appoints and then they'll have somebody elected
 21 at the next general election.

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1 There isn't -- nobody does -- no other
 2 counties do any sort of special election
 3 process. And I think one of the reasons why is
 4 that that can be tricky to do. When you have
 5 the county board running it, particularly when
 6 you have years with presidential or
 7 gubernatorial elections, it can be difficult if
 8 they have to unexpectedly conduct an election.
 9 So both proposals are consistent with
 10 different, how different counties handle it.
 11 I also added in some language regarding
 12 the process by which the Council would actually
 13 appoint somebody, including having public
 14 interviews and giving notice to the public of
 15 that so they could observe.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good. All right.
 17 MR. LESHER: We do have two elected bodies
 18 in this county. There's, of course, this
 19 Council. But there's also the Board of
 20 Education, which is fully elected but for the
 21 student member.

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1 And I wonder if appointment by this body
 2 puts the Board of Education in sort of a
 3 subject role to the Board of Education and
 4 whether we might not substitute the Board of
 5 Education in that appointing role to fill
 6 vacancies in the interim rather than this
 7 Council.
 8 MS. HAYTHE: Is there any other county
 9 that does that?
 10 MR. LESHER: Well, not every county has a
 11 fully-elected school board.
 12 MS. HAYTHE: Is there any other county in
 13 Maryland that the Board of Ed appoints the
 14 vacancy is my question?
 15 MR. THOMAS: Bear with me one second.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: So Mr. Leshner, so I can
 17 understand what you're saying. You would want
 18 that board to appoint somebody for their seat?
 19 MR. LESHER: For the vacant seat within
 20 that body.
 21 MS. MIELKE: Well, one of the reasons why

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1 I proposed an alternative.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 3 MS. MIELKE: To Mr. Stepp, which I mean it
 4 was good that he brought it to our attention.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Absolutely.
 6 MS. MIELKE: And I was supportive of the
 7 concept of having a special election, but that
 8 doesn't seem to be very practical.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 10 MS. MIELKE: So the principal difference
 11 between Councilman Stepp's proposal and mine is
 12 it outlines exactly how the Council would go
 13 about appointing somebody and it's transparent.
 14 It's advertised. It seeks people. So I think
 15 it's a compromise.
 16 I don't think that it's as transparent and
 17 open to the public by having the Board of
 18 Education appoint them.
 19 This would give people, advertised, to
 20 come forward, for us to interview them in
 21 public, and then to make a decision. So I

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1 think it's a good compromise to make sure that
 2 there's transparency in the process.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: I got it. Okay.
 4 MS. HAYTHE: I certainly agree with both,
 5 either-or.
 6 I mean but the second, the amended
 7 version, the only question I had would be why
 8 would we be interviewing in public? We do not
 9 interview in public for any other board that we
 10 appoint individuals to.
 11 MS. MIELKE: Well, that's because it's not
 12 an elected board.
 13 MS. HAYTHE: Even still. I mean I
 14 would -- if somebody is running, I don't know,
 15 that may be a violation of their privacy or
 16 something. I don't know. I'm just saying.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.
 18 MS. HAYTHE: I don't know how they would
 19 feel about that, being publicly interviewed and
 20 allowing the public to sit there and watch them
 21 through that interviewing process --

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1 MS. MIELKE: Well, other counties, at
 2 least one other county does do that. So it's
 3 not -- it's been tried, and apparently
 4 successfully because they haven't changed it.
 5 The idea is the transparency.
 6 MS. HAYTHE: Which I get. I do understand
 7 that.
 8 MS. MIELKE: And I don't see any
 9 difference between that and, you know, if you
 10 have a candidate forum and you make a
 11 presentation.
 12 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah. But then this would be
 13 individualized by us. I mean candidate forum
 14 is a little bit different than being
 15 interviewed.
 16 MR. STEPP: If I can take a moment to kind
 17 of bring all these points together. And
 18 hearing what the rest of Council was saying,
 19 I'd love to express why I believe what I
 20 originally presented is the right avenue for
 21 Council here as well as our Board of Elections,

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1 as well as all of our citizens.
 2 So the legislation as I put forward,
 3 right, is basically just a gateway to get to
 4 our State legislators to basically say we want
 5 to modify the legislation and how do we do
 6 this.
 7 We still want to keep an elected School
 8 Board, just as we do. This is just a gateway
 9 to do that.
 10 I purposely left it blank in the beginning
 11 because I want our Board of Education, who is
 12 an elected body, to have input on how we are
 13 going to come together as a Council to address
 14 these vacancies that are in the Board of
 15 Education.
 16 So you know, Council Member Mielke, I
 17 appreciate the detail that you put into this.
 18 But I believe we have not engaged our Board of
 19 Education in that dialogue, right. This, as it
 20 is with my request, gives us again the
 21 availability to have those conversations. It

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1 gives us the time to come up with that and then
 2 move together, not just as a Council, and other
 3 councils that are around the rest of the State.
 4 MS. MIELKE: By the legislation doesn't
 5 provide for that, your proposed legislation.
 6 And my concern was that it's sort of left
 7 out there. Well, we'll do this according to
 8 some rules. And it's like everything else that
 9 overwhelms us. We kind of put it on the back
 10 burner until we're faced with the situation
 11 where we have a vacancy and then we have to --
 12 MR. STEPP: Well, that's on us. If it
 13 goes on the back burner, that's on us --
 14 MS. MIELKE: That's why I proposed --
 15 (Cross talk.)
 16 MR. STEPP: If I'm -- as the one who kind
 17 of has driven this, I will make sure that that
 18 doesn't happen. As soon as we get this in
 19 there, we have a prefiling deadline on
 20 November 1st. I'd love to get that in.
 21 And then starting in November, let's get

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1 together with the Board of Education, let's
 2 have a public session, let's have an
 3 interaction with them so they can see, the
 4 public can see how we want to come together to
 5 come up with how we're going to -- the rules
 6 that are going to govern this appointment
 7 process.
 8 Again, mine is just a gateway to get in.
 9 So then we can, at that point, have those
 10 discussions and then move forward together as
 11 both a County Council, again, mimicking what
 12 other counties in the State are doing, as well
 13 as in conjunction and see the partnership
 14 between both the Board of Education as well as
 15 County Council, and then we can do our county
 16 justice.
 17 MS. HAYTHE: So we can do this. This goes
 18 to our legislators.
 19 MR. STEPP: Yes.
 20 MS. HAYTHE: Just to give us the yay or
 21 nay, whether or not we can --

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1 (Cross talk.)
 2 MS. MIELKE: And remember, no --
 3 MR. STEPP: Basically this would seek for
 4 a prefile in both the House and the Senate.
 5 And then they'd cross file those and that can
 6 show -- obviously if we had this letter of
 7 intent or letter of request from Council to
 8 them, that shows our willingness. That's going
 9 to show Annapolis our willingness to work
 10 together and to put the decisions back in the
 11 local counties.
 12 MS. HAYTHE: And then once we have that,
 13 we can meet with the Board of Ed.
 14 MR. STEPP: Absolutely.
 15 MS. HAYTHE: Get public comment.
 16 MR. STEPP: As I mentioned --
 17 MS. HAYTHE: And then finalize.
 18 MR. STEPP: Absolutely. As I mentiond
 19 initially, I said this is not something that I
 20 want to just say oh, we're the County Council,
 21 we're going to appoint whoever we want.

