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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

September 13, 2022; 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Frank Divilio

Corey W. Pack

Laura E. Price

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

Page 2	Page 4
<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Let's get started. There</p> <p>4 we go, there we go. Okay.</p> <p>5 I appreciate everybody being here tonight.</p> <p>6 We got a lot on the agenda tonight.</p> <p>7 So if everybody could stand. I got a few</p> <p>8 things on here. I would like to open the</p> <p>9 meeting with a few comments.</p> <p>10 First, President (sic.) Leshner won't be</p> <p>11 with us tonight and he's with his family on</p> <p>12 vacation. So we wish him the best on vacation,</p> <p>13 enjoying it.</p> <p>14 Therefore, the public comment tonight, I'm</p> <p>15 going to keep that open tonight with the</p> <p>16 hearing and then take action with the county</p> <p>17 business and stuff like that. So we're going</p> <p>18 to leave all that open.</p> <p>19 Secondly, I would ask Mr. Divilio to lead</p> <p>20 us to a prayer of the heroes of September 11th.</p> <p>21 It's a big week to celebrate the life of the</p>	<p>1 a chance to review the minutes of August 11th</p> <p>2 and 23rd. Are there any additions, deletions,</p> <p>3 or corrections to the minutes? Okay, hearing</p> <p>4 none, the chair moves that the minutes be</p> <p>5 accepted as unanimous consent.</p> <p>6 Disbursements are next. August 30th,</p> <p>7 September 6th, September 13th. The Council has</p> <p>8 reviewed the disbursements. Are there any</p> <p>9 additions, deletions, or corrections to the</p> <p>10 disbursements? Okay. Hearing none, the chair</p> <p>11 moves that the disbursements be accepted as</p> <p>12 unanimous consent. Okay.</p> <p>13 So we got the first thing tonight up, a</p> <p>14 presentation of the Frederick Douglass Day</p> <p>15 Project. If you guys want to come up, that</p> <p>16 would be great.</p> <p>17 MISS REDMAN: Hello and thank you.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Hello.</p> <p>19 MISS REDMAN: My name is Autumn Redman.</p> <p>20 And this is my Girl Scout Gold Service Project</p> <p>21 that I'm doing, along with incorporating</p>
Page 3	Page 5
<p>1 heroes that passed away.</p> <p>2 And at the same time, I'm a firefighter</p> <p>3 myself. I know the dangers firsthand of what's</p> <p>4 going on and know what it takes to help those</p> <p>5 in need. So I just want to let you know that's</p> <p>6 why I'm here, to help people.</p> <p>7 So Mr. Divilio, I know you've been working</p> <p>8 hard on the prayer today, and I really</p> <p>9 appreciate you doing it. So let's hear the</p> <p>10 prayer, please.</p> <p>11 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you for that</p> <p>13 touching prayer, Mr. Divilio. I really</p> <p>14 appreciate that. Okay.</p> <p>15 Let's get the agenda started here. The</p> <p>16 Council has the agenda of September 13th before</p> <p>17 us. Are there any amendments, deletions, or</p> <p>18 corrections to the agenda? Okay. Hearing</p> <p>19 none, the chair moves that the agenda be</p> <p>20 accepted as unanimous consent. Okay.</p> <p>21 Next is the minutes. The Council has had</p>	<p>1 Frederick Douglass into it.</p> <p>2 And I just wanted to start out by thanking</p> <p>3 Cassandra Vanhooser for all of her support in</p> <p>4 my project, as well as Victoria and Eric</p> <p>5 Milhollan and the Frederick Douglass Honor</p> <p>6 Society, which I am a student board member of</p> <p>7 currently.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, that's great.</p> <p>9 MR. DIVILIO: If you sit down by the</p> <p>10 microphone for the people on TV watching will</p> <p>11 be able to hear you.</p> <p>12 MR. STAMP: Thank you.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.</p> <p>14 MISS REDMAN: So once again, this is my</p> <p>15 Girl Scout Gold Service Project. So this is</p> <p>16 like the big final project that you complete</p> <p>17 that incorporates the community.</p> <p>18 And I wanted to do something that had</p> <p>19 historical relevance to Talbot County and</p> <p>20 Easton. And I thought of Frederick Douglass to</p> <p>21 incorporate him in my project.</p>

Page 6

1 So I'm doing a project that's titled the
 2 Frederick Douglass Geocaching Trail.
 3 And for those of you who might not know
 4 what geocaching is, it's basically where you
 5 use GPS coordinates to find certain boxes or
 6 hidden things in different areas. And
 7 geocaching is known all around America as well
 8 as all over the world. People travel to do it
 9 and compete in geocaching events.
 10 So basically my project consists of six
 11 different locations that are all geocache
 12 boxes. I have the geocache box right here with
 13 the picture of Frederick Douglass on it. They
 14 are birdhouse boxes that we just turned into
 15 geocache boxes.
 16 And they are displayed and mounted in six
 17 different areas all across Easton that all have
 18 historic relevance to Frederick Douglass and
 19 his life in Talbot County.
 20 Inside the box, there is a pen, a log book
 21 for people to write their name after coming to

Page 7

1 it, and individual stamps for each box that
 2 have a quote from Frederick Douglass or a
 3 portrait of his face or inspiring words as
 4 well.
 5 And there is also a little bag of trinkets
 6 that many geocachers like to put something in
 7 or take something from each time they visit a
 8 different box.
 9 And I also have a passport book, which
 10 people get upon the start of this trail,
 11 geocache trail. And they can put each
 12 different stamp for the different places in
 13 each of the different pages in the passport
 14 book.
 15 And once completed with the passport book
 16 and all different stops on the Frederick
 17 Douglass geocaching trail, I have a coin that I
 18 designed. And it has a front and back. The
 19 front has Frederick Douglass and it says
 20 Frederick Douglass geocache trail Girl Scout
 21 Gold Project. And the back is a personalized

Page 8

1 art piece that I designed. And people can pick
 2 this up at the end of completing the entire
 3 trail.
 4 I'm unleashing my project on
 5 September 24th, which is also Frederick
 6 Douglass Day, at the library. And there is
 7 going to be a big community event.
 8 I'm also emceeing the Frederick Douglass Day,
 9 along with Frederick Douglass Honor Society.
 10 They asked me to help emcee that. So I'm, after
 11 that, I'm going to head on over to the library
 12 and present my project for people to pick up
 13 the passport books and then once they're
 14 completed, to then pick up the coins.
 15 But after Frederick Douglass Day, they
 16 will be able to pick up the passport books from
 17 the Talbot County Office of Economic
 18 Development and Tourism and also get the coins
 19 once completed at the same area.
 20 MR. PACK: Do you mind if I take a look at
 21 those while you're speaking, the coin and the

Page 9

1 book?
 2 MISS REDMAN: Sure.
 3 MR. PACK: Let Frank see it first.
 4 I'm sorry. Go ahead.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Go ahead, Autumn.
 6 MISS REDMAN: So there are six total
 7 stops. And just for an example, one of them is
 8 the Tidewater Inn, which was formerly the Avon
 9 Hotel. Another one is the Frederick Douglass
 10 Mural on Rails to Trails. Another one is the
 11 old Moton School in Easton. And the courthouse
 12 will be a temporary placing of the box for only
 13 Frederick Douglass Day on the 24th, and then it
 14 will be more of a virtual geocache where people
 15 can still complete it and see the statue.
 16 So yeah. I also designed a mosaic along
 17 with the help of my friends, family, and other
 18 community members, which is in the back of the
 19 room, a portrait of Frederick Douglass. And
 20 that is hopefully going to be displayed at the
 21 Frederick Douglass Museum once it is completed

Page 10

1 and built. But for the time being, I hope to
 2 display it in different schools and possibly
 3 other locations around the community until the
 4 museum is built.
 5 I did a lot of fundraising and made
 6 different crafts and stuff like that to raise
 7 money. But the Frederick Douglass Honor
 8 Society gave me a very generous donation so
 9 that I could continue with my project and buy
 10 everything that I needed to make this
 11 attainable and to make it happen.
 12 Finally, I just wanted to thank the
 13 Frederick Douglass Honor Society again for
 14 helping advertise my project and helping with
 15 funding. And the Talbot County Office of
 16 Economic Development and Tourism again for
 17 advertisement, funding, and storage of my
 18 passport books and coin, the geocaching website
 19 for helping me to put up my trails so people
 20 can access them altogether and complete them.
 21 And Tim Young, who also helped me design the

Page 11

1 coin. As well as the Easton Town Council,
 2 Parks and Recreation, church and private
 3 residences all for allowing me to place my
 4 boxes on their property.
 5 Thank you. Does anybody have any
 6 questions?
 7 MR. PACK: Do you want to -- wonderful
 8 presentation. A lot work.
 9 MISS REDMAN: Thank you.
 10 MR. PACK: I want to ask if you can share
 11 with the Council about the back of your coin.
 12 MISS REDMAN: So basically those are
 13 geocache challenge coins. So whenever someone
 14 completes a geocache event, a lot of times
 15 there will be challenge coins.
 16 And the front usually has something to do
 17 with what the big event is associated with, and
 18 the back a lot of times is a little picture of
 19 like a character of the person who helped
 20 design it or just art piece.
 21 So I like turtles. And it also has my

Page 12

1 initials and the year on that. So I just
 2 designed something that's personalized that I
 3 could put on the back of that.
 4 MR. PACK: It's real nice.
 5 MISS REDMAN: Thank you.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.
 7 Ms. Price.
 8 MS. PRICE: I was going to ask the same
 9 question, about the inspiration for the design
 10 of the back of the coin. It's really
 11 wonderful.
 12 I have two boys who were Eagle Scouts. So
 13 I certainly appreciate the scouting program,
 14 both boys and girls. It really does so much to
 15 develop your skills and leadership. And it's
 16 really wonderful to see your Girl Scout project
 17 and how much meaning it has to Talbot County
 18 with him being our native son.
 19 So thank you very much for doing that.
 20 MISS REDMAN: Thank you very much.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Divilio.

