OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

October 27, 2026; 5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Chuck F. Callahan
Pete Lesher
Keasha N. Haythe
Lynn L. Mielke
Dave Stepp

Reported by
Diane Houlihan

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

MR. CALLAHAN: So if you could please stand for the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag, please.

(Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's go ahead and get started on tonight's agenda. We've got the agenda before us, Council. Is there any additions, deletions, or corrections to the agenda, Council?

MS. HAYTHE: No.

MR. STEPP: None here.

MR. CALLAHAN: Hearing none, let the chair move that the agenda be accepted as unanimous consent.

Next is the minutes of October 13th. That's before us. Is there any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes, Council, that you've seen? Okay. Hearing none, the chair moves the minutes be accepted

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as unanimous consent.

Okay. Next is the disbursements of October 20th and October 27th are before us. Any additions, deletions, or corrections to the disbursements, Council? Okay. Hearing none, the chair moves that the disbursements be accepted as unanimous consent.

Okay. First on the agenda is Patty and Lucy. Come on up. You want to come up? You're good? Okay. Okay. All right. Okay.

MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: She's my behind the scenes.

MR. CALLAHAN: Is she now? Okay.

MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: I try to pull her out, but she --

MR. CALLAHAN: I got you. I got you.

So welcome and welcome to tonight.

MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Thank you.

MR. CALLAHAN: So tell us some good stuff about these animals. Tell us some good stuff.

MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Well, I wanted

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start out with fiscal year 2026 numbers.

MR. CALLAHAN: Could you introduce yourself, please?

MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Oh, sorry.

MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Patty Quimby, executive director of Talbot Humane and Talbot County Animal Control.

MR. CALLAHAN: You got it.

MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Animal Control last year had 350 initial calls. That's two officers for the entire county seven days a week. Ninety percent of these calls were bite cases, stray animals, or violations of county and State law investigations. More than 70 percent of those calls required follow-up visits or further investigation. This was a 14 percent increase in calls over the previous year.

As I stated, we have two officers for the entire county. They not only respond to these

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calls and do the follow-up work, they provide a great deal of community support. They transport pets to the veterinarians for people who don't have the ability, deliver food or supplies to residents, and do check-ins, which are all not on those calls.

In-take of animals. We had 588 stray animals. This was a 12 percent increase over the previous fiscal year. 275 owner surrenders, which was an 18 percent decrease from the previous year, which is an important number to remember. We had 106 requested euthanasias for ill or injured personal pets, 18 animals were born at the shelter, 33 animals were transferred in from other organizations, most of those were dogs, that we helped our surrounding shelters with.

We had only one confiscation this year, and that was a police assistance. So we did not have any cruelty impoundments this year in Talbot County. So that's a good thing.

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MR. CALLAHAN: That's good.
MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Outcomes. We had 543 adoptions, 40 animals passed away or arrived deceased, 200 animals were reunited with their owners or were community cat spay neuter trap, TNR, trap, neuter, returned to their community. We had 42 animals transferred either to wildlife rehabilitation centers or other 501(c)(3) rescue groups, and we had 74 euthanasia of shelter animals due to severe illness, injury or unsafe behaviors.
Our live release rate for fiscal year 2026 was 93 percent, and it currently remains at that.
Our community. We currently have 89 animals in our care and 67 in foster care. Last year, 590 animals benefited from our foster program. That's more than half of the animals that came through our door were fostered by members of our community. And that's really an outstanding number to consider

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how involved our community is in what we do.
We talk often about Project Humane Communities. And our fiscal year 26 outcomes were pretty impressive. We had 1,321 animals were spayed and neutered. That included shelter and private pets.
Aside from spay neuter, more than half of our shelter pets received some sort of above and beyond care, which ensures that when they do enter a new home, they are healthy. This included surgeries, heartworm treatments, upper respiratory is famous in cats. All of those things, we ensure animals are taken care of.
Along with that, more than 400 pets from the community received medical intervention services for either acute or chronic medical needs.
We distributed 10,000 pounds of pet food to our community.
And this is where the 18 percent reduction in owner surrenders comes in. Because of all

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these services that we're able to provide thanks to our donors and grants that we receive, the actual organic number of owner surrenders is continuing to go down. I think last year it was down by 12 percent. So those numbers are continuing to go down. (Indiscernible) whole lot of control over stray animals. But owner surrenders, we can help those people with those animals.
When these services cannot help people, we are still here to receive their animals. There are certainly times when it's just not feasible for people to keep pets in the home. Maybe it's not safe for the people or the pets or it's just not something that they can handle. And that is why we are an open admission shelter and our doors stay open.
More than 700 animals received free or reduced microchipping as well last year.
I think we're entering our 14th year of the Maryland Department of Agriculture spay

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neuter grant, and we've thankfully received a grant every year. We have received a grant for 2027 for $59,500 to spay and neuter 600 dogs and cats in Talbot and Dorchester County. Talbot Humane, we match that with donations. So our spay neuter line item is about $125,000 a year just for strict spay neuter.
I want to thank everyone who was able to come for a tour to the shelter. For those that couldn't, we missed you. But several of you have been to the shelter before. You saw that we are bursting at the seams, animals and people, and the reason why we are working towards our new shelter.
We spoke about Becker Morgan Group and Shelter Architects Unleashed, along with Lane Engineering have been working with us for the past ten months. And we are close to finalizing the plans for our state-of-the-art animal welfare center.
We have begun the permitting process and

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have approval from the Easton Zoning Board. So that's exciting.

We would be nothing without our community. They are the reflection of -- we are the reflection of who our community is and how they care about animals.

We received a grant from the Brian Brothers Foundation for our Paws to Read Challenge. Brian Brothers Foundation, Talbot County Public Libraries, Easton Utilities, and Papa John's have teamed up to get kids reading with us. This challenge encourages children to come to the shelter to read to pets. For every 25 hours that they read to the animals, there's an incentive; activity books, pizza coupons, and a T-shirt. So we're hoping that we get some kids all the way up to the 75 hours by August 1st so they can wear their Talbot Humane Paws to Read T-shirts.

Our annual holiday boutique opens on November 5th, and it's open Wednesday through

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Saturday through December 19th.

Thanks, again, to our local businesses and community members. Our famous basket raffle is back. We are so blessed to have such an amazing community that supports us in everything we do.

I want to make sure to mention that the Talbot County Health Department will be holding a rabies clinic on Saturday, November 7th, from one to three. That is at their location. You can find out more information from their Facebook page, their website, or from our Facebook page. I think it's very important for our community to know that is available. It's only $6, and it's a drive-through. So you don't even have to get out of your car.

MR. CALLAHAN: Nice.

MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: So that's really important.

A reminder. We provide $5 microchips to seniors 65 and older. Sometimes we have them

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for free, but that is 365 days a year.

And we also have no fees for veterans. All year long, veterans have no adoption fees.

So those are things that I think the community probably doesn't realize, and we want to get it out there so that people are coming to us when they're thinking of their needs and a new family member.

And a reminder, we have so many things going on in the community during the holiday season that are family oriented. You can find out all of that on our social media or our website.

And speaking of our website, it will finally be up, our brand new website, mid November. We are excited for this with all of our new branding and plans.