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1 No, that's not, that's certainly not how I
 2 wish to see that go down.
 3 I just want to make sure that we're able
 4 to appoint local folks who we know. Again, not
 5 in a non-partisan fashion. This isn't a
 6 Republican and Democrat and Independent thing.
 7 This is just we know those folks that will
 8 want to be on the School Board that will put
 9 their names forward. We see them in the
 10 grocery markets, we see them at the library,
 11 they come to County Council meetings.
 12 This just allows us to appoint the folks
 13 that we know in our community that will do a
 14 phenomenal job for us, as opposed to a
 15 governor-appointed, who would not. They don't
 16 know these folks.
 17 MS. HAYTHE: Agreed.
 18 MS. MIELKE: And I proposed a process
 19 because I don't know whether the State
 20 legislature, in considering the proposal, would
 21 look at it as not being complete because we

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1 haven't laid out what our program is to appoint
 2 somebody.
 3 MR. STEPP: And to that point --
 4 MS. MIELKE: And we can involve the Board
 5 of Ed in our process.
 6 MR. STEPP: And if there's a way to modify
 7 this as it goes throughout the process, which
 8 I'm pretty sure there is.
 9 Patrick, keep me honest. If we wanted to
 10 add something after it's been pre-filed, could
 11 we add additional language if we come up
 12 together as a Board of Education and County
 13 Council?
 14 MR. THOMAS: The bill can certainly be
 15 amended as it moves through the legislative
 16 process.
 17 And I'm sorry. Council Member, to your
 18 question, I just briefly, in checking through
 19 the other statutes, I did not see one where the
 20 Board of Education fills a vacancy.
 21 I think, as I mentioned, I think it's

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<p>1 either the governor fills it, the elected body 2 fills it, and then some provide for an election 3 as well.</p>	<p>1 and -- 2 MR. CALLAHAN: That's what I'm 3 understanding what you want to do.</p>
<p>4 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. Thank you.</p>	<p>4 MR. STEPP: Yes.</p>
<p>5 MR. THOMAS: Sure.</p>	<p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: This is sort of working</p>
<p>6 MR. STEPP: I just want to make sure we 7 don't miss the opportunity. A gateway in so 8 that we can move forward, engaging our Board of 9 Education and just show that unity between the 10 two.</p>	<p>6 with the School Board, coming up with a 7 process. Am I right? 8 MR. STEPP: Correct. And like I said, do 9 I think there's some --</p>
<p>11 MR. LESHER: Well, Mr. Stepp's proposal is 12 silent about engaging the Board of Education or 13 not. Ms. Mielke's proposal is also silent.</p>	<p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: I think I'd -- 11 MR. STEPP: -- positive points -- 12 MR. CALLAHAN: I think I'd rather work</p>
<p>14 The opportunity is there in both cases.</p>	<p>13 with the School Board to come up with the 14 process. 15 MR. STEPP: I would as well. That doesn't</p>
<p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.</p>	<p>16 usurp their authority as an elected body. 17 MS. HAYTHE: Of course. I mean that's</p>
<p>16 MR. LESHER: So I don't see any 17 disadvantage to moving with the more open, 18 transparent process. It doesn't preclude any 19 of those further steps that this Council could 20 take.</p>	<p>18 (inaudible). 19 MR. LESHER: Ms. Mielke's proposal does 20 not preclude that at all.</p>
<p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: So what are you saying?</p>	<p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: That's fine.</p>
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<p>1 Are you saying Mr. Stepp's is --</p>	<p>1 MR. LESHER: We can still do that with</p>
<p>2 MR. LESHER: I think I would prefer the 3 option of moving this to the next election. Do 4 a shorter-term appointment, as Ms. Mielke has 5 proposed, so that if there's a vacancy, let's 6 say there's a vacancy for somebody whose term 7 has yet another three years to run. If this 8 were in place to today, we could make an 9 appointment until the general election next 10 year, at which point the voters of that 11 district could choose.</p>	<p>2 this more specific proposal and have it in 3 there for the -- that we would move this 4 process to an election at the first available 5 opportunity, that this Council would not be 6 making three-year appointments. We'd be making 7 one or two-year appointments at most. 8 MR. STEPP: And that may come out in those 9 discussions, right -- 10 MS. HAYTHE: And --</p>
<p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, I sort of think the 13 process, if I'm understanding correctly, is 14 that Mr. Stepp's idea is to get it to 15 Annapolis. And then after it's in Annapolis 16 and it's okay to take it out of the governor's 17 hands, it puts in our hands. Then we can all 18 meet and discuss on how the proposal is going 19 to happen.</p>	<p>11 (Cross talk.) 12 MR. STEPP: -- clean slate. I'd rather 13 our Board of Elections have that input, as 14 opposed to us making that input on their 15 behalf. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. I think you've come</p>
<p>20 MR. STEPP: Yeah. We can start that at 21 our very first meeting in November, right,</p>	<p>17 up with a lot of great decisions there. I just 18 think it needs to be in front of everybody in 19 an open discussion with the School Board. 20 That's all that I'm thinking. 21 MS. MIELKE: Just add that to mine.</p>

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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, yeah.</p> <p>2 MR. THOMAS: I'll just say I don't think</p> <p>3 either, as Vice President Lesher said, I don't</p> <p>4 think either proposal precludes that.</p> <p>5 I think the fundamental difference is</p> <p>6 let's use the last election as an example. So</p> <p>7 if somebody was elected to the Board at the</p> <p>8 2022 election and let's say they served one</p> <p>9 year. And then they, for whatever reason, they</p> <p>10 vacated their seat.</p> <p>11 Under Council Member Stepp's proposal, the</p> <p>12 Council would appoint somebody to fill out the</p> <p>13 remainder of that person's term. So three</p> <p>14 years.</p> <p>15 Under Council Member Mielke's proposal,</p> <p>16 the Council would appoint somebody who would</p> <p>17 only serve until the 2024 general election, and</p> <p>18 then the voters would elect somebody to fill</p> <p>19 out of remainder of the term.</p> <p>20 That's really the fundamental difference</p> <p>21 between the two proposals.</p>	<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: Second.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>3 second for Mr. Stepp's proposal. Madam</p> <p>4 Secretary, could you call the vote.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>8 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHER: Nay.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>12 MS. MIELKE: Nay.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>14 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>16 MS. MIELKE: Then we don't go forward with</p> <p>17 mine.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Correct, correct. Okay.</p> <p>19 Are we good?</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Uh-huh.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right.</p>
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<p>1 MR. LESHER: Right. I'd rather trust it</p> <p>2 to the voters.</p> <p>3 MR. STEPP: I still prefer the clean slate</p> <p>4 method, again, so we can come up with that</p> <p>5 process in conjunction --</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So do we want to</p> <p>7 vote on both of them? Is that how we should do</p> <p>8 this?</p> <p>9 MR. THOMAS: I think so. Vote on Council</p> <p>10 Member Stepp's first and then Council Member</p> <p>11 Mielke's.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: So option one and option</p> <p>13 two. Can we say that?</p> <p>14 MR. THOMAS: Yes.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>16 MR. STEPP: I'll make a motion to proceed</p> <p>17 with the language that's in my version.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. In option one.</p> <p>19 MR. STEPP: Option one.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: There's a motion. Is there</p> <p>21 a second?</p>	<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: So once we get the word from</p> <p>2 the legislature, we can come back and</p> <p>3 finalize --</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: And start making up, yeah.</p> <p>5 MS. HAYTHE: -- the amendment?</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: That's when we --</p> <p>7 MS. MIELKE: But when do they do that?</p> <p>8 MR. STEPP: So we have a prefilng</p> <p>9 deadline.</p> <p>10 Keep me honest here, Patrick.</p> <p>11 So November 1st for the prefile?</p> <p>12 MR. THOMAS: Yes. So we'll submit this to</p> <p>13 our local delegation for prefilng and be in</p> <p>14 advance of the November 1st deadline.</p> <p>15 MR. STEPP: And let's engage our Board of</p> <p>16 Education sooner than later and get this</p> <p>17 conversation started so if we need to make</p> <p>18 modifications to our legislation request in</p> <p>19 conjunction with our State legislators, then...</p> <p>20 MR. LESHER: Do we request a workshop with</p> <p>21 the Board for...</p>