Page 13

1 MR. DIVILIO: Just congratulations on
 2 making it to this level.
 3 MISS REDMAN: Thank you.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: And what a big great
 5 accomplishment and a wonderful addition to
 6 Talbot County. So thank you very much.
 7 I know your parents are very proud of you,
 8 and they've done a wonderful done giving back
 9 to the community as well. It's nice to see
 10 that continue to the next generation.
 11 Thank you all.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Just like my colleagues
 13 said, you're an impressive young lady. That's
 14 for sure.
 15 MISS REDMAN: Thank you very much.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: With you speaking and
 17 stuff, you probably could help me.
 18 But you got an awesome sidekick there.
 19 MISS REDMAN: Yes.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: He does a good job, too.
 21 So you're very impressive. We really

Page 14

1 appreciate everything you're doing for the
 2 school and county and spreading Frederick
 3 Douglass around and showing how good he is for
 4 the county.
 5 MR. PACK: Can I?
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Go ahead, Mr. Pack.
 7 MR. PACK: If I may, Mr. Callahan.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
 9 MR. PACK: And I'll piggyback on what
 10 Ms. Price said.
 11 I've, over the years, sat in on many Eagle
 12 Scout presentations and watched the different
 13 projects that they -- from park benches to
 14 dugouts at the baseball fields and so forth.
 15 But this was so outside the box as far as
 16 thinking of it. And then all the planning that
 17 had to go into it and the technical aspect of
 18 it with the satellite finding it and all of
 19 that.
 20 So I'm quite impressed with this. And
 21 I've seen many projects over the years being

Page 15

1 here, but this one certainly struck me as
 2 something different.
 3 MISS REDMAN: Thank you very much.
 4 MR. PACK: Appreciate it.
 5 MR. DIVILIO: If it pleases the Council, I
 6 would appreciate if we could bring up the
 7 picture of Frederick Douglass up here for a
 8 picture with you guys and your family to get
 9 some publicity and help get the word out.
 10 MISS REDMAN: Sure.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: That would be great.
 12 MR. STAMP: Perfect.
 13 MR. DIVILIO: You guys want to get
 14 together? Let's go down.
 15 If any members of the Honor Society would
 16 like to come up, too.
 17 MS. PRICE: That thing looks heavy.
 18 MS. VANHOOSER: It is heavy.
 19 MISS REDMAN: I don't know which phone to
 20 look at.
 21 MR. STAMP: All the above.

Page 16

1 SPEAKER: That's a lot.
 2 MR. STAMP: Perfect.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Moving on to the
 4 next presentation would be Brookletts Place
 5 Senior Center.
 6 Childlene, would you like to come on up?
 7 MS. BROOKS: I've also asked Ann DeMart,
 8 who is a manager of the Bay Hundred Center, to
 9 join.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.
 11 MS. BROOKS: Good evening, Mr. Callahan
 12 and Members of the Council.
 13 I'd just like to begin by first
 14 congratulating Autumn, who has already left, on
 15 an awesome project as she's embarked upon the
 16 Frederick Douglass Honor Society. It's been
 17 such a pleasure working with her throughout
 18 this entire endeavor.
 19 Thank you to the Council for your
 20 continued support of Talbot County Senior
 21 Centers. We're so grateful for all you've done

Page 17

1 and continue to do to support our efforts.
 2 Thank you for being present today when we
 3 cut the ribbon for our newly-expanded parking.
 4 The project took approximately five years to
 5 complete, but you didn't give up. And I
 6 appreciate all that each of you did to help to
 7 make it possible.
 8 The National Council on Aging has claimed
 9 September as National Senior Center Month. It
 10 provides an opportunity for centers around the
 11 country to promote positive imaging of aging to
 12 highlight our centers to improve the lives of
 13 older adults. It also allows us to show the
 14 importance of the centers in our communities,
 15 great interest for prospective new members, and
 16 to collaborate with our community partners.
 17 This year's theme is strengthening
 18 community connections. We continually strive
 19 to partner with agencies within the community
 20 to bring worthwhile information to our members
 21 and non-members as well.

Page 18

1 As a matter of fact, we're hosting a
 2 community panel discussion on getting out
 3 there, how to reengage after the pandemic at
 4 one p.m. on September 29th. The discussion is
 5 open to the community and will not only focus
 6 on social isolation, but elder abuse as well.
 7 This panel is made up of a group of
 8 community experts from the private sector, the
 9 Department of Social Services, the Talbot
 10 County Health Department, the Talbot County
 11 Free Library, and Upper Shore Aging,
 12 Incorporated.
 13 In addition, the week of September 18th
 14 through the 24th is National Falls Prevention
 15 Awareness Week. We will have experts on hand
 16 to provide tips on how to reduce falls, as well
 17 as a special tai chi presentation to urge our
 18 members to exercise more.
 19 As you know, both Brookletts Place and the
 20 Bay Hundred Senior Centers are active centers.
 21 We encourage our members to participate in

Page 19

1 learning opportunities to help support their
 2 memory.
 3 We recently had a ten-week aging master
 4 program and will be hosting a senior memory
 5 program information session September 19th at
 6 ten o'clock.
 7 In addition, we have a small gym with
 8 exercise equipment, has exercise classes, arts
 9 and crafts classes, and games and musical
 10 performances featuring both local and
 11 out-of-state performers.
 12 We also promote friendship and comradery
 13 among our members. We have found that they're
 14 really concerned about one another, and they
 15 will let us know if they think something is not
 16 right with one of their friends.
 17 You were given a few examples of some of
 18 the programs and trips that we have had to
 19 connect our members from our center and our
 20 community.
 21 Our centers are definitely a place to

Page 20

1 connect and thrive, and we could not do it
 2 without your continued support. Thank you.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Childlene.
 4 Council. Mr. Pack.
 5 MR. PACK: Yes. Thank you both for all
 6 that you do in running your respective centers.
 7 Talbot County certainly has one of the
 8 oldest populations in the State, but an active
 9 population, as you said in your presentation.
 10 People come here not just because it's a
 11 wonderful place to retire to, but they still
 12 want to continue on socializing and get out and
 13 be a part of the community.
 14 I think you, with the activities that you
 15 all offer, you have a weight room there, or an
 16 exercise room I should say, you have an arts
 17 program, dancing, card playing. So you do a
 18 little bit of everything. Casino night, if I
 19 remember correctly. So it's a little bit of
 20 something for everyone at the senior center.
 21 So thank you both for what you're doing.

Page 21

1 MS. BROOKS: Thank you.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 3 Ms. Price.
 4 MS. PRICE: I'll just reiterate that
 5 Mr. Pack said. We worked together for a very
 6 long time. I'm going to miss working with you
 7 when I go off the Council.
 8 I'm very impressed by everything that
 9 you've done. You've brought unique projects to
 10 us. And you know, we've talked about it
 11 before, the collaboration with the YMCA and
 12 everything in St. Michael's and bringing the
 13 youth and elders together.
 14 And yes, it's taken a very long time to
 15 get this parking lot. You've run such a
 16 successful program, people are like what's the
 17 big deal with the parking lot. Because if you
 18 build it, they will come.
 19 MR. PACK: Right.
 20 MS. PRICE: You certainly have attracted
 21 very many people to use what is called

Page 22

1 Brookletts Place so that people don't really
 2 feel like it's a senior center because what you
 3 do isn't -- those activities are attractive to
 4 anybody that would want to do that, including a
 5 casino night. I might have to check that out.
 6 So thank you so much, Childlene.
 7 MS. BROOKS: Thank you.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Divilio.
 9 MR. DIVILIO: I just want to say thank you
 10 for your work. It's been a pleasure working
 11 with you on the Commission on Aging as well as
 12 the great facilities that you maintain there.
 13 The rooftop seating area is awesome. The
 14 conference room, which I know there was a
 15 meeting this afternoon, that other groups from
 16 the community are using it. Meals on Wheels, I
 17 always enjoy when I stop by, seeing the people
 18 inside painting, playing cards. There were a
 19 couple of guys playing Wii bowling a couple of
 20 weeks ago when I was there.
 21 It's just so much fun to see the

Page 23

1 excitement and their young energy that comes
 2 out of them when they're using that facility.
 3 So you're doing a great job, and I really
 4 appreciate the little bit of time that I got to
 5 spend with you in there.
 6 MS. BROOKS: Well, thank you. And we hope
 7 that you will continue to volunteer for our
 8 Meals on Wheels program. You know, we'll have
 9 to talk about it.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, Childlene.
 11 Hopefully, because we haven't had it in two to
 12 three years, is the Thanksgiving dinner. I
 13 really look forward to it.
 14 MS. BROOKS: I'll send you the date. You
 15 got it.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's perfect.
 17 So appreciate your good work. You do such
 18 a great job.
 19 MS. BROOKS: Thank you.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 21 Mr. Pack.

Page 24

1 MR. PACK: There's a proclamation to read.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,
 3 could you read the proclamation, please.
 4 SECRETARY: Proclamation, Senior Centers
 5 Month, September 2022. Strengthening Community
 6 Connections.
 7 Whereas, older Americans are significant
 8 members of our society, investing their wisdom
 9 and experience to help enrich and strengthen
 10 our communities.
 11 And whereas, senior centers act as
 12 catalysts for mobilizing the creativity,
 13 energy, vitality, and commitment of the older
 14 residents of our communities through a wide
 15 array of services, programs, and activities,
 16 affirming the dignity, self-worth, and
 17 independence of older individuals by
 18 facilitating their decisions and actions,
 19 tapping into their experiences, skills, and
 20 knowledge, enabling their continued
 21 contributions to the community.

Page 25

1 And whereas, the wide array of services,
 2 programs, and activities offered at Brookletts
 3 Place, the Talbot County Senior Center, and the
 4 Bay Hundred Senior Center, empower the older
 5 citizens of Talbot County to contribute to
 6 their own health and wellbeing and the health
 7 and wellbeing of their fellow citizens of all
 8 ages.
 9 And whereas, during the pandemic,
 10 Brookletts Place and the Bay Hundred Senior
 11 Center served as community partners, helping to
 12 ensure that our most vulnerable citizens,
 13 people age 65 and older, many with underlying
 14 medical conditions, were cared for and able to
 15 stay connected, safe, and healthy.
 16 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of
 17 Talbot County, do hereby reclaim September 2022
 18 as Senior Centers Month in Talbot County and
 19 call upon all residents to recognize the
 20 tremendous contributions that senior centers
 21 make toward the betterment of our communities

Page 26

1 by strengthening community connections, and
 2 recognizing the outstanding efforts of the
 3 staff and volunteers at the Talbot County
 4 Senior Centers who work every day to enhance
 5 the wellbeing of the older members of our
 6 community.
 7 Given under our hand in the great seal of
 8 Talbot County this 13th day of September in the
 9 year of our Lord 2022.
 10 MR. PACK: So moved.
 11 MS. PRICE: Second.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary, we
 13 got a motion and second it to approve. Call
 14 the vote, please.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 16 MR. PACK: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: I'm sorry. Mr. Callahan.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.

Page 27

1 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 3 MR. PACK: Aye.
 4 Ladies, if you wouldn't mind joining me
 5 down front for your presentation of your
 6 proclamation.
 7 Again, thank you both for all that you're
 8 doing here.
 9 I'm going to ask for a show of hands. If
 10 you've been in any of our senior centers for
 11 any activities, just raise your hand, at any
 12 point in time. Look at that.
 13 MS. BROOKS: That's great. And continue
 14 to come.
 15 MR. STAMP: Thank you.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next up is Talbot
 17 County Health Department. Dr. Maguire, how are
 18 you?
 19 DR. MAGUIRE: Hi. Good evening, everyone.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.
 21 DR. MAGUIRE: Thank you so much.