And I just want to thank -- I've had the joy of working with all five of you. I know two of you definitely won't be here, and I'm sorry to say. But I've enjoyed working with

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you, and I appreciate your support of what we do at Talbot Humane and Animal Control.

MR. CALLAHAN: Well, that's great, Patty. That's great. Okay.

MR. STEPP: Patty, as always, thank you just for everything you do.

It was good to see you the other day, too, at the (indiscernible).

MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Yup.

MR. STEPP: Thank you.

MR. LESHER: Thank you for the good services and this update.

Curious where the new shelter will be that you're planning.

MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: So the new shelter is located right next to our current shelter. We purchased the old rectory and the high school parking lot from the Catholic Church when they moved down to their new property. So that has been fully paid for.

And now we are working on the next phase,

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and that's putting the new building up.
Our current building will come fully down once we move in.
MS. MIELKE: I'm very impressed with what you do. I have one of your fur babies that I adopted. She's just a sweetheart. So thank you for all you do.
MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Thank you.
MS. HAYTHE: Patty, thank you for the update. I truly do enjoy it every year.
One question about the Paws to Read for children. What's the age group on that? Do you have an age group?
MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: It goes from pre-K all the way up. There's no limitation.
MS. HAYTHE: Okay.
MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: I mean if adults want to come read to the animals, I'll give them a T-shirt, too. It's all good.
MS. HAYTHE: All right. I have some young ladies that are interested in becoming vets and

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working with animals.
MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: That would be great.
MS. HAYTHE: So I'll be in touch about that in the future.
MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Super.
MS. HAYTHE: But thanks, again. I appreciate that.
MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Sure.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Patty.
MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Thank you.
MR. CALLAHAN: You do such a great job. And your partner in crime over here, you know.
So do you want to introduce because she's --
MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Oh, yeah.
MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. We need to introduce her a little bit.
MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: So Lucy Hughes came on board as my director of advancement in March, and she is keeping me straight.

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MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. That's good. That's good.
MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Keeping me in line the making sure I'm where I need to be. So we are very blessed to have Lucy.
MR. CALLAHAN: We are.
MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: She makes a huge difference for us.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Well, thanks a lot, guys. I appreciate you coming in.
MS. CRANKSHAW-QUIMBY: Thank you.
MR. CALLAHAN: Good job.
Okay. All right. Next on the agenda, introduction of an amendment, Resolution 398. Madam Secretary, when you get straight there.
SECRETARY: Do you want me to read the (indiscernible) or defer to Mr. Thomas?
MR. CALLAHAN: Well, that's what I'm saying, you know.
Patrick, you want to go ahead and explain Resolution 398?

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MR. THOMAS: Yeah. So Resolution 398, the goal is to connect 21 parcels all located on Goose Neck Road to sewer.
The proposed amendment just clarifies that one of those parcels, which is owned by the Geff kens, shown as tax map 47, parcel 61, actually has two residences on one parcel, each with separate addresses.
MR. CALLAHAN: Open.
MR. THOMAS: And therefore, they require two EDUs of sewer capacity, one for each residence.
MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
MR. THOMAS: The amendment simply reflects that and is consistent with the recommendation of the Public Works Advisory Board and the Planning Commission's recommendation.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. THOMAS: So that's the sole purpose of the amendment.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So it's eligible for

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vote. Or is it just --
(Cross talk.)
MR. THOMAS: Introduce and then vote on the amendment.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Show of hands.
MR. LESHER: So the amendment is introduced by Council.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So we're a little bit early on the public hearing.
So we want to start --
MR. THOMAS: Yes. This is eligible for vote.
SECRETARY: You need to vote on the amendment.
MR. LESHER: We've already had the public hearing on this one. So we can --
MR. CALLAHAN: Now we can vote?
MR. LESHER: Yes. So you'll need to call two votes, first on the amendment one.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So amendment one, Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

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SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
MR. STEPP: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
MR. LESHER: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
MS. MIELKE: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. LESHER: So now, it's Resolution 398 as amended.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. LESHER: We can call the vote on that.
MR. CALLAHAN: Right. Resolution 398 as amended. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.
SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

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MR. STEPP: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
MR. LESHER: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
MS. MIELKE: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Are we all good, Madam Secretary, on that? Okay. All right.
So we're a little early on the public hearing. So Clay, why don't we go ahead and you get in line --
MR. STAMP: Oh, Council, thank you.
Under county manager report this evening, I'll start off with a couple of board and committee appointments.
Requesting Council consideration for the appointment of Amanda Adkins to the Commission on Aging.
MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve the request.

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MS. MIELKE: Second.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and second. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.
SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
MR. STEPP: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
MR. LESHER: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
MS. MIELKE: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
MR. STAMP: And Council, requesting your consideration for the reappointment of Marci Ross, assistant director of the Maryland Department of Commerce, to the Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe Committee.
MR. LESHER: I'll move the appointment.
MS. HAYTHE: Second.

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MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and second. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.
SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
MR. STEPP: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
MR. LESHER: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
MS. MIELKE: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
MR. STAMP: Okay, Council. That takes care of board and committee appointments.
I would ask Rich Setter to come forward, your manager of the Hog Neck Golf Course. There are two items he has for you this evening.
He's going to request your consideration to reject bids received for Bid Number 26-14,

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Talbot County Hog Neck Golf Course, two-tier driving range, 10142 Old Cordova Road, Easton, Maryland.
I'll let him give you the information, fill in where necessary.
Rich, good evening.
MR. SETTER: Good evening, everybody. So we had the bids come in for --
MR. CALLAHAN: Can you introduce yourself?
MR. SETTER: Sure. I'm sorry. Rich Setter, general manager, Hog Neck Golf Course.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. SETTER: We had the bids come in for the driving range project, the enhancement. And the bids came in excessively over what we had anticipated. So it's my recommendation that we reject all eight of those bids.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. SETTER: And then Bill Stagg and I have been working hard on redoing the project so it falls better in line with the funds that

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are available.
MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
MR. SETTER: And then I'd ask a second to look at rebidding the project.
MR. CALLAHAN: Got you. Okay.
MR. STAMP: So Council, the ask this evening is to ask Council's permission to reject all bids while staff reimagines the project, value engineers, and then brings it back for a bid release in the future.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. STEPP: Make a motion we reject the eight bids as requested.
MS. HAYTHE: Second.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and second. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.
SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
MR. STEPP: Aye.

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SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
MR. LESHER: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
MS. MIELKE: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. STAMP: Council, Rich is going to ask you for I guess phase two of a three-phase project. This is a CIP project for the reconstruction of the cart paths at Hog Neck Golf Course.
Rich, go ahead, and I'll fill in where necessary.
MR. SETTER: Looking to get bid accepted from East Coast Land Management for the paving of the back nine of the cart paths.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. STAMP: And East Coast Land Paving I believe was the low bid of two bids received in the amount of $469,440.