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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Once that gets passed.</p> <p>2 MR. LESHER: October 24th?</p> <p>3 MS. MIELKE: What do you mean once it gets</p> <p>4 passed?</p> <p>5 MR. THOMAS: Well, it still has to go to</p> <p>6 the State, the General Assembly, for a vote.</p> <p>7 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah. There's no guaranty</p> <p>8 that they --</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.</p> <p>10 MR. STEPP: I mean we can --</p> <p>11 MS. MIELKE: But what is the timing of</p> <p>12 coming up with the process by which their...</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Why wait --</p> <p>14 MR. THOMAS: So we'll be sending this so</p> <p>15 it will be pre-filed for the General Assembly to</p> <p>16 consider once they convene in January.</p> <p>17 MS. MIELKE: But the difference was that</p> <p>18 in the one that's pre-filed, it would have a</p> <p>19 process for us to go to.</p> <p>20 So what I'm hearing now is we're going to</p> <p>21 send the bill that doesn't have a process for</p>	<p>1 you on. I made the same changes to what I</p> <p>2 worked with Councilman Stepp, made the same</p> <p>3 changes to his so that they mirrored each</p> <p>4 other, the only distinction being the election</p> <p>5 versus the appointment.</p> <p>6 MS. HAYTHE: Right.</p> <p>7 MR. THOMAS: But the process is the same</p> <p>8 whereby the Council would provide public</p> <p>9 notice, the manner in which the public notice</p> <p>10 is published, the interviews, that's all, that</p> <p>11 language is all the same.</p> <p>12 MS. MIELKE: It's in his?</p> <p>13 MR. THOMAS: Yes. It wasn't originally.</p> <p>14 But after you and I started working on it,</p> <p>15 I also worked with him to have the same</p> <p>16 language because that part of the bill is the</p> <p>17 same. So it made sense that they would...</p> <p>18 MS. MIELKE: That's not the one that was</p> <p>19 presented, though.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHER: That's not what appears in</p> <p>21 Granicus.</p>
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<p>1 us to appoint somebody, and that's the one</p> <p>2 that's going to be considered by the</p> <p>3 legislature and then we're going to work on a</p> <p>4 plan?</p> <p>5 MR. THOMAS: The process language is the</p> <p>6 same in both bills.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.</p> <p>8 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah, it's the same.</p> <p>9 MS. MIELKE: No. What I'm saying is</p> <p>10 Councilman Stepp's proposal is silent on what</p> <p>11 the process is for the Council to appoint</p> <p>12 somebody.</p> <p>13 MR. STEPP: But it will not be once we</p> <p>14 have those conversations with the Board of</p> <p>15 Elections (sic.).</p> <p>16 MS. MIELKE: And that's my question</p> <p>17 because --</p> <p>18 MR. STEPP: I'm sorry. Board of</p> <p>19 Education.</p> <p>20 MR. THOMAS: The process is the same as</p> <p>21 the language that was in the bill I worked with</p>	<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: That's not what we have.</p> <p>2 (Cross talk.)</p> <p>3 MR. LESHER: -- that revised version</p> <p>4 maybe --</p> <p>5 MS. MIELKE: It says the County Council</p> <p>6 shall adopt rules governing the procedure</p> <p>7 through which an individual may apply to fill a</p> <p>8 vacancy on the county board.</p> <p>9 But that's not what we just voted on?</p> <p>10 MS. HAYTHE: No. We voted on this bill</p> <p>11 right now here that was --</p> <p>12 MR. STEPP: In Granicus.</p> <p>13 MS. HAYTHE: What do you have?</p> <p>14 MR. STEPP: The one that's in Granicus.</p> <p>15 MS. HAYTHE: You approved -- you worked</p> <p>16 with Patrick to draft another one, that same</p> <p>17 interviewing process, that she had added to</p> <p>18 hers?</p> <p>19 MR. STEPP: We had originally started</p> <p>20 talking about it, but that's not what made it</p> <p>21 to Granicus.</p>

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1 SPEAKER: Right.
 2 MR. STEPP: So this is the original
 3 version that we discussed.
 4 SECRETARY: I put both in.
 5 MS. HAYTHE: Well, this -- my vote will
 6 stand with the original version because that
 7 interviewing process has to be tweaked.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 9 MS. MIELKE: But the question becomes
 10 after you answered the question whether the
 11 version we have with the provision in section
 12 G3 is in the bill we just passed?
 13 MS. HAYTHE: No. This is what we passed.
 14 We passed this right here.
 15 MS. MIELKE: This one, right?
 16 MS. HAYTHE: Yes.
 17 MS. MIELKE: Okay. So there's no rules
 18 that we have approved at this time for
 19 selecting --
 20 MS. HAYTHE: Correct.
 21 MS. MIELKE: But the question is is this

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1 bill the one that the State legislature is
 2 going to consider?
 3 MR. STEPP: So as worded, as we voted on,
 4 that's the version that's going to go there.
 5 But as we have those interactions with the
 6 Board of Education and we come up with that
 7 process, we can then add that to those filings
 8 as they move through.
 9 And again, if this doesn't pass the State
 10 legislature vote, this doesn't happen at all.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 12 MR. STEPP: So we'll need to advocate for
 13 that at a State level.
 14 MS. HAYTHE: So can we send this
 15 resolution to the Board of Ed so that they can
 16 take a look at it and then set up a work
 17 session with them so that we can start the
 18 discussion sooner rather than later and be
 19 proactive?
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. We can.
 21 MS. HAYTHE: Have everything in place and

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1 ready to go.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, I think it's smart --
 3 MS. HAYTHE: In case we need to amend
 4 through the process with the legislature.
 5 MR. LESHHER: Can we request that we do
 6 that on -- I know we've got two workshops on
 7 the 24th. But can we manage to do that on the
 8 24th as well?
 9 MS. MORRIS: Add a third work session?
 10 MR. LESHHER: A third work session.
 11 MS. MORRIS: With the Board of Ed?
 12 MS. HAYTHE: Why would we need to do it on
 13 the 24th?
 14 MR. LESHHER: Well, that will allow us to
 15 amend this proposal based on that consent
 16 before this November 1st filing deadline.
 17 MS. HAYTHE: That's too soon. I think
 18 that's putting it too quick. That's too much.
 19 MR. STEPP: I just want to make sure we
 20 have proper time to make sure we get the
 21 wording.

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1 MS. HAYTHE: Right.
 2 MR. STEPP: And I don't want to rush it.
 3 MS. HAYTHE: I agree.
 4 MR. STEPP: I want to make sure that we,
 5 again, when we get the gateway, the one that's
 6 in Granicus that we just voted on, that's our
 7 gateway. Then we start those discussions with
 8 the Board of Education. And then we refine
 9 that as...
 10 MS. MIELKE: But then there's a question
 11 if this bill is presented to the State
 12 legislature, does it contain the language
 13 directing how appointment is going to occur?
 14 MR. STEPP: I would hope by January we
 15 could come up with that, we would come up with
 16 a consistent --
 17 MS. MIELKE: Well, is that permissible?
 18 MS. HAYTHE: Well, right now it says that
 19 we would pull from -- it says that we would
 20 appoint from a list.
 21 I mean the normal process. They would

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1 send us the names, just like they send it to
 2 the governor.
 3 MS. MIELKE: That's not the version I
 4 have.
 5 MS. MORRIS: And I apologize. It appears
 6 that we have an incorrect version of
 7 Mr. Stepp's in Granicus. So that's where this
 8 conversation is leading to. So there's some
 9 confusion here.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: So what you handed us is --
 11 MS. MORRIS: Is apparently the correct
 12 version for Mr. Stepp's.
 13 MS. MIELKE: Then...
 14 (Cross talk.)
 15 MR. STEPP: I would still prefer it to be
 16 the original version.
 17 MS. MIELKE: Because we didn't know what
 18 we were voting on?
 19 MR. STEPP: -- we worked on, which is what
 20 we worked on originally, that we can come up
 21 with a process with the Board of Education.

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1 MS. HAYTHE: Right. Was this given -- did
 2 Patrick give this to Mr. Stepp to review to put
 3 in Granicus?
 4 MR. THOMAS: Yes.
 5 MS. MIELKE: We didn't get it when we
 6 voted.
 7 MR. STEPP: No, we did not have this when
 8 we voted. In Granicus, we have --
 9 MS. MIELKE: So we didn't approve this.
 10 MR. STEPP: We have the original version.
 11 MR. THOMAS: So just to be clear, the
 12 version that you voted on was the original
 13 version that originally said that the Board --
 14 that the Council would -- do you have it?
 15 That the Council shall adopt rules
 16 governing the procedures through which an
 17 individual may apply to fill a vacancy on the
 18 Board and not the more detailed process
 19 regarding how that vacancy is filled.
 20 MR. STEPP: Yes.
 21 MS. MORRIS: Correct. That's what's in

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1 Granicus.
 2 MR. LESHAR: If the stumbling block here
 3 is that more detailed language about
 4 interviewing in public and so forth, could we
 5 consider on the 24th, still before the filing
 6 deadline, could we consider a version that
 7 looks like Mr. Stepp's but only with the
 8 addition of the next available election
 9 opportunity?
 10 It would still say this simple language
 11 that the Council would adopt rules governing
 12 the procedure and nothing further about the
 13 procedure. And then still kick it to the next
 14 general election.
 15 And then we trust the people to it, rather
 16 than making three-year appointments.
 17 MS. MIELKE: I think what we need to do is
 18 we need to have the actual legislation that
 19 we're voting on.
 20 MS. MORRIS: Yes.
 21 MR. STEPP: We did.