Page 28

1 MS. MORRIS: Thank you.
 2 DR. MAGUIRE: I hope everyone is having a
 3 good evening. I wanted to give a fall health
 4 update to our Board of Health.
 5 And I want to just keep in mind you guys
 6 have a very busy agenda tonight. So I
 7 apologize if I skip through, but the slides are
 8 there for reference if you need them.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate it. Thank you.
 10 DR. MAGUIRE: So September is Emergency
 11 Preparedness Month. So I just wanted to bring
 12 that to everyone's attention. This is a good
 13 time, you know, with, you know, hurricane
 14 season, flooding. It seems every time you look
 15 at the news, there's another emergency going
 16 on. So just wanted to bring to everyone's
 17 attention that it's a good time to set aside to
 18 keep your family safe during emergencies.
 19 Just keep in mind three things. Put
 20 together an emergency kit, make a plan with
 21 your family to stay safe, and stay informed by

Page 29

1 knowing how to get local alerts. And a great
 2 resource for everyone is the ready.gov site.
 3 So I urge everyone to go there and look at what
 4 they need to make sure that in times of
 5 emergencies, they can stay safe and healthy.
 6 I wanted to just give a very brief
 7 overview of monkeypox because I haven't gotten
 8 to do so to the Board of Health. This is
 9 something that we've gotten a lot of calls
 10 about at the Health Department. And I wanted
 11 to just, you know, describe what it is and how
 12 it's affecting us locally.
 13 So it was declared a public health
 14 emergency. And it's a rare disease that's
 15 native or endemic to countries in central
 16 Africa. And the reason it's a public health
 17 emergency is because all of a sudden in the
 18 spring it started spreading to other countries
 19 that basically never have it.
 20 And so there's a little map here where the
 21 countries that have little orange dots are

Page 30

1 countries where it's normally not found at all.
 2 In the US, we've had a few cases here and there
 3 over the past several decades. And then the
 4 countries in blue are where it is endemic.
 5 And why is it spreading? Well, likely the
 6 virus that causes it likely had a couple of
 7 mutations or changes that caused it to spread
 8 more easily among people. That's just
 9 conjecture. But it's not a new disease. It's
 10 one we know about. It's just one we're not
 11 used to here.
 12 So just quickly, you know, it does cause
 13 illness. So people who get infected with this
 14 virus will feel kind of that typical flu-like
 15 symptoms about three weeks after they're
 16 exposed. And then most people, about
 17 90 percent of people a few days later actually
 18 develop a really weird rash that kind of looks
 19 like pimples or blisters. It often starts on
 20 the mouth, but it can happen anywhere. And
 21 that takes about two to four weeks to heal.

Page 31

1 And so until that rash heals, someone is
 2 at risk of spreading it to someone else. And
 3 it can be painful.
 4 So it spreads by close personal
 5 skin-to-skin contact. So this is different
 6 than the respiratory illnesses we talk about.
 7 And so you have to have really direct contact
 8 with it for it to spread person to person or
 9 really like share, you know, something like if
 10 you're sleeping in the same sheets or
 11 something.
 12 It's not spread through casual contact.
 13 So someone going about their daily business,
 14 shaking hands and then washing your hands, is
 15 not going to be at risk.
 16 Who is getting it? Well, globally there's
 17 been almost 60,000 cases in this current
 18 outbreak. In the US, we've had almost 22,000
 19 cases. And in Maryland, as of yesterday,
 20 there's been 571.
 21 On the Eastern Shore, just in the midshore

Page 32

1 area, we've had fewer than five cases. I say
 2 fewer than five because there's a couple of
 3 cases that have yet to be fully determined.
 4 In this county, we haven't had any. So
 5 likely, knock on wood, that will stay, that
 6 will remain the case.
 7 It is not a disease that causes a lot of
 8 deaths. In fact, the first death in the US
 9 occurred today in LA in someone who was
 10 immunocompromised.
 11 And the graph on the right actually shows
 12 that through the summer, the cases were
 13 increasing. But over the past few weeks, we've
 14 started to see them go down, which is good.
 15 And we've predominantly been seeing this
 16 affecting men, especially men who have sex with
 17 men. They tend to be to me younger, 20s to
 18 40s. Ninety-six percent of cases are occurring
 19 in males. And actually they found that almost
 20 40 percent of cases are in people who are
 21 living with HIV. And so it's that group of

Page 33

1 people that we want to really make sure are
 2 aware of those risks and are seeing health care
 3 providers and getting the treatment and
 4 prevention methods that they need.
 5 So should the general public be worried?
 6 They should, you know, be alert and informed.
 7 But the current risk to general public is
 8 actually quite low. And so this is totally
 9 different than what we've been talking about
 10 the past couple of years with COVID.
 11 And so for people who are at higher risk,
 12 there's ways to prevent getting infected.
 13 Don't -- avoid skin-to-skin contact with people
 14 who have a rash that, you know, was weird and
 15 looks like monkeypox, wash your hands often.
 16 That's good advice for lots of things. And
 17 then if someone, you know, has been exposed or
 18 is concerned that they have a weird rash like
 19 this, then it's important they go to a
 20 healthcare provider, their own doctor, so that
 21 they can be diagnosed because maybe this rash

Page 34

1 is chickenpox or shingles or some other illness
 2 like that. And they can get tested at their
 3 doctor's office. And there's actually some
 4 treatment, too, for people who are at high
 5 risk. So there are things we can do to help
 6 this.
 7 There's a vaccination campaign going on
 8 for this. We don't have a lot of vaccines. So
 9 it's a targeted effort. And it's really meant
 10 for anyone who has been directly exposed to the
 11 monkeypox virus or someone who's been infected
 12 or someone who's at high risk of exposure and
 13 getting sick. So you know, people with HIV,
 14 the population who is being infected.
 15 And we've been reaching out to, you know,
 16 groups who serve that community. And anyone
 17 who is, you know, potentially eligible for
 18 vaccination, we only expect about maybe 30,000
 19 people in the entire State to get vaccinated.
 20 This is not going to be a massive campaign.
 21 And it's been ongoing, you know. We've given

Page 35

1 some vaccines out.
 2 So anyone who is considered eligible, high
 3 risk, there's a State website where they can
 4 preregister. And then those individuals get
 5 referred to us or their local health department
 6 or they can just call our Health Department and
 7 we can figure out if it's the right thing for
 8 that person.
 9 So that is just a super quick run through
 10 about monkeypox in the news. Not really
 11 affecting us locally too much compared to some
 12 other places. But just we have gotten some
 13 questions, and I wanted to allay most people's
 14 fear.
 15 I have one word just to say about COVID.
 16 It's still with us but in sort of a different
 17 place than we were several months ago. And
 18 there is some news that recently we have a new
 19 booster. It's hard to keep up with COVID
 20 vaccines at this point, I know. But there is a
 21 new one that was approved for use on

Page 36

1 September 2nd.
 2 And so both of the main brands, Pfizer and
 3 Moderna, have this new formulation. And
 4 basically what they did is they took the old
 5 booster, the old vaccine, and they added
 6 additional coverage for the variant that we've
 7 been seeing since January.
 8 And so really the goal with this is to
 9 help prevent a sort of fall/winter surge. And
 10 so anyone who is 12 and older who has completed
 11 what we call our primary series of vaccinations
 12 is eligible to get this. So for instance, I've
 13 gotten my booster and now I'm eligible to get
 14 this other one because it's been two months, a
 15 long time, since I've gotten my first booster.
 16 So if you are a senior over 50 who got,
 17 you know, a total of four vaccines, you can now
 18 get this other one because it offers that
 19 extra, that extra protection for what's been
 20 circulating right now.
 21 Where can you get one? We've been getting

Page 37

1 a lot of calls about this. We have a small
 2 supply at the Health Department. Right now, I
 3 think we have received about 600 doses. And so
 4 we're offering it in special clinics at our
 5 vaccine center, which is over on Marlboro Road
 6 in Easton. And then some other pharmacies in
 7 the community are also offering it. Giant,
 8 Hills, Pemberton and Walgreen's are the ones
 9 currently offering it. And every place
 10 requires an appointment, but you can really
 11 make an appointment by showing up and you may
 12 have to wait.
 13 So that is basically it for COVID. In the
 14 State of Maryland, we continue to have about
 15 1,000 to 1,500 new cases of COVID a day. We're
 16 seeing about 500 people hospitalized every day
 17 in Maryland. In Talbot County, we're seeing
 18 about eight to nine new cases every day. And
 19 each month, we see about ten to 15 people
 20 hospitalized.
 21 But it's a different scenario than it was,

Page 38

1 you know, in the previous months in that we
 2 kind of -- it's not -- we're allowed to kind of
 3 live our normal lives. It's circulating, but
 4 we have enough sort of community immunity that
 5 it's not really affecting the systems too much.
 6 So I wanted to switch gears and talk about
 7 some other fall issues that we see with health.
 8 So with the start of fall, we see the start of
 9 a new school year. And I just wanted to bring
 10 the attention about the importance of our
 11 school health program.
 12 So there's some interesting things that
 13 our school health nurses are engaged in.
 14 They're working with Talbot Emergency Services
 15 to try to get more people certified to teach
 16 CPR. And our goal is to teach the Talbot
 17 County Public Schools teachers and staff CPR so
 18 that everyone is more prepared when there is,
 19 again, other emergencies.
 20 Right now in our school health program, we
 21 have at least one nurse in seven of our eight

Page 39

1 schools in the county. And they completed over
 2 46,000 health office visits in last academic
 3 year, including 1,600 hearing and vision
 4 screenings for students. And during those
 5 screenings, we actually identified 273 students
 6 who failed their vision screening. And so we
 7 refer those students on to doctors for
 8 definitive testing to catch, you know, vision
 9 problems.
 10 So they're very active in the schools.
 11 And one thing they also do is help make sure
 12 that kids, student in schools, you know, meet
 13 their vaccination requirements for attendance.
 14 And what we saw during the past couple of years
 15 was that children fell behind on preventive
 16 care. And you know, vaccination was one of
 17 those things that they fell behind on.
 18 I put in the upper right, it's a little
 19 hard to read, some areas that children fell
 20 behind on. Vaccination rates in kids on
 21 Medicaid fell about five percent. And actually

Page 40

1 the most significant drop was in mental health
 2 care, which dropped about 23 percent.
 3 And so our school health nurses, they make
 4 sure every student who enters is up to date on
 5 their vaccinations. So we last year vaccinated
 6 91 children, which accounted for almost 750
 7 vaccination administrations. And a lot of
 8 these children are actually uninsured, which is
 9 why they come to us.
 10 And we for the first time hosted mobile
 11 vaccination clinics using some vans that we
 12 purchased a couple of years ago. And so we
 13 went to schools and that actually had a great
 14 turnout.
 15 And this is important just to remind
 16 everyone because, you know, we risk, when we
 17 have low vaccination rates, diseases like
 18 measles and chicken pox and polio. And you may
 19 have heard in the news there was a case of
 20 polio in a young gentleman in New York who
 21 actually had lower leg paralysis because of it.