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There are sufficient funds in the FY27 budget for this project.
MR. LESHER: Will this still be able to be done this season or --
MR. SETTER: It --
MR. LESHER: -- asphalt plants closing down soon, will we have to wait until the spring?
MR. SETTER: So the construction will begin. We'll be tearing out the old stuff, putting millings down and smoothing that. And then the asphalt will go down when the plants reopen in the spring. But the prep work and stuff will begin in November.
MR. LESHER: It will?
MR. SETTER: Yes.
MR. LESHER: Okay. And are you able to use the paths or they don't get much use this time of year anyway?
MR. SETTER: We'll be shutting down the back nine, just like we did the front nine last

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year, because also redoing the greens on the front nine this off season also.
MR. LESHER: Okay. Good. Thank you.
MR. STEPP: Well needed and well needed part of our three-year project here.
So I'll make a motion we move approval as noted here.
MS. HAYTHE: Second.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and second. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.
SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
MR. STEPP: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
MR. LESHER: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
MS. MIELKE: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

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MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job.
MR. STAMP: There you go, Rich.
MR. SETTER: All right. One last thing. I'd like to just thank Ms. Lynn for all her support while she was on the board. She was terrific to work with and couldn't ask for a better liaison down at the golf course. So thank you very much for all your hard work.
MS. MIELKE: Thank you. It's been a pleasure to work with all you. You're doing a great job with the golf course.
MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Sure is. Thank you, Rich.
MR. STAMP: Okay, Council. I invite Micah Risher, your manager of the Easton Airport, to come forward. He has three items for you this evening.
First one we'll start off with is the hangar rental or hanger lease.
MR. RISHER: Thank you, sir. Clay, thank you. Micah Risher, your airport manager.

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We'll move through these fairly quickly.
So Bid 26-13 was an airport-owned hangar that we needed to find a new tenant for. So we went out to bid, and we received a few. And we recommend that we actually -- I'm sorry. We actually received two bids, and they were both current tenants on the airport, one is a maintenance business that is building and one was one of our FBOs.
And after a few weeks of really putting a lot of thought into it and with our Advisory Board, it's the unanimous decision that we award Bid 26-13 to West Air Aviation, they're a maintenance shop out there, to expand their maintenance operation.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. STAMP: And then for the record, that monthly rental I believe, Micah, is $6,000 a month?
MR. RISHER: That's correct.
MR. STEPP: Make a motion we move forward

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with the recommended lease.
MS. HAYTHE: Second.
MS. MIELKE: Second.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and second. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.
SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
MR. STEPP: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
MR. LESHER: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
MS. MIELKE: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. RISHER: And now, the second one, I'll just launch right into it. Exciting news after 20 years. It's time to finally build that runway at Easton Airport.

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So we may leave a few millings for the golf course when we're finished in the spring.
But in all seriousness, two requests pertaining to this. I'll lead with all the funding is in place. FAA grants are executed. MAA grants are executed. The airport budget, we budgeted 1,450,000 that's in the budget. Our part of that is only 970,000. So we will be under budget. All the financing is good.
We are ready to literally issue the notice to proceed and start working this Thursday.
So two things we do need is to approve change order number one to the Bid 25-11 for David A. Bramble to begin construction in the amount of $8,459,048.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. STEPP: So moved for me.
MS. MIELKE: Second.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and second. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

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SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
MR. STEPP: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
MR. LESHER: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
MS. MIELKE: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
MR. RISHER: Thank you.
And the second part of that is to approve AECOM's price proposal to provide the construction management of it for $433,120.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. STEPP: So moved again.
MS. HAYTHE: Second.
MS. MIELKE: Second.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and second. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

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SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
MR. STEPP: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
MR. LESHER: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
MS. MIELKE: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
MR. RISHER: Thank you, Council.
MR. CALLAHAN: One quick thing.
MR. RISHER: Yes, sir.
MR. CALLAHAN: Can you kind of walk the public through what to expect and what end they're going to be starting at?
MR. RISHER: Yeah. Absolutely. Yeah. Real quick.
So obviously down on the former Black & Decker parcel is where you're going to start to see -- just beyond that. Between the former

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Black & Decker parcel and the existing runway is where you're going to see all the construction activity begin.

We're looking at about two months for them to get the new runway area to grade, get the soil cement down before it gets freezing. Then that lets us do all the stonework over January and February.

And as I joked earlier, we'll be ready to take all the asphalt in the county March and April timeframe when the plant fires up because that's a 19 -- actually, we will be paving a 2,700-foot section 100 wide. So it's going to be a lot of asphalt going down.

MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

MR. RISHER: And the entire pavement section is nearly 30 inches thick. So not asphalt. You know, soil, cement, and stone. A lot of work to do, but we're exciting (sic.)

This portion of what we're talking about will be complete by next summer. And then

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we'll be just a hair away from being able to operate on that runway. We'll still need some lights and paving, things of that nature.

But the goal is aggressively 12 months away. More than likely, we're about 18 months away from opening that runway. But after 20 years, I'll take it.

MR. CALLAHAN: That's awesome. That's good.

So one last thing. So the other end, the north side, will you start taking it up at the same time?

MR. RISHER: We will not do that, no. We'll get the new pavement down, and then we'll -- we actually have to build a connecting taxiway as well.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

MR. RISHER: That work will probably happen in early '28 when we actually remove the 1,000 feet off the north end as well.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Got you. Okay.

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Great. Good job.

MR. RISHER: Thank you, Council.

And I have to say it's been a pleasure. I do appreciate the support from everybody.

MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

MR. RISHER: Thank you for serving our county.

A special thanks to Lynn, our liaison on the board. I really appreciate everything you've done for us.

MS. MIELKE: You have been doing a great job. Real asset to our community.

MR. RISHER: Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Micah. Appreciate it.

MR. STAMP: Council, if you don't mind, I'll invite Ms. Deena Kilmon forward.

MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. Yeah.

MR. STAMP: Since she's just joined us.

She's here this evening to request

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Council's consideration to send a letter to the governor for the inclusion in his FY28 capital budget to support continued restoration, revitalization of the Waterfowl building, the historic Easton Armory in Easton.

And she'll fill in the details. Good evening.

MS. D. KILMON: Hey, I'm Deena Kilmon, obviously executive director of Waterfowl Festival.

That pretty much was all the details. We are asking for the 1.3 million. It follows along our $1.7 million federal request. And of course, our $700,000 request, which is partially 500,000 to the Maryland State Arts Council. So we're just continuing the tradition and asking for your support as we continue this restoration process for the city.

MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds great. Okay.

MR. LESHER: You've been great stewards of this property, and this is such a valuable

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asset to the community. Not only for Waterfowl Festival, but for all of the other, all of the other entities that you serve and purposes that this venue hosts throughout the year.

So thank you for keeping up after it.

MS. D. KILMON: We're trying.

MR. STEPP: I'll simply make a motion.

Because it's like you said, the work you're doing has been wonderful. Keep it up.

It's almost game time. I'm sure you're ready for Waterfowl to be here again this year.

MS. D. KILMON: We're ready.

MR. STEPP: Keep it up.

I'll make a motion.

MS. MIELKE: Second.

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

SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

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MR. STEPP: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.

MR. LESHER: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

MS. MIELKE: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

MS. D. KILMON: Thank you.

MR. STAMP: I'm sorry. Thank you, Deena.

MS. D. KILMON: Thank you, guys.