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1 MS. HAYTHE: We did.
 2 MR. STEPP: In Granicus.
 3 MS. MIELKE: No, we didn't.
 4 MS. HAYTHE: Yes, we did. What was in
 5 Granicus is the original document that Dave
 6 did.
 7 MR. STEPP: That's what we voted on.
 8 MS. MIELKE: But now we're considering
 9 this version that has more details.
 10 MS. HAYTHE: I'm not considering this
 11 version because this version was not in our
 12 packets --
 13 MS. MIELKE: So what I'm suggesting is
 14 this may be the solution. This may be the
 15 compromise between mine and Dave's.
 16 MR. STEPP: And --
 17 MS. MIELKE: So why not come back on the
 18 24th and consider this, tweak it, and vote on
 19 it?
 20 MS. HAYTHE: His bill.
 21 MR. STEPP: And it may be.

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1 But again, I would like to make sure that
 2 we have our Board of Education's input on that.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 4 MR. STEPP: I suggested a lot of things in
 5 my original request when it came over. Right.
 6 The best, in my opinion, the most
 7 transparent way to do it is, again, get the
 8 gateway document, the one that we just voted on
 9 as a Council. And then we publicly, with the
 10 Board of Education, come up with a process that
 11 really outlines this the way that it should.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I'm going to -- so
 13 let's back up here.
 14 So what we voted on --
 15 MS. MORRIS: I think we should read into
 16 the record what Council is voting on so
 17 everybody is clear --
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: That's exactly what I was
 19 getting ready to say.
 20 MS. MORRIS: -- because we have two
 21 versions. Yup.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: I appreciate that,
 2 Ms. Morris.
 3 So let's read into the record what we
 4 actually voted on originally.
 5 MS. MORRIS: Do you want to read it?
 6 MR. STEPP: Do we just need to read from
 7 G1 forward?
 8 MS. MORRIS: Correct.
 9 MR. THOMAS: Yes.
 10 MS. MORRIS: So this is reading from G1
 11 forward.
 12 The governor, in brackets and in bold,
 13 which means new language added, in the event of
 14 a vacancy on the county Board, the County
 15 Council, now going back to existing language,
 16 shall appoint a new member, new language, from
 17 the district in which the vacancy exists, old
 18 language, to fill, taking out any, adding the
 19 word the, old language, vacancy, taking out the
 20 wording on the county Board, until a successor
 21 is elected and qualifies at the next

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1 Congressional election.
 2 G2. A resident of the district in which a
 3 vacancy exists may apply for appointment by
 4 the, taking out the word governor, adding the
 5 wording County Council, to fill the vacancy.
 6 And G3 is all new. The County Council
 7 shall adopt rules governing the procedure
 8 through which an individual may apply to fill a
 9 vacancy on the county board.
 10 MR. STEPP: And then after that, just as a
 11 matter of record, too, it mentions the student
 12 member shall be appointed to serve on the
 13 county Board in accordance with Article
 14 3-12A-46 of this subtitle --
 15 MR. THOMAS: That's existing language.
 16 That's not part of that.
 17 MR. STEPP: That has nothing to do with
 18 this.
 19 MR. THOMAS: No. The bill shows the
 20 entire section, but Ms. Morris just read the
 21 language proposed.

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1 MS. MORRIS: So would you like to take a
 2 vote so everybody is clear that this is what
 3 you're voting on or does the record stand?
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, first of all, I just
 5 want to make sure that that's what we voted on.
 6 MS. MORRIS: Yes.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So we're good.
 8 MS. HAYTHE: I'm clear.
 9 MS. MIELKE: Which one?
 10 MS. MORRIS: What is in Granicus.
 11 MS. HAYTHE: What is in Granicus.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: What is in Granicus.
 13 MS. MORRIS: So what I handed out was a
 14 different version.
 15 There seemed to be some confusion. I
 16 apologize.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.
 18 MR. STEPP: I'm sure there's going to be
 19 part -- I'm sure there's going to be pieces of
 20 yours, pieces of everyone's input here,
 21 including most importantly the Board of

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<p>1 Education's, that is going to bring this</p> <p>2 process to a...</p> <p>3 MS. MIELKE: Well, my point is rather than</p> <p>4 have that chaos, why not take this under</p> <p>5 consideration, come up with a bill, and then</p> <p>6 present it and vote on it on the 24th?</p> <p>7 That still gives us time to get it to our</p> <p>8 delegation.</p> <p>9 MR. STEPP: I'm not opposed to having a</p> <p>10 work session with them to do that.</p> <p>11 I would -- I just want to make sure that</p> <p>12 we have enough time. If they have concerns or</p> <p>13 anything else, we want to make sure we properly</p> <p>14 address them to move forward.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: So where are we at on the</p> <p>16 24th?</p> <p>17 MS. MORRIS: So on the 24th, I will work</p> <p>18 with the Board of Education to see if we can</p> <p>19 schedule a work session that day that possibly</p> <p>20 might start, depending on their work schedule,</p> <p>21 I don't know. I think it would be at 1:30.</p>	<p>1 issue with the plan that we've just discussed</p> <p>2 on the 24th. That's all I'm saying.</p> <p>3 MR. STEPP: Just like our resolutions,</p> <p>4 just like our numbered bills, bills that</p> <p>5 they're a work-in-progress. Just as this one.</p> <p>6 This is just a gateway start so then we can</p> <p>7 move it forward.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. So let's</p> <p>9 move on and introduction of legislation.</p> <p>10 Madam Secretary, could you go ahead and</p> <p>11 read the bill into the record.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Emergency bill to amend Bill</p> <p>13 Numbers 1244 and 1479 for the purpose of</p> <p>14 expanding the scope of work of the capital</p> <p>15 project to replace the roof of the south wing</p> <p>16 of the Talbot County Courthouse to also include</p> <p>17 replacing the roof of the north wing of the</p> <p>18 Talbot County Courthouse without increasing the</p> <p>19 total amount of the appropriation therefor.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Thomas, you want</p> <p>21 to go ahead and explain that.</p>
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<p>1 But I'm pretty certain several of their members</p> <p>2 work. And so I don't know if that Tuesday</p> <p>3 during the day is convenient for their board.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Well, I'll</p> <p>5 leave that up to you. Let's try to get</p> <p>6 something set up.</p> <p>7 MS. MORRIS: Okay. Yup.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Good.</p> <p>9 MS. MIELKE: So where do we stand with the</p> <p>10 bill that we just voted on? I mean is that...</p> <p>11 MR. LESHNER: Right now, the support will</p> <p>12 say that it's supported by a majority of the</p> <p>13 Council.</p> <p>14 MS. HAYTHE: Yes.</p> <p>15 MR. LESHNER: As opposed to being supported</p> <p>16 by the Council.</p> <p>17 MS. HAYTHE: Majority.</p> <p>18 MS. MIELKE: Okay.</p> <p>19 MS. HAYTHE: Gets the job done.</p> <p>20 MS. MIELKE: I was just going to say that</p> <p>21 we ought to rescind it and then revisit the</p>	<p>1 MR. THOMAS: Yeah. So Bill Numbers 1244</p> <p>2 and 1279 (sic.) provided for a capital project</p> <p>3 to replace the roof on the south wing of the</p> <p>4 courthouse.</p> <p>5 Since then, we've also determined that the</p> <p>6 roof of the north wing also needs to be</p> <p>7 replaced. But because the legislation was</p> <p>8 specific to the south wing, we need to amend</p> <p>9 the bill to include the north wing, even though</p> <p>10 there's no increase in the cost of the</p> <p>11 appropriation.</p> <p>12 But there is urgency. I believe you have</p> <p>13 a memo from Brian Moore. There is urgency to</p> <p>14 complete this work before the winter weather</p> <p>15 approaches because obviously with the rain and</p> <p>16 snow, the increase in rain and snow could</p> <p>17 exacerbate.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.</p> <p>19 MR. THOMAS: Issues with the building. So</p> <p>20 that's why this is coming forward as an</p> <p>21 emergency bill so that we can hopefully get</p>