Page 41

1 So we want to make sure we can avoid those
 2 issues here.
 3 I mentioned the mobile van services we've
 4 been active in. And one thing we've been using
 5 our vans for is partnering with our Detention
 6 Center to offer HIV and hepatitis C screening
 7 to inmates. And they just started doing this a
 8 couple of months ago and so far tested 41
 9 inmates. And the good thing about this is for
 10 those diseases, we can definitely refer to
 11 treatment. And in the case of hepatitis C,
 12 curative treatment.
 13 And so with these vans, we've been going
 14 out into the community also and doing HIV
 15 testing, hepatitis C testing, checking blood
 16 pressure, and checking blood sugars, too. So
 17 we hope to do more of that and get out into the
 18 community with our mobile services.
 19 I wanted to just, I'm going to skip that
 20 page, also just talk again about behavioral
 21 health. So I mentioned how children, you know,

Page 42

1 we're seeing a decrease in mental health visits
 2 during the past couple of years.
 3 And so the interesting thing is in the
 4 past couple of years, we've had more of a need
 5 for behavioral health intervention. And you
 6 know, and this is partly because the mental
 7 health system locally and nationally has been
 8 really taxed a lot the past couple of years
 9 because of the isolation and the changes in
 10 stress from the pandemic.
 11 And we already had, you know, a shortage
 12 of providers locally and therapists. And just
 13 with that increased demand, it's really caused
 14 a big burden on people.
 15 And unfortunately, what we have been
 16 experiencing here is, you know, provider
 17 shortages. And then we recently had a major
 18 clinic close, too, just on Friday. Officially
 19 three of the Eastern Shore Psychological
 20 Service locations closed, including one in
 21 Easton. So that left several hundred patients

Page 43

1 who needed to transition.
 2 Fortunately, we're hoping to find new
 3 homes for their staff. So several of the
 4 stakeholders locally have been meeting weekly
 5 to try to ensure as least a disruptive a
 6 transition for those patients.
 7 And of course, here locally we have a
 8 Talbot mental health work group that's been
 9 convening the past few months. And I know,
 10 Council Member Pack, you've been active in
 11 that, too, because we're really trying to make
 12 sure that especially the young people can
 13 receive the mental health, the behavioral
 14 health interventions that they need.
 15 And so I just wanted to close with a
 16 couple of other things.
 17 Again, in the fall, just a few important
 18 reminders. Fall is when we have health
 19 insurance open enrollment. And in November
 20 through mid-December, the Maryland Health
 21 Connection is open for open enrollment. So

Page 44

1 people can go onto that website and get the
 2 assistance of health insurance navigators to
 3 sign up for health insurance. For people who
 4 qualify for Medicaid, they can apply any time
 5 of year. And the Health Department, we have a
 6 division that actually assists people to apply
 7 for and obtain services through Medicaid. We
 8 act as a liaison.
 9 And it's been extremely busy the past few
 10 months. In July alone, we assisted 88
 11 residents with enrollment and we connected 139
 12 recipients to resources and medical services.
 13 And lastly, just wanted to close on a few
 14 events that are upcoming.
 15 We host a rabies clinic a few times a
 16 year. And so we have one planned for Saturday,
 17 October 8th. It's going to be a drive-through
 18 over at the Bay Street county offices. It's
 19 only \$6 per animal. And it's important to make
 20 sure, you know, your pets are vaccinated
 21 against rabies because we do have rabies that

Page 45

1 circulates mostly in wild animals in Maryland.
 2 And actually last year we saw 162 cases in
 3 animals.
 4 It's the raccoons that seem to be the
 5 majority species. So if anyone interacts with
 6 a raccoon, be extra careful and seek medical
 7 attention.
 8 We did have three cases of animals who had
 9 rabies last year, a fox and two raccoons.
 10 And lastly, I just wanted to finish up and
 11 remind everyone that flu season is coming up.
 12 And so it's important to get your flu vaccine.
 13 The Health Department will be offering flu
 14 vaccination at schools and for the public
 15 school staff. And then we'll be doing
 16 community clinics. And in November, we'll
 17 start offering walk-in clinics for the public
 18 in our Health Department location.
 19 So hopefully these reminders and just an
 20 overview about some issues about fall health
 21 can help everyone stay healthy through the

Page 46

1 fall.

2 And with that, I will see you guys in a

3 couple of weeks for I believe the senior care

4 plan update.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Well, I appreciate

6 that.

7 Mr. Pack, anything?

8 MR. PACK: Yes, sure. Dr. Maguire, thank

9 you very much for your presentation. Very

10 timely as we're entering the fall season that

11 we stay vigilant as far as our vaccinations.

12 You mentioned the flu season at the very end.

13 And yes, I want to thank you also for

14 participating in our mental health consortium

15 that we put together so we can hopefully put a

16 plan in place to deal locally with our mental

17 health concerns.

18 I was looking recently at life expectancy

19 among African Americans. And mental health was

20 one of the five contributing factors to early

21 death amongst African Africans, along with

Page 47

1 heart disease, death, diabetes, and homicide

2 actually.

3 So it's important that we address mental

4 health holistically and get people the help

5 that they need. Thank you.

6 DR. MAGUIRE: No problem. Thank you.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Price.

8 MS. PRICE: Just want to thank you for

9 everything you've done. It's been a rough

10 couple of years. It's nice to see things the

11 way they are now and that, you know, we are

12 vigilant, but at the same time we're able to

13 live our lives again.

14 It's nice to have a report from you that

15 doesn't include all of those bad statistics.

16 But I think it was good to have that

17 update on monkeypox. If you thought it's

18 something different, that maybe it was going to

19 be this big thing like COVID, and, you know,

20 it's a very targeted place. And I think that

21 that is very reassuring to people. Of course,

Page 48

1 there's going to be lots of phone calls, and

2 understandably so.

3 So thank you for that update. Hopefully

4 that will get out so that more people are aware

5 of what that risk really is or is not.

6 So thank you for everything. This may be

7 our last Board of Health update with this

8 Council. So I'm sure I will see you. But if I

9 don't see you here again, thank you for

10 stepping up to the plate in a very difficult

11 time. It's been really wonderful to work with

12 you.

13 DR. MAGUIRE: Well, thank you very much.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Price.

15 Mr. Divilio.

16 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you for the very

17 comprehensive presentation.

18 We did hear Dr. Griffith say last year

19 that many of the disruptions in schools, the

20 threats that were called in were from students

21 who had perfect records and had not been

Page 49

1 troubled students or anybody that they expected

2 that behavior from.

3 And when you cite a 23 percent decline in

4 mental health services during the pandemic in

5 children, I can only imagine that getting

6 worse. Many people that think that that's just

7 in our schools, it's just our children, we have

8 guidance counselors, we'll be fine, I do call

9 attention to the senior couple who was walking

10 down Washington Street and were assaulted by an

11 individual who was seeking -- under medical

12 care for mental health services and ended up

13 back in jail.

14 It can happen to any of us at any time as

15 we don't have facilities in the State that

16 house people for long term for this.

17 So it's an incredible challenge. There's

18 many things that we do and have to look at. I

19 know that you look at things from a very

20 complex situation on how to solve a problem,

21 bringing groups together and partnering with

Page 50

1 the schools. I appreciate what you're doing
 2 there to help the students.
 3 And I know that the students are in need
 4 as well as the faculty. And I have a lot of
 5 anxiety of what the school year is going to
 6 look like as we continue through this. But it
 7 does give comfort having somebody with your
 8 knowledge and background at the helm of the
 9 ship.
 10 Thank you.
 11 DR. MAGUIRE: Thank you.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Dr. Maguire.
 13 Great job tonight. A lot of information,
 14 helpful information for people that cleared up
 15 a lot of, you know, things that people aren't
 16 sure of.
 17 DR. MAGUIRE: Right.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 19 DR. MAGUIRE: Thank you so much.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda
 21 is introduction of an administrative

Page 51

1 resolution. Madam Secretary, could you go
 2 ahead and get us started on that, that would be
 3 great.
 4 SECRETARY: A resolution of Talbot County,
 5 Maryland, the county, authorizing the issuance
 6 and sale of general obligation bonds in a
 7 principal amount not exceeding \$24,900,000,
 8 pursuant to the authority of Bill Number 1522
 9 enacted by the County Council of Talbot County
 10 on July 26, 2022, the public local law, section
 11 10 203 of the Local Government Article of the
 12 Annotated Code of Maryland, 2013 replacement
 13 volume as amended, the enabling acts. And
 14 section 623 of the Charter of Talbot County,
 15 Maryland, the charter. The bonds to be
 16 designated Talbot County public improvement
 17 bonds series of 2022. The net proceeds of the
 18 sale thereof to be used and applied for the
 19 public purpose of financing or refinancing the
 20 planning, design, acquisition, renovation,
 21 construction, and/or furnishing of a Talbot

Page 52

1 County Public Safety Building and a Talbot
 2 County Health Department, prescribing the form
 3 and tenor of the bonds and the terms and
 4 conditions for the issuance and sale thereof at
 5 private or public sale, including the form of
 6 the notice of sale. Prescribing the terms and
 7 conditions of the bonds and all other details
 8 incident to the issuance, sale, and delivery of
 9 the bonds. Providing for the disbursement of
 10 the proceeds of the bonds. Authorizing the
 11 preparation and distribution of a preliminary
 12 and final official statement in connection with
 13 the sale of the bonds. Providing for the levy
 14 and collection of any taxes necessary for the
 15 prompt payment of the maturing principal of and
 16 interest on the bonds. And providing that the
 17 full faith and credit and taxing power of
 18 Talbot County, Maryland, shall be pledged to
 19 the payment of such principal and interest,
 20 subject to the limitation on the tax levy set
 21 out in section 614 of the Charter of Talbot

Page 53

1 County. And generally relating to the
 2 issuance, sale, delivery, and payment of the
 3 bonds.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Madam
 5 Secretary.
 6 Angela.
 7 MS. LANE: Good evening, Council.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: You want to explain all
 9 that?
 10 MS. LANE: Yes. Actually they laid out
 11 everything in the little first paragraph.
 12 This is the final piece that Council needs
 13 to act on in order for the county to sell our
 14 bonds. The administrative resolution, as it
 15 said, has all the general information about the
 16 bonds, the term of the bonds, the use of the
 17 bonds, how the bonds are going to be sold, how
 18 individuals who ultimately purchase these bonds
 19 will be paid, how bonds could be redeemed if
 20 the county chooses to redeem them at some
 21 point.