Come see the stage. The stage has been opened and is the fully white box restored, as we're calling it. They are using it tonight or tonight for practice and Saturday night the Midshore Band is doing a free Halloween concert for the community on our new stage. So come check it out.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great. Good job.

MS. D. KILMON: Thank you.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

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MR. STAMP: And Council, there's two minutes left. I don't know if you want me to have one last item or we want to hold that and go with your public hearing. Which would you --

MR. CALLAHAN: No. Go ahead.

MR. STAMP: Okay. Joey Hughes, your director of the corrections facility, could you come forward.

Joey is here this evening to request Council consideration to award Bid Number 26-10, inmate food services management.

I'll let him fill in the details, and I'll cover what I need to cover.

MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Good evening.

MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.

MR. HUGHES: In July, we put out --

MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, Joey, could you --

MR. HUGHES: -- RFP -- Joe Hughes, director of corrections.

MS. GREEN: Cindy Green, deputy director.

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MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

MR. HUGHES: So in July, we issued an RFP for management of the food service at the Department of Corrections.

In September, we received two responses back. One is Trinity, which is our current provider. And Aramark is the other one we received.

They're close in price in this. They go by the headcount of the Detention Center.

Trinity, they give $10,000 a year for equipment upgrade, and Aramark does 20,000.

And Trinity, they're also in Kent County. So they're here in Talbot County right now and then in Kent. Where Aramark is in Anne Arundel, Allegheny, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Queen Anne, Washington, and Wicomico County. So with training for staff, it's a lot better for Aramark because they have more concentration of people that come down and do the training with the staff.

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They also have a really good program with training the incarcerated individuals in food service to try to, if any of them want to get positions when they leave the Detention Center, they have a training program that works along with it. So we're always trying to help with the reentry and reintegrate them back into the community.

MR. CALLAHAN: Sure.

MR. STAMP: So Council, his request is to award the bid to Aramark for the price as stated.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

MR. LESHER: I'll move to award Bid 26-10 as recommended by staff.

MR. STAMP: And that will be 5.99 per meal.

MS. MIELKE: Second.

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

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SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

MR. STEPP: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.

MR. LESHER: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

MS. MIELKE: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

MR. HUGHES: I'd also like to thank the Council for all your support for the Detention Center all throughout the year. So thank you.

MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

MS. GREEN: Thank you.

MR. CALLAHAN: You guys do a great job. Appreciate it.

MR. STAMP: Council, that completes your county manager report for this evening. And as I always say, thank you for your support to our staff.

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And we've appreciated working with all of you, and we still have some work to do. So I'll hold my words of good-bye to two of our members to future meetings.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds great. Good job.

Okay. Madam Secretary, it's time for the public hearing. So we'll go ahead and start with Resolution 399.

SECRETARY: Resolution Number 399, a resolution to authorize the conveyance of a portion of certain real property to the State of Maryland to the use of the State Highway Administration of the Maryland Department of Transportation. Containing 4.195, plus or minus, acres of land, together with the right to create, use, and maintain 0.369, plus or minus, of an acre of land, and 0.909, plus or minus, of an acre of land for revertible slope easements for no monetary consideration but subject to certain conditions being part of those parcels of real property shown on Talbot County tax map 17, parcel 38, Talbot County tax map 17, parcel 129, and Talbot County tax map 17, parcel 129, lot 4.

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

Patrick, you want to go ahead and explain to everybody what this is about?

MR. THOMAS: Yes. So this resolution authorizes a conveyance of a portion of the Talbot County Community Center property to the State Highway Administration for a deceleration lane and access from eastbound Route 50 to Medical Center Drive along with slope easements.

This has been reviewed and approved by county staff, including Public Works and Parks & Recreation, as well as the State Highway Administration, and will not impact any future use of the Community Center.

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This is provided for and set forth in the amended DRRA and Public Works agreement between the county, the Town of Easton, and Shore Health for the new hospital.

Just to get an idea of what we're talking about, if you look at the map up there, and it might be a little hard to see, but you can see Route 50 on the right there. And there's a long rectangular part that comes down, that's directly in front of the Community Center. That would be the deceleration lane and then the area coming off of that towards the hospital where the easements to be conveyed are.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds great. Okay.

So with that said, we'll go ahead and open it up to the public hearing. If somebody wants to come up, I'll give you three minutes for individual and then five minutes if you're representing an organization.

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So anybody that wants to come up at this time and voice your opinion on Resolution 399, please come on up. Okay. Anybody want to come up, 399? Okay. Nobody.

I see the mayor laughing back there. I see her back there.

Okay. All right. So it's eligible for vote. So we'll go ahead and at this stage, we can go ahead and vote on this, can't we, Madam Secretary?

SECRETARY: Yes.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

SECRETARY: You ready?

MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, I'm ready.

SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

MR. STEPP: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.

MR. LESHER: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

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MS. MIELKE: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Madam Secretary, you want to go with Resolution 400.

SECRETARY: Resolution Number 400, a resolution to authorize the conveyance for no monetary consideration of, number one, all that lot or parcel of land situate lying and being in the First Election District of Talbot County, Maryland. Described as lot 6, 1.000 acres, plus or minus, and shown on a plat entitled plat of subdivision lots one through seven, parcel A, and revised tax parcel 38, Talbot County, Maryland, tax map 17, grid 23, parcels 129 and 75 and 38 in the First Election District, Talbot County, Maryland. Dated October 8, 2014, and recorded among the plat records of Talbot County, Maryland, in plat book M.A.S. number 83, pages 458 through 464, inclusive, to the Town of Easton. And two, all

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that lot or parcel of land situate lying and being in the First Election District of Talbot County, Maryland. Described as lot 7, 1.253 acres, plus or minus, and shown on a plat entitled plat of subdivision lots 1 through 7, parcel A, and revised tax parcel 38, Talbot County, Maryland, tax map 17, grid 23, parcels 129 and 75 and 38 in the First Election District, Talbot County, Maryland. Dated October 8, 2014, and recorded among the plat records of Talbot County, Maryland, in plat book M.A.S. number 83, pages 458 through 464, inclusive, to Shore Health Systems, Inc.

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

Go ahead, Patrick.

MR. THOMAS: Yes. This is another resolution that related to the new hospital and was provided for in the amended DRRA and amended Public Works agreement.

So you can see the large white area shown

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on the map there. That's Shore Health property. And then just to the northwest of that, you see a parcel owned by the county to be conveyed to the Shore Health. And over on the left, you see a parcel hatched in green to be conveyed to the town.

MR. CALLAHAN: Got you.

MR. THOMAS: So this will facilitate a water storage tank and substation pump station for the new hospital.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds good.

Okay. So I'll go ahead and open this to the public hearing. Anybody that wants to come on up, give you three minutes to speak and five minutes if you're representing somebody.

So anybody that would like to come up to Resolution 400. Resolution 400, come on up, please, if you want to talk about it.

Okay. If not, we'll go ahead and vote on it. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

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MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

MR. STEPP: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.

MR. LESHER: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

MS. MIELKE: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

MS. MIELKE: (Indiscernible.)

MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Okay. Resolution 401, Madam Secretary.