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1 this passed and get the work underway as soon
 2 as possible.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great.
 4 MR. STEPP: So in short, two roofs, same
 5 price?
 6 MR. THOMAS: Two roofs, same price.
 7 MR. STEPP: I agree.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds good. Okay.
 9 Raise your hand if you want to introduce this
 10 bill.
 11 MR. LESHER: So introduced by Council.
 12 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
 13 Number 1549, and the public hearing will be on
 14 Tuesday, November 14th, at 6:30 p.m.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great.
 16 MS. HAYTHE: What was that date again,
 17 Susan?
 18 SECRETARY: Excuse me?
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Fourteenth.
 20 SECRETARY: Fourteenth.
 21 MS. HAYTHE: My birthday.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: 6:30. Okay.
 2 Next is public hearing. We got a series
 3 of public hearings.
 4 Madam Secretary, you want to do Number
 5 345, please.
 6 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 345, a
 7 resolution to amend the Talbot County
 8 comprehensive water and sewer plan for the
 9 purpose of adding or modifying the Talbot
 10 County capital project for fiscal years 2024
 11 and 2025 to add a new capital project in the
 12 amount of \$12.0 million dollars for the purpose
 13 of replacing and/or rehabilitating the Town of
 14 Easton sewer collection system to mitigate
 15 inflow and infiltration.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Thomas, you want to go
 17 ahead and explain this?
 18 And Mike, you want to come on up?
 19 MR. THOMAS: I'm going to defer to
 20 Mr. Mertaugh on this one.
 21 MR. MERTAUGH: Okay. I think it's a

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1 pretty straight --
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: You want to tell
 3 everybody --
 4 MR. MERTAUGH: Oh, I'm sorry. Mike
 5 Mertaugh, Talbot County Department of Public
 6 Works.
 7 This 345 is -- I don't know the specifics
 8 of what the Town of Easton's plans are, but it
 9 should be similar to what we did in
 10 St. Michael's which is just, you know,
 11 replacing, sealing pipes, junctions and whatnot
 12 in the legacy collection system to keep ground
 13 water from getting into the system and also
 14 inflow, like surface water getting into the
 15 system, which just overloads the treatment
 16 plants. So that's the intent of the work.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: And that work is done by
 18 them, not our money, right?
 19 MR. MERTAUGH: Absolutely.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So that's what we
 21 need to make sure everybody knows.

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1 MR. MERTAUGH: Yes, sir.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So I'm going to go
 3 ahead and open it, the public hearing. I'll
 4 give you three minutes if you want to speak
 5 individually and five minutes if you're to be
 6 speaking for an organization.
 7 I'll go ahead and open it up to -- thanks,
 8 Mike -- 345. Over here to my left, anybody
 9 want to come up and talk about 345? Okay.
 10 Over here to my left (sic.), anybody want
 11 to speak about that, 345? Okay.
 12 So is this something, Madam Secretary, we
 13 can go ahead and vote on? Okay.
 14 So I'm going to go ahead and close the
 15 public hearing on 345.
 16 Is there a motion?
 17 MR. STEPP: So moved.
 18 MS. HAYTHE: Second.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 20 second to go ahead and move forward with Bill
 21 345. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

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<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>4 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>8 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>10 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next, Madam</p> <p>12 Secretary, Bill 346.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 346, a</p> <p>14 resolution to amend the Talbot County</p> <p>15 comprehensive water and sewer plan for the</p> <p>16 purpose of adding or modifying the Talbot</p> <p>17 County capital project for fiscal years 2024</p> <p>18 and 2025 to add a new capital project in the</p> <p>19 amount of \$8.0 million for the purpose of</p> <p>20 replacing and/or habilitating the Region V</p> <p>21 Tilghman sewer collection system to mitigate</p>	<p>1 Anybody on my right 346? Okay.</p> <p>2 I'll go ahead and close the public</p> <p>3 hearing.</p> <p>4 Do I have a motion to go ahead and move</p> <p>5 forward on 346?</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: We can just move this to a</p> <p>7 vote. You don't need a motion.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: I believe so.</p> <p>9 Right, Patrick?</p> <p>10 (Cross talk.)</p> <p>11 MR. LESHER: Call the roll.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Patrick (inaudible).</p> <p>13 MR. THOMAS: Yeah. You can call for a</p> <p>14 vote.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>16 could you call the vote.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>20 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p>
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<p>1 inflow and infiltration.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You want to come on</p> <p>3 up again.</p> <p>4 MR. MERTAUGH: Certainly.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.</p> <p>6 MR. MERTAUGH: Okay. Mike Mertaugh,</p> <p>7 Talbot County Public Works.</p> <p>8 Essentially the same sort of project.</p> <p>9 This is literally similar to what we've done in</p> <p>10 St. Michael's. Obviously we have water tables</p> <p>11 down there. We have very old legacy systems.</p> <p>12 Just trying to seal up the collection system to</p> <p>13 keep from overloading the treatment plant.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds great.</p> <p>15 MR. MERTAUGH: Okay.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Like I said, I'm going to</p> <p>17 open it up to the public hearing. I'll give</p> <p>18 you three minutes individually. And if you</p> <p>19 want to represent somebody, I'll give you five.</p> <p>20 Here to my left, anybody want to come up</p> <p>21 and talk about 346?</p>	<p>1 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>3 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>5 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next is Resolution</p> <p>7 349.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 349, a</p> <p>9 resolution to amend the official road name list</p> <p>10 for Talbot County to change the names of</p> <p>11 Lincoln Road and Shellmill Avenue to Bellevue</p> <p>12 School Road and Turner Avenue, respectively, in</p> <p>13 the Village of Bellevue, Talbot County,</p> <p>14 Maryland, pursuant to section 1315C of the</p> <p>15 Talbot County Code.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Mertaugh, you want to</p> <p>17 speak about this one more time.</p> <p>18 MR. MERTAUGH: Okay. So Mike Mertaugh,</p> <p>19 Talbot County Public Works.</p> <p>20 This is an existing community in Bellevue.</p> <p>21 It laid dormant for many years, and it was</p>

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1 purchased by -- it was re-subdivided -- revised,
 2 a few lots purchased by a developer. It's
 3 under development.
 4 The original revision plat used the same
 5 names that the roads had forever. And so
 6 there's been a desire to change those names.
 7 So they're private roads and they're
 8 changing them from Lincoln Road and Shellmill
 9 to Bellevue School Road and Turner Avenue.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 11 MR. THOMAS: I will just add because these
 12 road names are in the county road name list,
 13 under the county code it can only be changed by
 14 resolution of the Council. So that's why we
 15 need to go through this process.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yeah. Okay. So
 17 I'll go ahead and open it up to the public on
 18 349. And I'll give you three minutes
 19 individually and five minutes for an
 20 organization.
 21 Mr. Showalter.

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1 MR. SHOWALTER: President Callahan,
 2 Members of the Council, thank you very much.
 3 I'm Ryan Showalter. I'm appearing on behalf of
 4 Long Iron Investment Group, which is the
 5 current owner, developer of these lots.
 6 At Mr. Mertaugh noted, these lots were
 7 platted decades ago with road names that were
 8 established by a subdivider many, many, many
 9 years ago. The Ripple family re-platted those
 10 lots several years ago, consolidated a number
 11 of small lots into a smaller number of larger
 12 lots, and retained road names that existed for
 13 many years.
 14 After discussions with the community,
 15 there's a desire to change two of the names.
 16 There are not existing residents or historic
 17 residents along these streets.
 18 We're not changing people's street names
 19 or requiring people to change their addresses.
 20 These are just names of two roads that were
 21 paper streets. So we're changing names in

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1 advance of having people moving in to use names
 2 that are reflective of the community.
 3 And we appreciate your support.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Appreciate it.
 5 Sounds good. Okay.
 6 Anybody else? Okay.
 7 Anybody else on the right? Okay.
 8 So I'll go ahead and close the public
 9 hearing on that.
 10 And I'll call for a vote, Madam Secretary.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
 14 MR. STEPP: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 16 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 18 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 20 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You got your road

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1 names.
 2 MR. SHOWALTER: Thank you.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: You're welcome. Okay.
 4 Madam Secretary, could you go to the next,
 5 which would be Bill 1548.
 6 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1548, a bill to
 7 authorize Talbot County, Maryland, the county,
 8 to borrow not more than \$800,000 in order to
 9 finance and refinance improvements to certain
 10 wastewater facilities in the county and to
 11 effect such borrowing by the issuance and sale
 12 of one or more series of its general obligation
 13 bonds payable from ad valorem taxes to be
 14 levied by the county, exempting the bonds from
 15 the provisions of sections 19-205 and 19-207 of
 16 the Local Government Article of the Annotated
 17 Code of Maryland, authorizing the consolidation
 18 of separate series of bonds into one or more
 19 bonds, authorizing the refunding of such bonds
 20 and relating generally to the issuance and sale
 21 of such bonds for such purposes.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So 1548, I'm going
 2 to open that, the public hearing. Three
 3 minutes for individuals, five minutes for an
 4 organization. Anyone want to speak on 1548?
 5 1548, anybody want to speak about it? Okay.
 6 I'll close it, the public hearing on 1548,
 7 and call it for a vote, Madam Secretary.
 8 SECRETARY: This one --
 9 MR. LESHER: This needs to go to third
 10 reader.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, it does?
 12 MR. LESHER: Which we can just allow to
 13 happen unless there's a need to rush this.
 14 MS. MORRIS: There's no need to rush this.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: So we can do it --
 16 MR. LESHER: So on the next agenda.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 18 MR. LESHER: Be eligible to vote.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We'll push that to
 20 the next meeting and vote on it next meeting.
 21 Okay. Okay. All right.