Page 54	Page 56
<p>1 This document is sort of the kind of the</p> <p>2 bible of what happens to get to a bond sale and</p> <p>3 after a bond sale. So everything is outlined</p> <p>4 in this administrative resolution.</p> <p>5 Obviously, it's general at this point. We</p> <p>6 don't have any specific information until</p> <p>7 pretty much after the bonds are sold. But this</p> <p>8 lays out the general terms for everything</p> <p>9 associated with the bond sale and after the</p> <p>10 bonds are issued.</p> <p>11 In terms of our timing, Council needs to</p> <p>12 approve this administrative resolution. We</p> <p>13 plan to sell our bonds on Thursday,</p> <p>14 September 29th. And then we will settle two</p> <p>15 weeks after that.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, okay. Sounds great.</p> <p>17 MS. LANE: Do you need any other</p> <p>18 information?</p> <p>19 MR. PACK: No. As you said before,</p> <p>20 Ms. Lane, this is the last steps so we can go</p> <p>21 forward in these capital projects that this</p>	<p>1 introduce it first.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: I thought we already did that.</p> <p>3 MS. PRICE: Raise our hands.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: I apologize. I'm moving too</p> <p>5 fast.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: That's okay. Is there a</p> <p>7 motion?</p> <p>8 MS. PRICE: I think it's just...</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Just introduction.</p> <p>10 MR. DIVILIO: Introduction.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: That's fine. Okay.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: And now since it's introduced.</p> <p>13 MS. PRICE: Just trying to be efficient.</p> <p>14 MR. PACK: You are absolutely correct. It</p> <p>15 has to be introduced first.</p> <p>16 I would ask that as it is an</p> <p>17 administrative resolution, Mr. Callahan, that</p> <p>18 we move it to vote tonight.</p> <p>19 MS. PRICE: Second that.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Got a motion and</p> <p>21 second on moving it to vote. Madam Secretary.</p>
Page 55	Page 57
<p>1 Council has been laying out for the last four</p> <p>2 years. We knew that this day was going to</p> <p>3 come. We need to build a new public safety</p> <p>4 center, to move our Sheriff's Department out of</p> <p>5 the Business Center.</p> <p>6 Dr. Maguire was just here before you. We</p> <p>7 need to find them a new home. The building</p> <p>8 that they're currently in is an aged building.</p> <p>9 And it does have some issues. Let me just put</p> <p>10 it that way. And get our Health Department in</p> <p>11 new surroundings for the near future. So we</p> <p>12 knew this day was going to come. This is just</p> <p>13 that next step to get those bonds issued so we</p> <p>14 can go on with our building project.</p> <p>15 So thank you.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Any other comments?</p> <p>17 MR. PACK: Mr. Callahan, as this is an</p> <p>18 administrative resolution, it is eligible for</p> <p>19 vote this evening. I would ask that the matter</p> <p>20 be moved to a vote tonight.</p> <p>21 MS. PRICE: Should we -- we have to</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>4 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>6 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>9 MS. LANE: Thank you very much, Council.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Thank you,</p> <p>11 Angela.</p> <p>12 Just a reminder for people that are here</p> <p>13 for the public hearing. We are going to keep</p> <p>14 the public hearings open tonight. There's not</p> <p>15 going to be any voting on any of the bills</p> <p>16 tonight. So just want to let you know. Okay.</p> <p>17 Madam Secretary, introduction of numbered</p> <p>18 resolution. Can you go ahead and do that for</p> <p>19 us, please.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: A resolution to amend the</p> <p>21 Talbot County comprehensive water and sewer</p>

Page 58	Page 60
<p>1 plan for the purpose of reclassifying and</p> <p>2 remapping certain real property located at 4480</p> <p>3 Bachelors Point Road, Oxford, Maryland. Shown</p> <p>4 on tax map 53 as parcel 77, from W-2 and S-2 to</p> <p>5 W-1 and S-1, immediate priority status for</p> <p>6 water and sewer service from the Oxford water</p> <p>7 and wastewater system.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.</p> <p>9 Mr. Clarke, you want to come on up, just</p> <p>10 do an overview of what we're thinking here with</p> <p>11 the resolution.</p> <p>12 MR. CLARKE: Mr. Callahan, this is</p> <p>13 actually an application we received from the</p> <p>14 Town of Oxford for a parcel on Bachelors Point</p> <p>15 Road. Ultimately it's being increased in the</p> <p>16 classification from let's say a final -- sorry.</p> <p>17 Not final, but planning for water and sewer</p> <p>18 service in three to five years. This will be</p> <p>19 taken into immediate priority status as S-1,</p> <p>20 W-1.</p> <p>21 Again, we did receive the application from</p>	<p>1 will be held on Tuesday, October 11th, at</p> <p>2 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Madam</p> <p>4 Secretary.</p> <p>5 Next.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: A resolution to amend the</p> <p>7 Talbot County comprehensive water and sewer</p> <p>8 plan for the purpose of adding or modifying the</p> <p>9 Talbot County capital project for fiscal years</p> <p>10 2023 and 2024 to add a new capital project in</p> <p>11 the amount of \$4.718 million for water system</p> <p>12 improvements for the Town of Oxford.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Clarke.</p> <p>14 MR. CLARKE: Mr. Callahan, the county</p> <p>15 received an application from the town. This is</p> <p>16 basically for the capital project for the water</p> <p>17 system.</p> <p>18 Just so the Council knows as well as the</p> <p>19 general public, for I guess the town to apply</p> <p>20 for funding through the Maryland Department of</p> <p>21 the Environment, they have to amend the comp</p>
Page 59	Page 61
<p>1 the town. So the town is I believe supportive</p> <p>2 of this moving forward.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds good.</p> <p>4 So we want to go ahead and...</p> <p>5 MS. PRICE: So is this part of like our</p> <p>6 quarterly introductions for comprehensive water</p> <p>7 and sewer plan?</p> <p>8 MR. CLARKE: Yes, ma'am. Yeah. We moved</p> <p>9 it up to the first of the month. So yes, this</p> <p>10 is part of that quarterly update.</p> <p>11 MS. PRICE: Okay.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Do we want to go ahead and</p> <p>13 introduce this? Raise our hands. Mr. Pack,</p> <p>14 show of hands.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: I was just reading it.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's good.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: You want the public hearing</p> <p>18 date?</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: This will be known as</p> <p>21 Resolution Number 335, and the public hearing</p>	<p>1 water and sewer plan. So this is the action</p> <p>2 they're taking at this point in time, is to</p> <p>3 amend the comp water and sewer plan to include</p> <p>4 this capital project so that they can then</p> <p>5 proceed for funding with MDE at the end of</p> <p>6 January.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds good.</p> <p>8 Can I have a show of hands to introduce</p> <p>9 it? Okay.</p> <p>10 Madam Secretary, could you announce the</p> <p>11 number and the time.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: This will be Resolution Number</p> <p>13 336, and the public hearing will be held on</p> <p>14 Tuesday, October 11th, at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds great. Thank</p> <p>16 you, Mr. Clarke. Okay.</p> <p>17 Let's move on to the public hearing. When</p> <p>18 you get straight, Madam Secretary, can you go</p> <p>19 ahead and read Resolution 333.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Resolution 333, a resolution</p> <p>21 to approve amended rules of procedure of the</p>

Page 62

1 Talbot County Board of Appeals.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Thomas, you want

3 to go ahead and go over that, please.

4 MR. THOMAS: Sure. So under both the

5 Charter and the County Code, the Board of

6 Appeals has the authority to adopt rules of

7 procedure that are subject to approval by the

8 County Council.

9 They have existing rules of procedures,

10 but this has been in the works for some time as

11 comprehensive revisions and to clean up some

12 inconsistencies and bring it into conformity

13 with their practice.

14 So this has been reviewed and revised by

15 the Board. They've approved it. So now

16 they've submitted it to the County Council for

17 approval.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds great.

19 So I guess at this time, we're going to

20 open it to the public hearing. And we're going

21 to give you three minutes for individual and

Page 63

1 five minutes if you're representing somebody.

2 So I guess we'll start over here on my

3 left, if anybody wants to come on up.

4 Anybody here on my right want to come on

5 up and talk about 333?

6 MR. CAVANAUGH: Good evening.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.

8 MR. CAVANAUGH: I'm Frank Cavanaugh,

9 chairman of the Talbot County Board of Appeals.

10 And joining me is Lou Dorsey, our vice

11 chairman.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Great. Welcome.

13 MR. CAVANAUGH: Thank you. The Board of

14 Appeals rules of procedure was last updated in

15 June of 2007.

16 In the past 15 years, many of our

17 procedures have changed. So in 2019, the Board

18 began the process of reviewing and revising

19 this document. The onset of COVID, the COVID

20 pandemic, caused us to delay our efforts.

21 In July of 2022, we completed this review

Page 64

1 and made revisions to our rules of procedure.

2 These revised rules now before you include all

3 the current procedures now being used.

4 A major change is the way forms and

5 applications are submitted. Now all of this is

6 done using the county's website.

7 During this review process, we had much

8 help and input from the Planning & Zoning

9 director, along with numerous county staff and

10 advice and direction from the county attorneys.

11 Thank you for considering Resolution 333

12 and to accept these amended rules. The members

13 of the Board of Appeals ask that you approve

14 these revised rules of procedure. Thank you.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. CAVANAUGH: Any questions?

17 MR. PACK: Not at this time.

18 MR. CAVANAUGH: Okay. Super.

19 MS. PRICE: Actually I do have one. You

20 mentioned the application process and doing

21 that online at the county website.

Page 65

1 Were there any other major changes to the

2 rules and procedures besides that one?

3 MR. CAVANAUGH: I don't think there was

4 any major. A lot of cleaning up language, a

5 lot of things that the number of forms that we

6 need. There were a lot of minute details that

7 have changed over the 15 years.

8 I think we simplified some of the

9 language. We clarified some of our

10 definitions. We tried to make it easier for an

11 applicant to understand the rules.

12 So I think even though we did do a lot of

13 changes, a lot of editing words, so to speak, I

14 don't think there were any substantial legal

15 changes. I think we just brought it up to

16 date.

17 MR. THOMAS: I think there were definitely

18 some conflicting terms and some things that

19 were just very confusing in there that we

20 wanted to clean up and make it easier for

21 everybody to understand and follow.