SECRETARY: Resolution Number 401, a resolution to authorize the conveyance for no monetary consideration of a 1.785, plus or minus, portion of certain real property located on Oxford Road. Consisting of 120.476, plus or minus, acres, situate, lying, and being in the First Election District of Talbot County, Maryland. And shown on Talbot County tax map

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42, grid 4, as parcel 57, located on Oxford Road to the Town of Easton.

MR. CALLAHAN: You're up again.

MR. THOMAS: So this resolution authorizes the conveyance of a portion of the Poplar Hill Farm property owned by the county to the Town of Easton to facilitate access to the Woodland Park property from the Easton Bypass and Tristan Drive, which you can see on the plat shown on the overhead.

And this is pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the county and the town that was approved in August.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Sounds good.

So I'll go ahead and, like you say, open this up to the public. And anybody wants to come up, give you three minutes to talk about it and five minutes if you're representing somebody.

So you're welcome to come up and talk

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about 401, Resolution 401.

And by the way, this is a very exciting time for us and the town to partnership. This is one thing that, you know, is special about some of the things that we do with the town. And this is really going to be a game changer for Easton and the park and all that kind of stuff. So it's exciting.

So if anybody wants to come up and say anything, they're welcome to.

I see you over there. I see you grinning. I see you grinning.

So okay. If nobody wants to come up, Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

MR. LESHER: Well, Council comments.

MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Sure.

MR. LESHER: This has been, this has been a long time coming. We all remember how the Town of Easton acquired the adjacent parcel, the Woodland Farm or the Woodland parcel with Project Open Space funds intending to turn this

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into a public park.
But the town needs access to this. And of course, it fronts on Oxford Road. I don't think anybody wants the public to access this from Oxford Road. It makes much more sense to access this off of the Easton Parkway or Route 322 and that short Tristan Drive that comes right off of this.
There's only a short hop to get from Tristan Drive into this parcel and onto the side where the proposed parking would be.
This is a really important step forward. This is great collaboration between the county and the town. And I am grateful to all involved in getting through the legalities of this, making sure the survey was done properly, understanding the utility assets that are already in place there and that we need to work around. And the county now can contribute to providing access to this really valuable public access, this public asset.

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And I appreciate the Town of Easton for its leadership in moving forward with this park proposal.
MR. CALLAHAN: That's good. Anybody else?
MS. HAYTHE: No.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.
SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
MR. STEPP: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
MR. LESHER: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
MS. MIELKE: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Good. You're welcome. You're welcome.
Okay. Madam Secretary, could you -- next is Bill 1655.

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SECRETARY: Bill Number 1655, a bill to amend Chapter 24, boards, committees, and commissions, of the Talbot County Code for the purpose of repealing and reenacting Article II, Board of Tourism, to establish a new Board of Economic Development and Tourism and set forth the membership, duties, and functions thereof.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yup.
MR. THOMAS: So the purpose of this bill is simply to consolidate the Economic Development Commission and the Board of Tourism into a single board.
And if passed, this bill would take effect on March 1, 2027, to allow sufficient time to facilitate the consolidation.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great. Okay.
So once again, I'll open this up and give you three minutes for individuals and five minutes if you're for an organization.
So please come up and offer your opinion on 1655. Anybody, 1655, Bill 1655.

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Okay. All right. You want to say anything?
MS. HAYTHE: Sure. Yeah. Since no one is here to speak.
As Patrick alluded to, this is to combine the Economic Development and Tourism Board.
The feedback from each board member from our new director, Stephanie Mervine, has been positive and supportive of this initiative.
And this will make this board in line with the national standard per IEDC, the International Economic Development Council, which is the overarching organization for us as economic development professionals.
In addition to that, when the department was combined, what, ten, 12 years ago I think it was, this should have been part of the combination as well. So now we're just trying to be in line with the national standard and do so at this time.
And to make it easier for staff, too, so

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that they don't have two boards to operate as well for efficiency, from an efficiency standpoint and time standpoint as well.

MR. CALLAHAN: I'm with you. Yup.

MR. STAMP: Well, first of all, we have Stephanie Mervine on the phone, our new Economic Development and Tourism director. She couldn't be here with us today. So she is listening in. I don't know how well she can hear us.

But before I ask her to say something, I will say that, number one, we're very excited to have her on the job. She's hit the ground running. And she likes to say that she's in the relationship building business.

And so I am confident that she is going to ensure that the function of tourism in this county is prioritized, has been in the past. It's a critical piece to economic vitality of Talbot County. And she'll ensure the relationships are in place to make that happen,

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as well as aggressively working with our business community to first try to retain those businesses that we have and then, you know, attract appropriate businesses to come into our region.

So I have no doubt that with her leadership, she'll do just fine under this new arrangement.

It is the umbrella standard nationally through the IEDC.

And we have a small staff in this department. And with a small staff trying to manage two boards, they spend a lot of time doing that. And so the theory is is that the proposal is to give it a number of months before it takes action so true due diligence can be done to, number one, honor all of those that have been serving on the Tourism Board and the Economic Development Board, and to make sure we find the right individuals that can populate the new board. So that is the purpose

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of the delay until March.

So Stephanie, you're on. Are you able to hear and speak?

MS. MERVINE: I can. Can you hear me?

MR. STAMP: Yes.

MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, we can. Welcome.

MS. MERVINE: Awesome. Well, Stephanie Mervine, your director of Economic Development and Tourism. Good evening, Council Members and county leadership.

I wanted to express our deep gratitude towards everybody that has dedicated their service to both the Economic Development Commission and Tourism Board. Their commitment and experience, long-standing contribution has laid the foundation for the work that we are discussing tonight. And we sincerely appreciate every member who served and continues to serve. Their efforts have brought to the county where it is today, and the proposed structure will just build on top of

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that and strengthen it.

And it's so perfect because right now we're at the Economic Development's annual council meeting here in New Orleans. And we're discussing all kinds of things, including things like we're talking about tonight.

So I'm excited for the future and just look forward to working with everyone.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds great, Stephanie.

Any other, any other questions, Council?

MS. HAYTHE: No.

MR. LESHER: You know, I will grant that this is a best practice, that there are efficiencies to be gained here.

But we should acknowledge that we have in written form some concerns expressed by existing members, that that support among the current board members is not universal and that some of those concerns have been raised. I want to make sure that we acknowledge that.

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I just wonder whether we're not rushing this process a little bit, that since this is not to take place until March, whether we might not give this a little pause and allow the next Council to take action on this recommendation shortly after they take office.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

MS. HAYTHE: Well, I think the next Council will be taking up the recommendation of Stephanie and appointing the new board members.

What we're doing is making a decision to combine the board right now. That's why Mr. Thomas recommended doing it in March so that it takes effect in March.

But again, I'll reiterate that this should have been done ten years ago when the Economic Development and Tourism Department was combined, the boards should have been combined at that time.

And certainly respect some of the Tourism Board members, which I serve as the liaison,

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and their concerns.

But tourism is an industry under economic development. Has always been and will always be and is an economic driver in Talbot County and will continue to be.

But this will allow staff to have more time and also allow our economic development director to focus on business retention and expansion within Talbot County, which is major and needs to be a focus going forward.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other?

MR. STEPP: Open thoughts. I mean are we going to lose good talent?