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1 So we're through with the public hearing,
 2 the status of the public hearing currently
 3 scheduled for -- now, we're at Resolution 338.
 4 SECRETARY: Resolution 338, a resolution
 5 to amend the Talbot County comprehensive water
 6 and sewer plan for consistency with discharge
 7 permit number 19-DP-3460 issued by the Maryland
 8 Department of the Environment on October 27,
 9 2022, and to require that any future expansion
 10 of the new Lakeside wastewater treatment plant
 11 shall require an amendment to the comprehensive
 12 water and sewer plan.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Resolution 338. So
 14 where do we stand with that? That's the public
 15 hearing, correct, or...
 16 SECRETARY: No. This is just Council.
 17 (Cross talk.)
 18 MR. THOMAS: Mr. President.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.
 20 MR. THOMAS: I think I can help explain.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

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1 MR. THOMAS: So these three resolutions,
 2 338, 347, and 348.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 4 MR. THOMAS: Have been introduced by
 5 Council. They were scheduled for public
 6 hearings before the Council on October, at your
 7 meeting I believe on October 24th.
 8 However, the Planning Commission held
 9 their public hearings on the resolutions last
 10 Wednesday. They found that 338 as presented
 11 was not consistent with the county's
 12 Comprehensive Plan and they postponed
 13 consideration of 347 and 348 to a later date.
 14 So we're bringing this forward because the
 15 Council may wish to consider postponing the
 16 public hearings until after the Planning
 17 Commission has made a recommendation on all
 18 three and has concluded their business so that
 19 the public will have the benefit of that
 20 information and as will the Council.
 21 And then the Council can finally act on

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1 these, in these matters, assuming that the
 2 Planning Commission finds them consistent with
 3 the Comprehensive Plan.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Council feel okay
 5 with that, to go ahead and push that off?
 6 MR. LESHER: I think it's --
 7 MS. MIELKE: Well.
 8 MR. LESHER: Go ahead.
 9 MS. MIELKE: I was going to suggest that
 10 before we proceed with the consideration of
 11 these three resolutions, that we schedule a
 12 work session with the Planning Commission and
 13 MDE so that everybody is clear as to what is
 14 needed in these amendments.
 15 MS. HAYTHE: Say that again, Lynn.
 16 MS. MIELKE: I'm proposing that before we
 17 consider these three resolutions, that we have
 18 a work session with the Planning Commission and
 19 MDE so that everybody understands what needs to
 20 be done with respect to these because they
 21 didn't vote, as I said, they tabled the last

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1 two.

2 They also suggested that with regard to

3 338, that if it was tweaked, they would

4 reconsider it.

5 MS. HAYTHE: Right.

6 MS. MIELKE: So seems to me that we have

7 to have a discussion about it so that everybody

8 is on the same page.

9 MS. HAYTHE: I agree. And that was

10 proposed to County Manager Clay Stamp, to set

11 up a meeting with MDE. So I agree.

12 And now, formally for the record, yeah, I

13 agree we need to have a meeting with MDE, a

14 work session.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

16 MR. LESHER: So regardless, the conclusion

17 is that we should not proceed with the public

18 hearing on October 24th.

19 MS. HAYTHE: Correct.

20 MR. LESHER: Postpone those.

21 MS. HAYTHE: Correct.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: We do it after.

2 MR. LESHER: Until after we get an opinion

3 from the, a finding from the...

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Planning Commission.

5 MR. LESHER: Planning Commission.

6 MR. STEPP: Is this for all three of those

7 resolutions --

8 MS. MIELKE: Yes.

9 MR. STEPP: -- 338, 348, and 348?

10 MS. MIELKE: Yes.

11 MR. STEPP: Okay.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

13 MR. LESHER: That gives the sufficient

14 direction to staff?

15 MR. THOMAS: Yes.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: You okay with that? Okay.

17 Sounds good.

18 Next on the agenda is Mr. Mertaugh. You

19 want to give us an update on Goldsborough Neck

20 Road.

21 MR. MERTAUGH: Okay. So the project for

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1 Goldsborough Neck Road and Glebe Road culvert

2 replacement. So this project was essentially

3 is to replace a failing corrugated metal pipe

4 culvert under Goldsborough Neck Road at the

5 intersection with Glebe Road. It's a large

6 culvert. It's 72 inches.

7 So the project will replace this culvert

8 with a 78-inch reinforced concrete pipe

9 culvert. And then also as part of the project,

10 it will add a left-turn lane from southbound

11 Goldsborough Neck Road onto Glebe Road, some

12 widening for about 350 feet, and a modest

13 two-foot shoulders on either side of the road.

14 So the project was advertised this summer.

15 It was awarded to David A. Bramble at the

16 beginning of August, August 8th.

17 Since that award, there's been some things

18 going on behind the scenes. To perform the

19 improvements, some Verizon lines need to be

20 relocated. Of course, at extra cost. But

21 that's been approved.

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1 So we've been contacted by Verizon.

2 They're going to start doing that work this

3 week as far as like putting in conduits and

4 whatnot. They're still ordering cables. That

5 work won't require any actual -- it's not

6 anticipated to require any road closures.

7 Might be some flagging operations or things of

8 that nature.

9 So David A. Bramble, the contractor, is in

10 the process of -- they've had a lot of shop

11 drawings, detail drawings for construction of

12 the pipe and the head walls and whatnot.

13 They've been getting approved.

14 So really what we're waiting for at the

15 moment is the manufacturing and delivery of

16 these large pipes. So they anticipate that in

17 the next few weeks. They anticipate starting

18 construction the second week of November. We

19 won't have a specific date until they get a

20 commitment from the pipe manufacturer to do

21 that.

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1 We have -- the construction will require
 2 complete closure of Goldsborough Neck Road to
 3 put this pipe in. It's anticipated to last up
 4 to 30 days. Hopefully it won't, but we have to
 5 prepare for that.
 6 And so we have -- the contractor has and
 7 our consultant, we have a maintenance of
 8 traffic for a detour. That detour will be,
 9 essentially the closure to through traffic of
 10 Goldsborough Neck Road will be between Villa
 11 Road and Glebe. And the detour will be
 12 Mistletoe Road, which, as you know, the town
 13 extended it to Goldsborough Neck a couple of
 14 years ago.
 15 And so that's where we're at. Hopefully
 16 it will go smoothly. And that's pretty much
 17 the status of the project.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Mike, just a quick
 19 question.
 20 MR. MERTAUGH: Certainly.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: So two things. So do you

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1 think like the detour, going through Mistletoe
 2 Drive, so people are going out most of the time
 3 on 50?
 4 MR. MERTAUGH: Correct.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: So do you think it might
 6 be, instead of bringing all that traffic
 7 through the park, do you think they should go
 8 to the light and go on the bypass? I'm just
 9 curious.
 10 MR. MERTAUGH: Right. So I think that
 11 realistically, I think once people take the
 12 detour once, that's what they'll do.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 14 MR. MERTAUGH: People that are familiar.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 16 MR. MERTAUGH: But we still need that
 17 detour for folks that aren't.
 18 And as you're aware, because of all the
 19 map apps and such, we have a lot of traffic on
 20 that road from Glebe Road from people that
 21 aren't familiar. So we have to provide that

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1 detour.
 2 Otherwise, the detour would have to start
 3 all the way at the far end of Airport Road, and
 4 I think that would be difficult.
 5 So yes. I think that as a practical
 6 matter, that's what folks will do.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. When you say closing
 8 for 30 days, does that mean the whole project
 9 from the Villa Road to the culvert, all that's
 10 going to be done, or just like it will be some
 11 through traffic but it's still going to be
 12 going on?
 13 MR. MERTAUGH: So the 30 days is to put
 14 the culvert in, but also from I guess a
 15 constructability perspective, since we're
 16 widening the road, and all the widening is to
 17 one side.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 19 MR. MERTAUGH: Because we're trying to
 20 stay off the individual small properties. So
 21 it makes it a little difficult to do it in

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1 phases.
 2 But so the anticipation is is to get this
 3 work done. There will likely be some ancillary
 4 type work that will be just single-lane
 5 closures or something.
 6 But I think the good news is we've worked
 7 with this contractor on multiple similar
 8 projects. In fact, right down the street is I
 9 guess the headwaters of Glebe Creek. They did
 10 a big culvert replacement several years ago.
 11 They're a big contractor, big local contractor.
 12 And they want to get it done as quickly as we
 13 do.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good.
 15 MR. MERTAUGH: So I think that 30 days is
 16 the outside window.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 18 MR. MERTAUGH: Just in case there's some
 19 weather issues.
 20 So once we get a definitive date,
 21 obviously the Council will be advised of that.