Page 66

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 2 MS. PRICE: Thank you.
 3 MR. CAVANAUGH: Thank you.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Great. Thank you, guys.
 5 Appreciate it.
 6 Okay. At this time, Council's preference.
 7 Do we want to leave this open or are we ready
 8 to go ahead and -- we're going to keep this
 9 open, right? So we'll keep it open.
 10 MS. PRICE: You just said that we're
 11 keeping them all open.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you
 13 read the next resolution, 334.
 14 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 334, a
 15 resolution to amend Resolution Number 175, a
 16 resolution to establish sewer service
 17 connection policies from the Unionville, Tunis
 18 Mills, and Copperville sewer service area low
 19 pressure force main collection system to the
 20 Royal Oak pump station for the purpose of
 21 exempting county governmental uses and services

Page 67

1 from the provisions thereof, subject to certain
 2 conditions.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.
 4 Okay.
 5 Mr. Clarke, you want to come on up.
 6 MR. CLARKE: Sure thing.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 8 MR. CLARKE: Very quickly again. I think
 9 when this was introduced, just let Council
 10 know, we do have along the force main route
 11 from Unionville to the Royal Oak pump station,
 12 which is at Maryland 329 and 33, we have
 13 actually a total of five parcels that the
 14 county owned.
 15 Three of those parcels are actually in the
 16 sanitary district. One is the Unionville pump
 17 station, the other one is the Royal Oak pump
 18 station. And then we have the Oak Creek
 19 landing that's also in the sewer service area.
 20 However, we do have parcels that are up by
 21 Pin Cushion. There's I guess the ag field that

Page 68

1 was owned by or I guess was kind of associated
 2 with Carol's Market. And then beyond that, we
 3 have I guess some Glebe, along Glebe Road,
 4 there's some residential properties. And just
 5 behind those properties, we also have a piece
 6 of county-owned property that abut along that
 7 route, the force main route.
 8 In addition, what we do is we also have
 9 the repurposing facility. That's not really on
 10 the force main. However, this would, I guess
 11 the proposed change, would allow the county to
 12 go ahead and move forward with us extending
 13 sewer to those government properties if you all
 14 feel that that's necessary.
 15 At the same time, I will say we are, for
 16 the repurposing facility, we are doing soil
 17 testing for an on-site sewage disposal system
 18 at this time. So we're not proposing anything
 19 for the repurposing facility.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Thank
 21 you, Mr. Clarke. I appreciate it.

Page 69

1 MS. PRICE: Couple of questions.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Go ahead.
 3 MS. PRICE: Do you know when we're going
 4 to get those soil tests back on that property?
 5 MR. CLARKE: I'm trying.
 6 MS. PRICE: Ballpark. I mean another
 7 couple of weeks, another couple of months?
 8 MR. CLARKE: I'm going to say give us
 9 another couple of months, maybe two to three
 10 months.
 11 MS. PRICE: So it's not going to be this
 12 Council, then.
 13 MR. CLARKE: I know, I know. So it's
 14 going to be -- I don't think it's going to
 15 happen before then. Let me put it that way.
 16 We're still going through the soil
 17 testing.
 18 One of the problems we've run into is it
 19 is a very wet area. And part of the problem
 20 has been, with Environmental Health, there is a
 21 prohibition on berm infiltration ponds. So

Page 70

1 that's a potential system that cannot be
 2 utilized. So they've been looking at other
 3 systems that can be.
 4 MS. PRICE: So the first three properties
 5 that you mentioned are plants. So you wouldn't
 6 need to run sewer to those first three that you
 7 mentioned.
 8 MR. CLARKE: Correct.
 9 MS. PRICE: Right. The other property
 10 that we picked up with POS or to replace some
 11 of the POS land out by the Community Center
 12 needs to stay open. We can't do anything other
 13 than some passive type things. So we wouldn't
 14 need to run sewer to that obviously unless we
 15 were going to develop the property, then you'd
 16 have to find some other POS land to replace it.
 17 And then there's the Repurposing Center.
 18 Then you mentioned one more --
 19 MR. CLARKE: There's another property
 20 we're finding that's right behind the
 21 residential properties. I'm not sure how the

Page 71

1 county came about of acquiring that. So there
 2 is a property right behind the Glebe, the
 3 houses that are along Glebe Road. As you're
 4 going down the Pin Cushion towards Unionville,
 5 there's houses along Glebe Road. Just beyond
 6 those houses is also a county-owned property.
 7 MS. PRICE: Doesn't seem like there's
 8 anything to connect other than one potential --
 9 MR. CLARKE: Right. And again, I think
 10 the question would be is if the Council at some
 11 point in the future decided that let's say they
 12 wanted to put a bathroom for the park or
 13 something of that nature, they could --
 14 MS. PRICE: Could always come and do it at
 15 that time.
 16 MR. CLARKE: Yes.
 17 MS. PRICE: Doesn't necessarily need to be
 18 done now because we don't have a specific
 19 project. Okay. Thank you.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,
 21 Mr. Clarke. Okay.

Page 72

1 I'll open it up, public hearing. So
 2 you'll have three minutes as individuals and
 3 five minutes if you're representing somebody on
 4 Resolution 334.
 5 So here to my left, if somebody would
 6 like -- yeah. Yes, sir, come on up.
 7 MR. HUGHES: Good evening, Mr. Chairman,
 8 lady, gentlemen. Tom Hughes, Chenar Farm,
 9 Easton, Maryland.
 10 Some you may recall, I was on the Planning
 11 Commission for ten years and also its chairman.
 12 I was on the Planning Commission, and this is
 13 by way of background, when Resolution 175 was
 14 originally drafted, unanimously recommended by
 15 the Planning Commission and unanimously
 16 approved by the Council.
 17 I have tried to boil my comments down to
 18 three minutes. It's all on one page. So I
 19 hope you'll give me a few seconds so I can get
 20 through this one page.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir.

Page 73

1 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. I have been
 2 following the Royal Oak and Unionville sewer
 3 line issue for more than 30 years and would
 4 wager I have more knowledge of this matter than
 5 anyone still standing.
 6 I oppose Resolution 334 or any similar
 7 amendments to Resolution 175.
 8 The Unionville sewer issue in the early
 9 1990s was the first time I took more than a
 10 passing interest in local politics. The public
 11 was concerned that the plan for a wastewater
 12 plant in Unionville with the discharge under
 13 the Miles River Bridge was really a boondoggle
 14 to open up the interior of Miles River Neck to
 15 development.
 16 After many meetings and spirited public
 17 hearings, a far better alternative was settled
 18 on than the ones being considered by the
 19 county, State, and assorted consultants.
 20 This alternative was to run a pipe from
 21 Unionville to the existing pump station at

Page 74

1 Royal Oak. During those lengthy deliberations,
 2 the public was repeatedly told that the new
 3 sewer line would not and indeed could not be
 4 used to foster growth.
 5 When the county asked for State and
 6 federal grants, the county was told per a
 7 November 5, 1993, letter from the Maryland
 8 Department of Planning that their request was
 9 inconsistent with State law unless they agreed
 10 that, quote, the force main will be designed to
 11 accommodate flows only from the Unionville,
 12 Tunis Mills, Copperville service areas as
 13 identified and, two, any existing homes along
 14 the force main route that have a septic system
 15 with the potential for failure.
 16 Subsequently, the county passed a
 17 resolution on November 13, 1993, with the
 18 identical provisions and guaranties. There was
 19 never any mention of ever allowing the
 20 Unionville line to be used part of a grandiose
 21 sewer system running from Easton's boundary all

Page 75

1 the way to Bar Neck.
 2 Indeed, both the Maryland Department of
 3 Planning letter and the county's 1993
 4 resolution clearly specify that the line would
 5 only be "designed to accommodate" flows from
 6 the named villages and existing homes along the
 7 line with failing septic systems.
 8 This subject has come up again and again
 9 over the past decades, and I have had to remind
 10 people of the strict limitations placed on the
 11 Unionville line over and over again.
 12 From time to time, former county attorney
 13 Mr. Pullen referenced the facts I presented in
 14 official findings made by the Planning
 15 Commission. Please read the 2014 Planning
 16 Commission's findings written by Mr. Pullen
 17 that I will submit for the record, as well as a
 18 piece that was published on the 24th of August
 19 in the Talbot Spy.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Ten seconds.
 21 MR. HUGHES: Resolution 175 as it stands

Page 76

1 today is perfectly consistent with the law and
 2 the original purpose of the line and it must
 3 not be changed.
 4 Eventually in order to hook up the
 5 county's Repurposing Center, a water and sewer
 6 plan amendment will have to be scrutinized --
 7 MR. DIVILIO: Time.
 8 MR. HUGHES: -- and approved by the
 9 Planning Commission.
 10 For multiple reasons, even besides the
 11 ones I've already mentioned, if they follow the
 12 laws, such an amendment will be turned down.
 13 Thank you.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, Mr. Hughes.
 15 MR. HUGHES: And I'd like all the
 16 supporting documents to be put in the record as
 17 well.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. Thank you.
 19 MS. PRICE: Thank you, Mr. Hughes.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Anybody here? Yes, ma'am.
 21 Come on up.

Page 77

1 MS. WILLS: Jermaine Wills. Hello. I
 2 live on Lay Haven Road in Easton.
 3 And I -- that gentleman has just become my
 4 hero to lay into the record the detail to which
 5 as a resident I don't have the full details of.
 6 But I'm here to voice concern of residents down
 7 Lay Haven Road, some of whom have written
 8 letters to the Council, part of which I will
 9 just lay out. It is very short.
 10 We express opposition to the allowing of
 11 government entities to connect to the
 12 Repurposing Center to connect the sewer. I got
 13 that mixed up. Three concerns.
 14 If approved, it lays the ground work for
 15 further development. I think I'm just
 16 repeating what this fine gentleman before me
 17 said. It lays out the proposition for further
 18 development, which is directly counter to the
 19 principles of the Comprehensive Plan. And as
 20 he said, I won't go into the detail. It would
 21 we think, believe it requires going back to the

Page 78

1 Planning Commission. So I just want to be the
 2 voice and the face of concerned residents down
 3 Lay Haven Road who already deal with and have
 4 been involved in accidents from the increased
 5 traffic that is already down St. Michael's
 6 Road.
 7 And the Repurposing Center and the
 8 driveway that was put there has already caused
 9 concerns for us, who, to the left and right
 10 down Lay Haven Road. And the development
 11 that's happening down Lay Haven Road is only
 12 going to increase it by itself. So we have
 13 grave concerns for the expansion that this
 14 would make possible.
 15 Thank you very much.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
 17 MS. PRICE: Thank you.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate it. Anybody
 19 else on my left here?
 20 Anybody on my right here that wants to
 21 come up and talk about 334? Yes, sir. Come on

Page 79

1 up.
 2 MR. ALSPACH: Good evening, Council
 3 Members. Tom Alspach for Talbot Preservation
 4 Alliance.
 5 We believe that this particular resolution
 6 is premature and unnecessary at this time and,
 7 further, that it is a rather dangerous
 8 precedent to go about amending an existing
 9 resolution that's been in place for some time
 10 for important reasons. Without an amendment
 11 that is in the context of a specific project so
 12 that we can evaluate how a project is being
 13 considered, would impact restrictions that are
 14 now in 175.
 15 I have heard from the outset this is not
 16 supposed to be a site-specific proposal and it
 17 could apply anywhere. But it's really
 18 difficult to buy that.
 19 This looks very much like a proposal in
 20 order to expedite and remove barriers from the
 21 connection of a sewer line to the repurposing

Page 80

1 facility.
 2 Why do I say that? You can look at the
 3 documentation and pretty much see it for
 4 yourself. 334 would eliminate certain
 5 restrictions in 175 presently in place that
 6 would effectively prohibit the connection of
 7 the Repurposing Center to the Unionville sewer
 8 line.
 9 For example, in section 2Ciii in 175, one
 10 cannot connect a property that through which,
 11 unless it's a property through which the force
 12 main passes and unless the proposed parcel is
 13 contiguous to that property.
 14 And more importantly, the next section
 15 says, in current restrictions on 175, no
 16 property may be connected through any other
 17 parcel or properties, which, of course, is the
 18 main impediment right now to connecting the
 19 Repurposing Center down to Unionville because
 20 of the multiple parcels that it would have to
 21 go through.