We have a lot of folks on both of those boards. Are we going to lose any great insight by combining these boards?

I know we got a lot of talented people on both boards.

Any thoughts just from Council on that by combining this?

Keasha, I mean I know this is certainly in

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your wheelhouse. So what are your thoughts on that?

MS. HAYTHE: So Stephanie has reached out to every board member that currently is serving on the Economic Development and Tourism Boards. So maybe she can speak to that.

I do know that the industry sectors from tourism will be represented on the new combined board.

But she can certainly speak to that in regards to some of them that she may have spoken to that may be staying on.

MR. CALLAHAN: Did you hear that, Stephanie?

MS. MERVINE: I did. And I do think there's an opportunity to get creative. As I've talked to many of the board members, both in economic development and on the Tourism Board, you know, there are some redundancies. And I think that we can one on one meet and discuss the industry sectors as it relates to

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both economic development and tourism and really craft it to work for our county, especially the maritime sector. I think there's an opportunity there, and I think that we're deficient in some of these sectors.

So my whole goal is to really take this to the next level and improve everything we're doing.

I've met with several on the tourism side. And then there are some people that are attending both meetings. So that does take up some of their time. So I'm just being respectful of that as well.

And, you know, I'm really on the listening tour, but I feel like we made some progress in these conversations. And I'm actually grateful that I was able to reach out and talk to many people.

MR. CALLAHAN: So Stephanie, so you're in agreement this is a good recommendation to you?

MS. MERVINE: Yes. And I've leaned on

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some of my peers that have had more experience with merging, and they think it's the right thing to do as well. So I've gotten their opinions.

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

Any other?

MS. HAYTHE: No. But just to note the only, the only letter that I have in my Granicus is one letter from a tourism representative.

So I think Mr. Lesher had said that there were several or multiple. I'm just showing one in my Granicus information.

MR. CALLAHAN: All right. So all right.

At this time, we'll go ahead and, Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

MR. THOMAS: You need to move it to third reader.

MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah. You're right. I'm sorry.

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So I need a motion to move to third reader.

MS. HAYTHE: So moved.

MS. MIELKE: Second.

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

SECRETARY: Bill Number 1655, a bill to amend Chapter 24, boards, committees, and commissions, of the Talbot County Code for the purpose of repealing and reenacting Article II, Board of Tourism, to establish a new Board of Economic Development and Tourism and set forth the member duties and functions thereof.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

MR. THOMAS: You moved -- there was a motion and second. You didn't vote to actually move to third reader --

MR. LESHER: To move it to third reader.

MR. THOMAS: So we need to vote. And then if it passes, then you can vote on the bill.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

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SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

MR. STEPP: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.

MR. LESHER: Nay.

SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

MS. MIELKE: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Now we can go ahead and vote?

MR. THOMAS: Yes.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

MR. STEPP: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.

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MR. LESHER: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

MS. MIELKE: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good. Thanks a lot, Stephanie. I appreciate it.

MS. MERVINE: Thank you.

MR. LESHER: And for those wondering why I voted nay on the third reader but aye on the bill, I support the bill. What I didn't support was rushing the process.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right.

Madam Secretary, we'll go ahead and do Bill 1653.

SECRETARY: Bill Number 1653, a bill to amend Chapter 190, zoning, subdivision, and land development, of the Talbot County Code for the purpose of providing that notice of public hearings on new and renewal short-term rental licenses shall be provided to owners of all

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properties with a property line within 1,000 feet, including in line of sight within 1,000 feet across waterways of the short-term rental dwelling or the 50 properties nearest to the short-term rental dwelling, whichever is less.

MR. CALLAHAN: Welcome.

MR. YELTON: Thank you, Council. Good evening. Bryce Yelton, Talbot County Department of Planning & Zoning.

I've been here for this bill particularly a lot, but I did unfortunately miss the last meeting. I went back and listened to the record and watched the video and heard some citizen concerns about particular staff matters that might come up as a result of passing this bill.

So I just wanted to come in and quell any concerns that this might include, language that increased staff's responsibility in the short-term rental process. And I'm just here

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today to kind of lay that out before the Council votes on this.

And so in particular what this bill would do, it would essentially make it so that if you have more than the required amount of mailings that you have to do, that number would be 50, you would have to essentially only do 50.

I included in this packet for this bill some research that I had done for this bill, essentially stating that in the last year, there's only been three to four applications that have actually gotten to that number above 50 mailers.

These mailings are quite expensive for the applicants and they take a lot of staff time to review that they're accurate. And so reducing the number of 50 bills actually saves a lot of staff time in going through all the addresses that we actually have to ensure that they've sent things out to.

One thing that we do when we actually

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check through the addresses is we use a mailing tool. Unfortunately, the State changed how they do their data. So that tool has been down. I'm happy tonight to say that that tool will be back up hopefully within the next month.

So when that comes back up, in the case that this bill passes and we have to do this, the only thing that's going to change for staff is that we'll have to manually go in for the one to two maybe potentially a year that will have over 50 mailers and pull those out as staff. So really that's not going to take a whole lot of time.

So I just wanted to come and state that on the record, that staff doesn't really have any issue with the bill in terms of additional workflow this would create for our department.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

MR. LESHER: Mr. Yelton, before you go, we had one constituent write in and ask for

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clarification about how that 50 closest is determined and took, for example, would this notification include those if the closest distance is over water?

And could you just explain how the staff would interpret the language as it's written?

MR. YELTON: Yeah. Of course. So currently -- I'll tackle the closest by water first.

So currently, the distance includes over water. And so I don't think that this language needs to include over water. When you're talking about, you know, drawing a circle and putting a point in the middle of it, the closest, if the property is still across water, is still the 50 closest. So I don't think that that's really of concern.

MR. STEPP: Just like a geo-fence, like a geo-fence circle on a map?

MR. YELTON: Exactly. So that's currently what the software does for us. And so the

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software picks it out based on the distance.
When it comes to the 50 closest parcels and how we're going to do that, the current tool doesn't actually pull out perfectly the 50 parcels. So we're going to do that in-house. We have another software essentially that will do that for us.
MR. LESHER: Okay.
MR. CALLAHAN: Good. Any other questions?
MR. LESHER: Thank you.
MR. YELTON: Thank you, Council.
MS. HAYTHE: No. He answered mine.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good.
So this is eligible for vote, Council. So Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.
SECRETARY: We need to bring it to third reader.
MR. THOMAS: No. This is --
(Cross talk.)
SECRETARY: Okay. Mr. Callahan.
MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

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SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
MR. STEPP: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
MR. LESHER: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
MS. MIELKE: Nay. But I'd like to explain.
It's clear that this amendment to the short-term rental legislation comes on the heels of some major revisions that I've sponsored from constituents. And there are two other short-term rental issues that we're going to address today.
It just seems abundantly clear to me that our short-term rental ordinance needs to be reviewed and updating. Now that we have some experience on how it works and what the community needs or wants, I think we have to look at the whole ordinance and not do it piecemeal.
So I'm going to vote no and suggest that

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it be considered with major revision to the short-term rental ordinance.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right.
Next Bill is 1654, Madam Secretary.
SECRETARY: Bill Number 1654, a bill to amend Chapter 182, volunteer emergency services longevity award program, of the Talbot County Code for the purposes of clarifying the definition of active volunteer member and amending certain provisions for consistency therewith, providing that qualifying active volunteer members shall receive monthly benefits in a minimum amount of $100 for life with the ability to earn additional monthly benefits, subject to certain conditions, and amending certain provisions regarding records of volunteer members and the point system for qualifying for benefits.