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1 And we'll start getting advanced variable
 2 message boards out there as soon as we can.
 3 And newspaper and social media and such.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Any discussion from Council
 5 on that?
 6 MR. LESHHER: Just a question. With the
 7 widening project here, I guess this is the
 8 final section of Goldsborough Neck Road, that
 9 we've done all the way from Airport Road to
 10 Villa Road. Now this is that final --
 11 MR. MERTAUGH: So there's actually a small
 12 piece between this and what we widened on the
 13 other side of Villa Road. That culvert that we
 14 replaced several years ago will have to be
 15 widened some.
 16 And so it's going to be a little more
 17 demanding permit wise because of some of this
 18 funding, which was Rural Maryland Council grant
 19 monies. There's some windows on that, when to
 20 use it. So we wanted to go ahead and get this
 21 underway now. So there is a small section that

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1 will still need to be done.
 2 MR. LESHHER: With the new ditches here, I
 3 presume there's an opportunity to install our
 4 best management practice stormwater ditch
 5 retrofits.
 6 MR. MERTAUGH: Correct.
 7 MR. LESHHER: Alongside this new section?
 8 MR. MERTAUGH: Right. So the east side
 9 ditch is what we call a flat bottom ditch,
 10 which is actually a best management practice,
 11 as cited by MDE, to manage the runoff there.
 12 So as part of this project, it will likely
 13 just be a turf or something of that nature.
 14 And then as we move forward, if we want to
 15 enhance that with native vegetation or
 16 something, we can revisit it then. If that
 17 answers the question.
 18 MR. LESHHER: I'd love to see it done all
 19 at once, if we can possibly make that happen.
 20 MR. MERTAUGH: Sure thing. Okay.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Any other questions?

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1 MR. STEPP: I'm just making sure, Mike,
 2 we're good with all things EMS obviously with
 3 them reporting out at the airport there?
 4 MR. MERTAUGH: Right. So of course, we'll
 5 certainly contact everyone.
 6 But yeah. The Sheriff's Office has been
 7 involved. They're good with this. And 911
 8 also. They just need to know when it's going
 9 to happen. Board of Ed also, yeah.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
 11 MR. MERTAUGH: Thank you.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay.
 13 MS. MORRIS: So in follow up to Mike's
 14 presentation, the first item on the agenda is
 15 to request Council consideration for the
 16 approval of that section of Goldsborough Neck
 17 Road between Glebe Road and Villa Road for a
 18 period of up to 30 days starting approximately
 19 the second week in November.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is there a motion?
 21 MR. LESHHER: I'll move to approve.

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1 MS. HAYTHE: Second.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We've got a motion
 3 and second to approximately close Glebe Road or
 4 Goldsborough Neck Road for about 30 days.
 5 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote,
 6 please.
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
 10 MR. STEPP: Aye.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 12 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 13 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 14 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 16 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 18 MS. MORRIS: Great. I'd like to invite
 19 Anne Roane to come up from our Planning and
 20 Zoning Office.
 21 The next item is a request from the

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1 Department of Planning and Zoning for a letter
 2 of acceptance of a Maryland Department of
 3 Natural Resources resiliency through
 4 restoration initiative funding for the Tilghman
 5 on Chesapeake Community Association's shoreline
 6 project.
 7 The Department of Planning and Zoning has
 8 been working with the community association in
 9 Tilghman on this project, and they are seeking
 10 Council approval to accept funding in the
 11 amount of \$433,363 for implementing and
 12 construction of an adaptive and resilient
 13 coastline.
 14 If you have anything else to add.
 15 MS. ROANE: Anne Roane, Planning and
 16 Zoning.
 17 This is a very exciting project. This
 18 is -- been working with, as Jessica said, with
 19 the Tilghman on the Chesapeake Community
 20 Association for a shoreline restoration project
 21 that the county received a grant in excess of

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1 \$33,000 for the design of the project. That
 2 was closed out, as you could see in the letter.
 3 This funding is for the actual
 4 implementation for that project. And this is a
 5 non-matching grant. There are no commitments
 6 financially from the county being requested.
 7 The community association has applied,
 8 this isn't in your letter, but they have
 9 applied through the federal government's
 10 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for
 11 additional funds to do the implementation.
 12 If they are awarded that, this funding
 13 would act as a match for that funding. In the
 14 event that they're not awarded, although it's
 15 looking very favorable, we've been getting good
 16 feedback from them, the community will have to
 17 work with the consultant that did the design
 18 work to see what a phase one would be or how to
 19 phase this project. But they've been -- they
 20 sort of have that in their back pocket at this
 21 moment.

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1 But the real hope is that we, I say we,
 2 but they get that National Fish and Wildlife
 3 Foundation funding and the whole project can be
 4 completed.
 5 But this is a determined community
 6 association. They've been very involved. They
 7 consider this project to be a model that can be
 8 replicated. So even though it's on their, the
 9 community association's property, they want to
 10 be able to have signage and explain the
 11 benefits of this project and help other
 12 communities see -- find opportunities to
 13 replicate it. So that's where we are.
 14 The DNR requires the Council to provide an
 15 acceptance letter.
 16 I've done a preliminary acceptance through
 17 the open, the grants.gov portal, which is their
 18 portal, but they have to have a signed letter
 19 from you guys.
 20 MR. LESHAR: Ms. Roane, the project is
 21 along the main Tilghman Island shoreline or

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1 does this involve the causeway and it's on
 2 the --
 3 MS. ROANE: No, no, no, no, no.
 4 MR. LESHAR: -- clubhouse?
 5 MS. ROANE: It's on the main waterfront.
 6 MR. LESHAR: Right. Protecting the
 7 houses?
 8 MS. ROANE: It's protecting the houses.
 9 There has been some, as you know or can
 10 imagine, some losing of the shoreline.
 11 So this will be involving several
 12 different means of protection. And also, some
 13 habitat encouragement. So that's -- but so
 14 there will be some meadows and a small dune and
 15 a pathway.
 16 So it's not a huge project, but it's
 17 enough to make a difference. And it's
 18 certainly enough to provide a demonstration of
 19 sort of best management practices in a way that
 20 I think it's going to be beneficial to the
 21 entire county. There are other locations that

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<p>1 could benefit from this.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other questions,</p> <p>3 Council?</p> <p>4 MS. HAYTHE: No.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHHER: I'll --</p> <p>7 MS. HAYTHE: Motion.</p> <p>8 MR. LESHHER: I'll second.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>10 second to do an acceptance letter for Planning</p> <p>11 and Zoning on this restoration project. Madam</p> <p>12 Secretary, could you call the vote.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>16 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>20 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p>	<p>1 indicated that our fire protective system in</p> <p>2 the cell and housing areas were irreparable.</p> <p>3 They have a 30-year life, and the building is</p> <p>4 33 years of age.</p> <p>5 So the significant issue that was</p> <p>6 determined by the lab is that the present</p> <p>7 sprinkler heads would not open.</p> <p>8 They have a little bit of a cost to them</p> <p>9 because they're anti-ligature. They're</p> <p>10 spherical and cone shaped so that nothing can</p> <p>11 be tied to them. And there are in the cell</p> <p>12 areas.</p> <p>13 And I come to seek funding so that we can</p> <p>14 very quickly resolve the issue and be back in</p> <p>15 compliance with National Fire Protection --</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great.</p> <p>17 MR. KOKOLIS: -- Administration Acts.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Any questions from Council,</p> <p>19 discussion?</p> <p>20 MR. LESHHER: Mr. Kokolis, I just see that</p> <p>21 we've got a large block of capital funding for</p>
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<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. There you go.</p> <p>3 MS. ROANE: Thank you very much.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>5 MS. MIELKE: Thank you, Anne.</p> <p>6 MS. MORRIS: Thanks, Anne.</p> <p>7 Council, next I'd like to call up Director</p> <p>8 Kokolis for a request from the Department of</p> <p>9 Corrections to award a contract for the</p> <p>10 replacement of approximately 200 sprinkler</p> <p>11 heads at the Department of Corrections.</p> <p>12 There are sufficient funds in their</p> <p>13 capital budget for this project, and the award</p> <p>14 would go to VSC Fire and Security in the amount</p> <p>15 of \$45,617.71.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Welcome.</p> <p>17 MR. KOKOLIS: Good evening, Mr. President,</p> <p>18 Members of the Council. Terry Kokolis,</p> <p>19 director of corrections in Talbot County.</p> <p>20 And I'll be very direct. Fire safety</p> <p>21 inspection of the Department of Corrections</p>	<p>1 various upgrades. And there was a little room</p> <p>2 in it for this.</p> <p>3 Are you confident that we'll still be able</p> <p>4 to accomplish all the other programs within the</p> <p>5 budget?</p> <p>6 MR. KOKOLIS: I hope to. I hope to be</p> <p>7 able to comply and keep it within the capital</p> <p>8 budget. It depends on how the shower project</p> <p>9 rolls out, if there's extenuating damage behind</p> <p>10 the walls that are at this point unknown. But</p> <p>11 we hope that it complies with our capital</p> <p>12 budget that's already been approved.</p> <p>13 In putting life safety, it becomes really</p> <p>14 central and imperative.</p> <p>15 It's one of the number of inspections that</p> <p>16 are provided, including our boiler system, by</p> <p>17 the State of Maryland. Our elevators, they all</p> <p>18 are under a federal compliance mandate. And</p> <p>19 when we get them inspected, they generally go</p> <p>20 out to the lab. And the lab confirms what our</p> <p>21 worst fears were.</p>