Page 81

1 So to correct this, we think that if there
 2 is to be a proposal, once again, to connect the
 3 Repurposing Center to Unionville, that's the
 4 context in which a proposed resolution or
 5 amendment to the Comprehensive Plan should come
 6 up, not in the abstract where there's no
 7 reference at all to the parcels that will be
 8 affected by this revision.
 9 Now, it has been said that the protection
 10 here is that, I heard this at the introduction
 11 of this legislation or resolution, that the
 12 county water and sewer plan would still have to
 13 be factored into any proposal to connect the
 14 Repurposing Center to the Unionville line.
 15 Is that five minutes?
 16 MR. PACK: Three.
 17 MR. ALSPACH: I have five.
 18 MS. PRICE: Five. TPA.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Keep going.
 20 MR. ALSPACH: But that's really not true
 21 because this proposed 334 eliminates that

Page 82

1 protection of the county water and sewer plan.
 2 What 175 says at section nine is that
 3 approval of any connection to the force main
 4 shall be by amendment to the county water and
 5 sewer plan that remaps the property proposed
 6 for service to S-1. So that appears like a
 7 restriction of limitation on the county to
 8 connect unless that happens.
 9 But what does this 334 do? It says that
 10 nothing herein, and the herein is what I just
 11 read to you, nothing herein shall be deemed to
 12 limit the county's authority to connect to the
 13 force main in order to provide sewer service to
 14 any property used for county government uses or
 15 services.
 16 So this takes away the limitation that you
 17 have to comply with the county water and sewer
 18 plan in order to connect. This purports to
 19 give the county the right to connect, and
 20 that's not right.
 21 It should be done in the context of a

Page 83

1 project. It should be required to go through
 2 the county water and sewer plan, and it
 3 shouldn't be done in this premature fashion
 4 when no specific project is on the table.
 5 Putting that sewer line down St. Michael's
 6 Road, I've heard all the comments, we're not
 7 opening up to development, it's going to put
 8 inexorable pressure on the use of that pipe for
 9 others to tap into it. There's all those farm
 10 fields on St. Michael's Road between Town and
 11 County Liquors and the Pin Cushion that there
 12 are those out there who would love to develop.
 13 And with a sewer line running down that road,
 14 the pressure is going to be intense to let that
 15 happen.
 16 And by the way, there's no other private
 17 business in Talbot County. This is
 18 discriminatory. I mean Town and Country
 19 Liquors can't connect to the pipe down
 20 St. Michael's Road. But the Repurposing Center
 21 could if you adopt this resolution that is

Page 84

1 before you tonight.
 2 So my plea to you is to not pass this
 3 resolution now. Defer passage until such a
 4 time as there is a specific project that you
 5 want to have considered for expansion of the
 6 sewer service area and let this idea of
 7 connecting other parcels to the sewer line be
 8 considered in the context of a specific project
 9 so the pros and cons of that project can be
 10 weighed, rather than granting what amounts to
 11 carte blanche in the abstract in advance to
 12 connect by way of a resolution like this 334
 13 that puts no restrictions on the connection to
 14 the existing Unionville line.
 15 So those are my comments. Thank you for
 16 your consideration.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 18 MS. PRICE: Thank you, Mr. Alspach.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yes. Come on up.
 20 MR. GERARD: Mr. President, Members of
 21 Council, my name is Alan Gerard. I'm with the

Page 85

1 Chesapeake Bay Foundation here in opposition to
 2 Resolution 334. Just three quick points.
 3 The matter of whether this line from
 4 Unionville to Royal Oak is a dedicated line has
 5 been settled as a matter of policy under
 6 Resolution 175. The previous speakers made
 7 that clear. That policy should stand.
 8 The second points relate to what are the
 9 alternatives to serve the Repurposing Center,
 10 which really seems to be the underlying issue.
 11 We were contacted by the Public Works
 12 Advisory Board, who advises Ray Clarke and the
 13 Department of Public Works on issues of policy
 14 and programs and capital investments in the
 15 county about the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's
 16 composting toilets, which serve many of our
 17 facilities throughout the Chesapeake Bay area.
 18 Our building out in Annapolis was built in
 19 2001. At the time, was one of the greenest
 20 buildings according to the standards in the
 21 country. We have over a dozen composting

Page 86

1 toilets at that facility. There's over 100
 2 people that work in the building, and they work
 3 without on-site sewage disposal services or
 4 centralized sewer that connects the building to
 5 the centralized system in Annapolis.
 6 So that is a viable alternative that,
 7 again, the Public Works Advisory Board asked us
 8 to comment on. I don't know if that has been
 9 pursued as an option to help serve the
 10 repurposing facility. That is something that I
 11 would suggest be fully considered and reported
 12 on before a decision is made.
 13 So I urge you to defer decision on that
 14 for that reason and for the reason that
 15 Ms. Price commented on at the beginning of this
 16 hearing. And that is what is the status of the
 17 on-site sewage disposal alternative at the
 18 repurposing facility. Has the perk test come
 19 in? Is the on-site sewer disposal system an
 20 option for that facility? And if you don't
 21 have the answer to that question, then you

Page 87

1 should wait for it before you act on this bill.
 2 Resolution. Excuse me.
 3 Thank you.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Can I ask a question?
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Go ahead.
 7 MR. DIVILIO: What was the context of the
 8 Public Works Advisory Board contacting you on
 9 that?
 10 MR. GERARD: The chairman gave me a call.
 11 I knew this issue had come up earlier, maybe
 12 about a year ago. Forgive me, I don't recall
 13 the context exactly.
 14 It was they contacted me about that and
 15 wanted information about our composting
 16 systems. Again, we have those at our facility
 17 in Annapolis and at our education facilities
 18 here on the shore and elsewhere.
 19 System that works. We advised the board
 20 on that. And again, I don't know if the Public
 21 Works team has taken up our comments on that.

Page 88

1 Actually had offered a tour of our facilities
 2 to see if that's an alternative. I don't know
 3 that that tour was ever done.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Clarke, was that
 5 something that we had asked for?
 6 MR. CLARKE: I think during the Public
 7 Works Advisory Board meetings, we had talked
 8 about there has been a push to try and use a
 9 composting toilet.
 10 In reviewing that with Environmental
 11 Health, they require that they -- I guess we
 12 have to have a platted SDA, a sewage disposal
 13 area. So that's -- right now, we've got to
 14 have that done before we could ever pursue a
 15 composting toilet through Environmental Health.
 16 So that's -- it's been a process.
 17 MR. DIVILIO: And has the Council sent
 18 this down to the Public Works Advisory Board to
 19 investigate sewer options or septic options at
 20 that facility?
 21 MR. CLARKE: We are currently in the

Page 89

1 process of we are working with Accurate
 2 Environmental, who is working on the soil
 3 testing for doing an on-site sewage disposal
 4 system or septic system for the repurposing
 5 facility.
 6 Again, based upon discussions of the
 7 composting toilet, we have talked with
 8 Environmental Health about that.
 9 Unfortunately, we have to have an approved SDA.
 10 a sewage disposal area. And that's what we're
 11 working with Environmental Health on, is we've
 12 got to have that before we can start a
 13 selection process of our unit of what we're
 14 going to propose.
 15 MS. PRICE: Would they -- if the perk
 16 tests didn't come back to allow for some type
 17 of septic disposal, would -- does that mean
 18 that they would not allow the composting
 19 toilets, that they wouldn't approve an SDA so
 20 we could possibly do the composting toilets?
 21 MR. CLARKE: And that would be something

Page 90

1 we'd have to review with Environmental Health.
 2 I know the one issue that we're running
 3 into at the repurposing facility is it's a high
 4 ground water situation. So there's a lot of
 5 ground water that we're dealing with. So we
 6 don't really have a treatment zone, per se.
 7 So let's say you put a shovel in the
 8 ground. You might be running into ground water
 9 in about two to three feet below the surface.
 10 So that's one of the issues we're up against
 11 right now.
 12 So there has been talk with Environmental
 13 Health about basically doing what they call
 14 raised beds concept, things like that. But
 15 those are the things we're trying to work
 16 through right now.
 17 MR. GERARD: Obviously --
 18 MR. DIVILIO: -- off topic. But I would
 19 just like to follow up after the meeting or
 20 later this week about how the Public Works
 21 Advisory Board received this information to

Page 91

1 investigate and give a response back.
 2 MR. CLARKE: I think that was coming about
 3 at the time when we were looking at, when we
 4 were discussing I guess amending the comp water
 5 and sewer plan for bringing sewer to the
 6 repurposing facility. And I think at that
 7 point in time, that was -- we did not pursue
 8 that. We had decided to move forward with
 9 going with the on-site sewage disposal system
 10 and the soil testing evaluations.
 11 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other questions
 13 from Council?
 14 MR. PACK: No.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. Okay.
 16 Anybody else would like to speak on 334?
 17 Okay.
 18 I don't know if anybody is outside. Do we
 19 have a sign-up sheet or anything? I see people
 20 standing outside, if anybody --
 21 MS. PRICE: There's a bunch of people out

Page 92

1 there. Are they waiting for something?
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Would you mind seeing
 3 if --
 4 MR. STAMP: That's a good question.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. If anybody wants to
 6 talk about --
 7 MS. PRICE: There are seats available
 8 inside if they'd like to come in.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. So we'll go
 10 ahead and keep the public hearing open for 334.
 11 Madam Secretary, could we go ahead and
 12 move on to Bill 1523, please.
 13 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1523, a bill to
 14 amend Chapter 190 of the Talbot County Code,
 15 zoning, subdivision, and land development, to
 16 add a definition of country club and to provide
 17 for the expansion and major modification of a
 18 nonconforming country club in the resource
 19 conservation, RC, district.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
 21 Mr. Thomas, you want to go ahead.