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MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. THOMAS: Yeah. So currently, active volunteer members who have reached 62 years of age and have completed at least 25 years of certified active volunteer service are eligible to receive monthly benefits of $100 per month for life, subject to the county's annual budget.
So this bill would allow for additional benefits in the minimum amount of $50 per month for life for each additional five years of service up to maximum minimum amount of $200 per month for life for 45 years or more of certified active volunteer service.
And the bill would authorize the Council to increase those amounts as part of their annual budget.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. THOMAS: And then the bill also makes some minor changes to the point system and timing of notices for certified members.

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MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. That's great.
And help me out, Madam Secretary. Is this eligible for vote?
SECRETARY: Yes.
MR. THOMAS: Yes.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.
SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
MR. STEPP: Aye.
SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
MR. LESHER: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
MS. MIELKE: Aye.
SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's good.
I also want to recognize we got the mayor out there, we've got the whole firefighter, we

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got captains, we got presidents, we got past presidents and all that.
Guys, I really appreciate all you guys do. You deserve this. That's for sure, all the work you guys do. And this Council really appreciates you protecting us and keeping us safe and we really appreciate it. You deserve it.
MR. LESHER: And we hope that this provides a meaningful incentive for members to continue giving their time, continue to turn out for calls. We know how important that is to maintaining the volunteer service that we absolutely rely on in this community. And thank you for doing that.
MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Sounds good. Okay. Madam Secretary, Bill 1655.
SECRETARY: We've done it already.
MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, I'm sorry.
MS. HAYTHE: Public comment.
MR. CALLAHAN: I think, yeah, I think

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we're on public comment, aren't we.
MS. HAYTHE: We are.
Okay. Public comment.
MR. LESHER: We have nobody signed up in advance.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I've got public comment. Anybody like to come -- yes, sir, come on up.
MR. FOSTER: Good evening. My name is Gary S. Foster.
MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir.
MR. FOSTER: My wife is Christina Foster. We own property 30709 Skipton Cordova Road.
And I think Mr. Callahan may be somewhat familiar (indiscernible) is familiar with an issue that --
MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir.
MR. FOSTER: -- I want to address regarding the property.
I did hand-deliver a letter to Victoria at the Office of Law today. I don't know if you

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received it.
MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir.
MR. FOSTER: There was two parts in there. One was a complaint against an employee, the other is a demand for my property to be restored.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. FOSTER: I have contacted private counsel. They have told me that I'm the owner. The county has confirmed that I'm the owner.
And the notice is within 30 days I would like the county to fix the property or I'm going to do it and invoice the county.
I have spoken with the Sheriff's Department. My biggest concern is the safety.
MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
MR. FOSTER: Because of the egregious width and depth of the intersection.
MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir.
MR. FOSTER: What set me off most recently -- and I spoke with Mr. Stamp. I want

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to thank him for everything that he has done.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. FOSTER: Because he has been a gentleman and he has been very forthright.
MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
MR. FOSTER: But I almost got struck head on coming up Blades Road towards Skipton Cordova Road because the road goes so far around the corner that the car was running about 30 miles an hour making the turn.
MR. CALLAHAN: I see.
MR. FOSTER: And I'm coming up to the stop sign. And it was on my side of the road on the Blades Road side of the stop sign, which is about 15 feet from the road.
I was out there today, almost got struck by a school bus standing in the grass at the corner of my yard.
And what I was doing there, so that you know, Clay knows I'm very transparent, I had gone out. And I told him that I was going to

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put some type of soft, passive deterrent so that people are aware. And I used boards to square off what it is and spray paint the corner white in an attempt to get people to stop cutting the corner.
That corner is only serviced by one direction of traffic, Blades Road north coming to Skipton Cordova Road turning right. No other traffic should be using that corner.
MR. CALLAHAN: Got you.
MR. FOSTER: And if they pull up to Skipton Cordova Road, the road is 27 feet wide where they stop to make a turn, wider than any road anywhere close to it. The intersection far exceeds any intersection close to it.
So if they're able to get to that intersection, the 50 square feet that I'm talking about is negligeable for the intersection and would help to at least curb some of the aggressive driving because when they pull up, they come up Blades Road, they

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look left. They can see up past the horse farm enough distance to go look left, turn right. And they're coming through there 15, 20 miles an hour.
MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir.
MR. FOSTER: My driveway is 120 feet. If I'm coming out, I stop, look both ways as I come out. Because of the speed that they're running the stop sign, they're coming around into my lane.
I've had about ten times that I've almost had an accident because of this type of behavior, which did not exist before the road was widened and the intersection was expanded to this size.
I have spoken to the Sheriff's Department on that. They did come out and look, Major Elliott. And I spoke with Major Elliott again today, and the Sheriff was actually in the room. And they both agree with my assessment that it's a dangerous public safety issue as it

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is.
One thing that would help is a stop line telling people where to stop coming up Blades Road. People follow. It's amazing how people will follow a line.
MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. Yeah.
MR. FOSTER: And so forth. If they would pull up to the stop line and then turn, as opposed to just coming up where it's wide open, there's nothing there, and just pulling up and looking left, turning right. And again, at the speeds that they're making the turn now, it's far more egregious.
I mean people run stop signs. We know that.
MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Right.
MR. FOSTER: And anybody who drives on the roads around here, if there's a turn lane, Easton Bypass, if you go out there and you're pulling up to the turn lane and you're turning out of Target, you better watch or they'll take

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your front end off of you if go over the stop line.
MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
MR. FOSTER: Because they're going to shave everything -- if it's paved, they're going to drive on it.
MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
MR. FOSTER: If nothing is in the way.
MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir.
MR. FOSTER: And therein lies the problem with this.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. FOSTER: And the other issue is not something (indiscernible) here is in the letter.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. FOSTER: What my concerns are.
We did meet. And I appreciate --
MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir.
MR. FOSTER: -- we spoke about the easement.