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1 So I'm here to seek funds to replace --
 2 authorize to use funds that are already
 3 approved to replace the system as quickly as
 4 possible.
 5 It's roughly 200 -- it's difficult to
 6 count cells and sprinkler heads in the jail.
 7 But three different vendors came in, and they
 8 all came up with a plus or five ten. So this
 9 really gauges about 220 sprinklers heads that
 10 we look to replace in this project.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other questions?
 12 MS. HAYTHE: No, no.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 14 MS. HAYTHE: Make a motion to approve the
 15 award.
 16 MR. STEPP: Second.
 17 MS. HAYTHE: For VSC Fire Security.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So we've got a
 19 motion and second to replace the sprinkler
 20 heads at the jail. Madam Secretary, could you
 21 call the vote.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
 4 MR. STEPP: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 6 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 8 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 9 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 10 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
 12 MR. KOKOLIS: Thank you.
 13 MS. MORRIS: Thank you.
 14 And next, Cassandra Vanhooser is walking
 15 in. As you read in your agenda packet, the
 16 Department of Economic Development and Tourism
 17 is seeking Council approval to award a sole
 18 source contract to WHC of Baltimore to fund two
 19 cohorts of a training program for
 20 minority-owned businesses in Talbot County.
 21 No county funds are required.

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1 The Department of Economic Development and
 2 Tourism was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the
 3 Maryland Department of Economic Development
 4 fund for this project.
 5 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you. Cassandra
 6 Vanhooser, director of economic development and
 7 tourism.
 8 You have my request before you. We have
 9 the money in hand from the Maryland Rural
 10 Economic Development Fund, which was approved
 11 by the Governor's Office, the Regional Council,
 12 and the Department of Commerce. So this
 13 program has been vetted.
 14 We have chosen a sole source procurement
 15 because the gentleman we have selected is the
 16 star in this arena and he offers this program
 17 for Johns Hopkins, for Morgan State, and for
 18 the Small Business Administration, as well as
 19 Anne Arundel County and Charles County.
 20 We're excited about this program because
 21 it will give us the opportunity to offer

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1 additional training to businesses that are
 2 looking to grow and prosper in Talbot County.
 3 So we're asking you to approve this.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions?
 5 Discussions? Okay.
 6 Do I have a motion?
 7 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve the
 8 request.
 9 MR. STEPP: Second.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 11 second.
 12 Mr. Leshner, did you want to say something?
 13 MR. LESHNER: No.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Got a motion and second.
 15 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
 19 MR. STEPP: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 21 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 2 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 4 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 5 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you so much.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 7 MS. MORRIS: Thank you.
 8 And then just the last thing tonight is to
 9 announce that unfortunately, Easton Airport
 10 Day, which was scheduled for Saturday,
 11 October 14th, has been canceled due to the
 12 forecast. That event takes about a year to
 13 plan in advance. Unfortunately, we will not be
 14 able to reschedule for this year. Stay tuned
 15 for 2024.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds great. Sorry
 17 to hear about that. Okay.
 18 Next on the agenda is public comment. Do
 19 we have a list or anything out there do you
 20 know?
 21 MS. MORRIS: Not today.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: No. Okay. No problem.
 2 Does anybody like to come up and say
 3 anything?
 4 MR. BERNARD: It would be great. Okay.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 6 MR. BERNARD: Short and quick.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: We like short and quick.
 8 MR. BERNARD: Terrence Bernard. A
 9 reminder that there is a public presentation
 10 tomorrow at Sts. Peters (sic.) and Paul,
 11 six p.m. This is put on by Maryland Voter
 12 Integrity Group. The founder is Ms. Robin
 13 Sachs. There will be a presentation and there
 14 will be a question and answer time period open
 15 to the public. Free.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great.
 17 MR. BERNARD: Please attend.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds good. I appreciate
 19 that.
 20 MR. BERNARD: Thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.

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1 Anybody else want to say anything? Okay.
 2 We're down to Council comments.
 3 MS. HAYTHE: Starting at my end?
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: You want me to or you want
 5 me to go to Dave?
 6 MS. HAYTHE: Go to Dave. I'm still
 7 writing my comments.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.
 9 Go ahead, Dave.
 10 MR. STEPP: I'll keep it short tonight.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I got you.
 12 Mr. Leshner.
 13 MR. LESHNER: I have nothing.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Ms. Mielke.
 15 MS. MIELKE: Ditto.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You want me to talk?
 17 MS. HAYTHE: Nobody has nothing but me?
 18 Oh, my goodness.
 19 I only have two things.
 20 I just wanted to encourage the public to
 21 attend the Resource Day event that's hosted by

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1 the Talbot Hunger Coalition on Saturday,
 2 October 14th, from ten a.m. to one p.m.
 3 And then also, the Minority Business
 4 Resource Fair that's hosted by the Talbot
 5 County Economic Development and Tourism Office,
 6 Chesapeake Multicultural Resource, and Unity
 7 for Entrepreneurship in Maryland. And that's
 8 going to be held at the Waterfowl Building in
 9 Easton from four to seven I believe is the time
 10 for that.
 11 So I just wanted to let the community
 12 know. If anybody is interested in business
 13 resources or any other general resources in
 14 Talbot County, these two events would be great
 15 to attend. That's all I have.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great.
 17 I guess all I have is I just wanted to
 18 remind everybody that we're starting at six
 19 again. So for people that tuned in a little
 20 bit later or whatever, we'll be to six o'clock
 21 from here on out until next year.

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1 Mr. Leshner, you want to go ahead and end
 2 it for us.
 3 MR. LESHNER: The County Council's next
 4 meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 24th,
 5 beginning at six o'clock p.m. The Council will
 6 be convening in open session at 4:30 p.m. and
 7 then adjourning into closed session to discuss
 8 real estate, legal, and personnel matters as
 9 listed on the statement for closing that
 10 meeting.
 11 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn
 12 this meeting and reconvene as noted?
 13 MS. HAYTHE: So moved.
 14 MR. STEPP: Second.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: I got a motion and second.
 16 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
 20 MR. STEPP: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

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1 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 3 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 5 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot.
 7 (Meeting concluded at: 8:02 p.m.)
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1 STATE OF MARYLAND
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and
 3 for the State of Maryland, County of Baltimore City,
 4 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot
 5 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me
 6 at the time and place herein set according to law,
 7 was interrogated by counsel.
 8
 9 I further certify that the examination was
 10 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed
 11 from my stenographic notes to the within printed
 12 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription
 13 in a true and accurate manner.
 14
 15 I further certify that the stipulations
 16 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my
 17 presence.
 18
 19 I further certify that I am not of counsel
 20 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,
 21 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way
 interested in the outcome of this action.
 AS WITNESS my hand Notorial Seal this 16th
 day of October, 2023, at Easton, MD.



 Diane Houlihan
 Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2025

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