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MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.
MR. FOSTER: However, in light of the nature of the traffic problems, I am not inclined for any type of easement.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
MR. FOSTER: Simply because it's already more dangerous than it needs to be.
And the last thing that I'll add is they need to put some type of speed limit on Skipton Cordova Road. There are no speed limit signs until you get all the way up in the town. The last one coming out says 25 or 30.
MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
MR. FOSTER: And as such, the speeds on the road -- my background is law enforcement. I'm very good at estimating speeds. You know, I kind of know the traffic thing.
And the speeds have picked up about eight to ten miles an hour. Not everybody. But the ones that used to come by at 60, now they're going 70, sometimes above, only because the

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road is wide and smooth.
MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir.
MR. FOSTER: And that creates another public safety issue in and of itself.
I thank you for your time and hopefully your understanding in this.
MR. CALLAHAN: Absolutely.
MR. FOSTER: And I'm hoping to resolve it.
And I did speak with Mr. Stamp earlier today. And he had talked about having a traffic study done. We met about a month ago.
MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
MR. FOSTER: And he discussed that. I was going to come in on that day. And he explained to me, he says can we do this. And hopefully he'll speak on my behalf that I am trying to resolve this at its lowest level.
MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. Well, I appreciate it, Mr. Foster.
He brought it to our attention. We're on top of this. And I apologize for it taking so

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long.
But I think Josh is involved in this. Am I right, Josh?
MR. ELLIOTT: Yup.
MR. CALLAHAN: So maybe on the short-term of things, and you can help me, Mr. Stamp, is that maybe if it's going to take a little bit to get the construction done, maybe we can get out there right away and put the paint, paint some lines on there for stop.
I'm just thinking out loud on things. But let's see if we can get expedited so nobody gets hurt. And it's really kind of a safety thing.
So I appreciate you handling everything. I appreciate you being patient and bringing this to our attention. But Council does know about this, and we will handle this.
MR. FOSTER: Thank you very much.
MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Okay.
MS. MIELKE: Thank you.

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MR. CALLAHAN: Anybody else?
Mr. Riggin.
MR. RIGGIN: Thank you. It's always a pleasure to talk with the County Council. I'm Phil Riggin. I live at 29736 Sullivan Drive here in Easton.
I'd like to make a note of something, only because I've noticed it as a real commitment for on behalf of the individual who has been doing this. Two meetings in a row Mr. Abbatiello has been here, once to speak publicly on behalf of the change in recognizing volunteers for 25 years, 45 years, five years at a time, whatever it may be, legislation you just passed.
I thought he was here for some other issue like the transfer of property to Easton or something. Clearly, that shows his dedication to fire departments. I talked to him a number of times about that.
In my earlier life a few years ago, I

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served as a vice chairman of a county Economic Development Commission and a county Tourism Commission. And the county at the time was beginning to combine the two because it made sense.
I don't know, Ms. Haythe, whether all of the counties in Maryland are either doing it or thinking about doing it or not. But I do know that it does seem to be generally the way to go.
Admittedly, there's some, you know, there will be some rough spots along the way because of having to combine the two commissions. But certainly, certainly here on the Eastern Shore, it's hard to separate economic development from tourism. I mean I don't know what the county records show in terms of, in terms of hotel rentals and other things that are created by tourism here in the county, but I'm sure it's substantial.
And other counties do exactly the same

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thing as they go back to their own Councils to argue on behalf of additional dollars either for primarily on behalf of tourism. So it's a real issue.
And I didn't stay there long enough to learn how that all worked out in the other county. But being on two commissions, sometimes I was wondering which commission I was representing because of the way things continued to overlap.
MR. CALLAHAN: Sure.
MR. RIGGIN: As a constant process.
Thank you.
MS. MIELKE: Thank you.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. Appreciate you coming. Yup.
Anybody else?
Josh, you got anything for us? You're good? You look good.
MR. ELLIOTT: I'm here. I'll come up.
Since all our other Council or our

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department heads were here, I just do want to thank you guys for the support you've given the Public Works Department. But also personally to me as a new department head, I want to thank you.
MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
MS. MIELKE: Thank you.
MR. CALLAHAN: You're doing a good job.
MR. ELLIOTT: Thank you.
MS. HAYTHE: You look like you're getting sleep in spite of.
MR. ELLIOTT: I am. Enough at least.
MS. HAYTHE: That's good.
MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Now we're Council comments.
Mr. Stepp.
MR. STEPP: Just reminding everyone that early voting is still going on up through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. tomorrow and Thursday. And then Election Day next Tuesday.
So also hi to Diane. I hope we all spoke

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in the microphone for you and you heard us. I know you're at home typing this out. So hi to you and I hope all is well.

MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Mr. Lesher.

MR. LESHER: I'll just reinforce Mr. Stepp's message about getting out to vote. This is our last Council meeting before Election Day November 3rd.

I'll also pause to thank all of those involved with the events around Tench Tilghman Week. The parade and the ceremony at the graveside for Solomon Barrott at Spring Hill Cemetery and the lecture at the Avalon Theater was a very well-planned occasion, and I just want to commend all those involved.

MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

MS. MIELKE: I'd like to point out that the Waterfowl Festival is coming up. You talk about great events for Talbot County, that's one of them. Kind of excited about it. It's gone on for all these years and it's so

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successful. And it's nice that they have it on my birthday.

MR. CALLAHAN: Nice.

MS. MIELKE: So thank you, Talbot County, celebrating my birthday.

MR. CALLAHAN: There you go. There you go. Okay.

MS. HAYTHE: Well, just want to remind women that are watching that we're still in Breast Cancer Awareness Month and just remember to get your mammogram and advocate for yourself if you're not being listened to, particularly women with dense breasts.

And then in the line of what Mr. Stepp said and Mr. Lesher, just a reminder that Election Day is next Tuesday.

And I just want to thank President Callahan. When I was elected to the County Council four years ago, I want to thank him for his leadership and really taking me under his wing and establishing a friendship.

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So here is a quote from Maya that reminds me of Chuck, Maya Angelou. People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

And being a new Council member and you being an incumbent, and although you're a Republican and I'm a Democrat, we meshed together and established a great friendship. So I thank you for your support of my family, my husband.

And Mr. Stepp as well. I know that when Marcus is out and about, you always recognize him and show kindness and speak to him. So for that, you have my support. And I thank you.

MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. That was very kind. I really appreciate your friendship.

I'm sorry to see you leave. That's for sure, both of you.

And we'll continue this in the next several meetings.

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MS. HAYTHE: Absolutely.

MR. CALLAHAN: We got two more. But I appreciate your kind words.

MS. HAYTHE: And one more thing, too, I'll say to Chuck about Chuck and I want the public to know. From day one when I became elected, he would call me or text me almost every single day, and that continued for four years. So that says a lot about consistency and leadership. And for that again --

MS. MIELKE: Focus, focus.

MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. And I got you a trash can today.

MS. MIELKE: Yes, you did.

MR. CALLAHAN: So okay. With that, Mr. Lesher.

MS. MIELKE: Thank you.

MR. CALLAHAN: I really appreciate those kind words. I really do.

MS. HAYTHE: Absolutely.

MR. LESHER: The County Council's next

meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10th, beginning at 5 o'clock p.m. The Council will be convening in open session at 3:30 p.m. and then adjourning into closed session, as listed on the statement for closing that meeting.

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

MS. HAYTHE: So moved.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

MR. STEPP: And a second.

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

SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

MR. STEPP: Aye.

SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.

MR. LESHER: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

MS. MIELKE: Aye.

SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thanks a lot for coming. Appreciate it.

(Meeting concluded at: 6:16 p.m.)

STATE OF MARYLAND

I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and for the State of Maryland, County of Talbot, do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot County Council Audio, personally appeared before me at the time and place herein set according to law, was interrogated by counsel.

I further certify that the examination was recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed from my stenographic notes to the within printed matter by means of computer-assisted transcription in a true and accurate manner.

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

I further certify that I am not of counsel to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel, 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 2nd day of November, 2026, at Easton, MD.



Diane Houlihan
Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2029

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