Page 93

1 MR. THOMAS: Sure. We can have Brennan
 2 come up as well.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: You want to come up for a
 4 second, please.
 5 How you guys doing?
 6 MR. YELTON: Good.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Good, good.
 8 MR. YELTON: Council, Bryce Yelton,
 9 Planning and Zoning.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.
 11 MR. YELTON: This bill essentially adds a
 12 definition to the Talbot County Code that would
 13 add a definition for a country club.
 14 Currently in our code, golf courses and
 15 country clubs are combined in our land use
 16 table. And this would allow for those
 17 nonconforming country clubs that would now be
 18 enumerated under our code to expand into the RC
 19 district zones where the golf courses currently
 20 are.
 21 And so that would add for nonconforming

Page 94

1 uses. So that's a use that's been continued
 2 either through a special exception or
 3 throughout the last -- through history, as long
 4 as it hasn't been discontinued for 12 months or
 5 more. It would still be subject to site plan
 6 approval and any other approvals that you would
 7 need.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Brennan, you want to
 9 say anything? You good?
 10 MR. TARLETON: No. This was originally
 11 introduced to you, and we kind of explained the
 12 exact scope of what Bryce just touched on
 13 there.
 14 And the Planning Commission provided a
 15 favorable recommendation to you all for
 16 consideration for this as well.
 17 As Bryce stated, this would allow for the
 18 expansion of existing nonconforming golf
 19 courses on the country club side of things that
 20 have been given that designation. To my
 21 knowledge and within our research of doing so,

Page 95

1 there's only two that exist within the county
 2 today that this would be applicable to.
 3 Other than that, that's really all we have
 4 for you.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Council, do you
 6 have any questions?
 7 MR. PACK: No.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: For them? Okay. Thank
 9 you.
 10 MR. YELTON: Thank you.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. At this time, I'll
 12 open up the public hearing. Anybody wants to
 13 speak on it, three minutes individually, five
 14 minutes for a group.
 15 MR. PARKER: Thank you, Mr. President.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. Come on up.
 17 MR. PARKER: I'm Burry Parker. I
 18 represent Talbot Country Club, which formed the
 19 application for this text amendment.
 20 A little background, if I might, and I'll
 21 try not to take my full five minutes, Mr. Pack.

Page 96

1 Talbot Country Club was started in Talbot
 2 County in 1910. It is the oldest country club
 3 on the Delmarva Peninsula and the fourth or
 4 fifth oldest country club in the State of
 5 Maryland. It has been in continuing existence
 6 in the area between Old Country Club Road and
 7 Bailey's Neck Road. And then it expanded more
 8 than 60 years ago to an 18-hole golf course and
 9 a clubhouse on Country Club Road.
 10 It employs more than 39 full-time
 11 employees and 94 seasonal employees, has an
 12 annual payroll of \$2.5 million, and serves over
 13 1,500 family members in the county.
 14 The property owned by Talbot Country Club
 15 consists of 194 acres, and it spans three
 16 different zoning districts. The RR, or rural
 17 residential, zoning district is eight acres of
 18 the property. That's where the clubhouse is,
 19 the swimming pool, tennis courts. The RC-zoned
 20 property is nearly 100 acres of the property.
 21 And there are fringes of the area that border

Page 97

1 the properties on Canterbury Drive and Old
 2 County Club Road that are in the western rural
 3 conservation area, the WRC district.
 4 Only the RR zoning district has country
 5 clubs as permitted uses, although there was
 6 never a definition of a country club in the
 7 ordinance. There was a definition a golf
 8 course. And I think that that was an oversight
 9 that needs to be corrected by this bill.
 10 What will this bill mean and what's its
 11 possible effect? It will mean that a
 12 nonconforming country club of 110 years old in
 13 the case of Talbot Country Club, will have the
 14 right to seek approval from the Talbot County
 15 Board of Appeals to expand or modify its
 16 nonconforming use, country club use, on its
 17 95 acres of RC zoned land.
 18 It doesn't mean that you're approving any
 19 expansion or modification. It paves the way
 20 for the right of Talbot Country Club to seek
 21 permission from the Talbot County Board of

Page 98

1 Appeals for possible expansion or modification
 2 of country club amenities, structures, and
 3 uses.
 4 So that is something that was
 5 substantially limited by the current ordinance
 6 that only allowed the in-play area of a golf
 7 course to be changed or modified in some way.
 8 So it didn't really address what a country club
 9 is, because country clubs are much more than
 10 just a golf course. And golf course is only
 11 one portion of the use and the amenities of a
 12 country club.
 13 So that's how it will affect the county
 14 going forward to have this amendment to the
 15 zoning text. And we ask that it be approved.
 16 As you know and as Bryce and Brennan
 17 indicated, staff has recommended in favor of it
 18 and the Planning Commission unanimously
 19 recommended the adoption of this text
 20 amendment.
 21 Be happy to answer any questions.

Page 99

1 Rob McWilliams of Talbot Country Club, is
 2 the general manager, is here. And if you have
 3 any questions about the history of the club,
 4 we're happy to answer them.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Council.
 6 MR. DIVILIO: I'm good.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
 8 MR. PARKER: Thank you.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate it. Okay.
 10 Anybody else on this side? Yes, sir.
 11 MR. HUGHES: Tom Hughes again. I'm from
 12 Easton, Maryland. Former member of the
 13 Planning Commission.
 14 I was on the Planning Commission after the
 15 2005 Comprehensive Plan was passed. The
 16 Planning Commission undertook a major rewrite
 17 of the entire zoning ordinance, which ended up
 18 taking a couple of years. We went through the
 19 whole thing line by line using, of course, the
 20 Comprehensive Plan as a guide.
 21 It is not a mistake that country clubs are

Page 100

1 not allowed in the RC zone. The RC zone is the
 2 most restrictive zone in our code. It is
 3 required by the Critical Area law of the State
 4 of Maryland. The State of Maryland controls
 5 what happens in that Critical Area, not this
 6 county, believe it or not.
 7 And country club, as a result, are an
 8 intensive use. They are not consistent with
 9 the description of a resource conservation area
 10 or the resource conservation zone.
 11 Furthermore, this looks to me like spot
 12 zoning. Unless there's been a mistake, and I
 13 contend there was no mistake when country club
 14 was left out of the zoning ordinance, or a
 15 change in the neighborhood, you just can't
 16 willy-nilly change a zoning classification of a
 17 parcel without the Comprehensive Plan, the new
 18 Comprehensive Plan indicating that such is
 19 necessitated.
 20 And finally, what I'm really worried about
 21 long term, if you make country clubs permitted

Page 101

1 by right in the resource conservation zone,
 2 assuming the Critical Area Commission is even
 3 going to approve that, you're going to open up
 4 a can of worms with all of these waterfront
 5 places that are now pretending to be short-term
 6 rentals, all of a sudden, hey. And this would
 7 be a bonanza for me. I could turn my farm into
 8 a country club. I could cash out. But I
 9 wouldn't do that. But that's what you're
 10 looking at if you allow country clubs by right
 11 in the Critical Area.
 12 Thank you. And I'll submit this for the
 13 record.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 15 MR. PARKER: And in my time remaining, I
 16 think I may have a minute left, if I could just
 17 respond.
 18 There is nothing in this text amendment
 19 that seeks to make country clubs permitted uses
 20 in the RC zone.
 21 MS. PRICE: Can you sit back down by the

Page 102

1 microphone, please.

2 MR. PARKER: The only thing this text

3 amendment does is allow a nonconforming country

4 club in the RC zone to seek approval from the

5 Board of Appeals to make modifications to its

6 use and structures. That's all it does.

7 We're not rezoning any property. We're

8 not making country clubs permitted in the RC

9 zone. There are country clubs that are already

10 there and have been there historically.

11 They're grandfathered uses, and they should

12 have the same rights as other grandfathered

13 uses to make modifications to keep up with the

14 times. That's all this does.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Go ahead, Ms. Price.

16 MS. PRICE: Yeah. I know that you

17 basically said that you don't have anything

18 specific in mind as for the purpose of the text

19 amendment.

20 But you probably do, right.

21 So what type of things are you

Page 103

1 considering?

2 Now, again, it would have to go in front

3 of the Board of Appeals. I understand that.

4 But just maybe to allay some people's

5 fears, what might it be? Another tennis court,

6 pickle ball? I think the county is going to do

7 some pickle ball. What might it be? An

8 expanded swimming pool?

9 MR. PARKER: I think that --

10 MS. PRICE: Or the manager Rob may be able

11 to answer.

12 MR. PARKER: -- some racket sport area

13 might be something in the long-range plan.

14 There is an existing tennis court in the

15 RR zone where country clubs are permitted, and

16 those could be repurposed into pickle ball

17 courts. And then the question is where do we

18 put tennis courts. Likely, they could either

19 go in the WRC zoned land or the RC zoned or

20 partly on each.

21 It depends on the layout and the area

Page 104

1 that's appropriate to meet appropriate

2 setbacks, meet environmental requirements that

3 the Board of Appeals will make us meet as part

4 of the elements of seeking and getting approval

5 for a modification of the special exception.

6 But most likely, it's amenities such as

7 racket sports or bocce courts or things of that

8 nature.

9 MS. PRICE: Because there's some language

10 in here about setbacks I guess from the water,

11 because it's in the Critical Area and not doing

12 more, too much more impervious surface, right?

13 MR. PARKER: Right. We're not seeking to

14 increase impervious surfaces beyond allowable

15 limits in the RC zone, nor are we seeking to

16 have a text amendment that wouldn't protect

17 perennial streams and waterfront and buffer

18 areas. We're not seeking any of that.

19 We just want to have the permission that

20 other commercial grandfathered uses have in

21 this county to expand and modify for the times.

Page 105

1 MS. PRICE: Or at least ask to do so.

2 Okay.

3 MR. PARKER: Right.

4 MS. PRICE: Thank you.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Any other questions from

6 Council? Okay.

7 Anybody over here to my left want to go

8 ahead and comment on 1523?

9 Go over here to my right. Anybody would

10 like to come up here and comment on that?

11 Okay.

12 So we'll go ahead and leave that open.

13 Madam Secretary, could you go ahead and

14 read Bill 1524.

15 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1524, a bill to

16 amend Chapter 190 of the Talbot County Code,

17 zoning, subdivision, and land development,

18 regarding solar energy systems.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You guys want to

20 come on up? Yup. How you doing, Brennan?

21 MR. TARLETON: My apologies. Did you want

Page 106

1 to speak about the original amendment that was
 2 before you or the proposed amendment that was
 3 introduced by Mr. Leshner?
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Could you state your
 5 position and your name so everybody knows you.
 6 MR. TARLETON: Yes. Brennan Tarleton,
 7 acting director for Planning & Zoning.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great. All
 9 right, then.
 10 Do you have anything for us, Mr. Thomas,
 11 or are you good?
 12 MR. THOMAS: I'm good. I'll defer to
 13 Brennan.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Go
 15 ahead.
 16 MR. TARLETON: So essentially what you
 17 have before you originally for the amendment
 18 for the solar energy systems section,
 19 particularly large scale solar energy systems
 20 within our code, was to allow for offset
 21 payments to be contributed to the MALPF program

Page 107

1 that we currently have with the county that we
 2 participate in that I believe you all heard a
 3 little bit about and will hear more about this
 4 evening, which would allow the county
 5 essentially to contribute a larger amount into
 6 the funding program for that matching system
 7 that they have on an annual basis.
 8 Currently that system works on a 60/40
 9 basis. Therefore, when the county contributes
 10 a certain amount, the MALPF program will
 11 contribute an equal 60 percent of that amount
 12 for a funding cycle to be utilized in the next
 13 year for farms that are ranked by the county
 14 and sent up to MALPF for approval.
 15 If those farms are accepted, then they go
 16 into, and the offers are accepted, then they go
 17 into protective easements in perpetuity,
 18 therefore, ultimately preserving that farm, not
 19 allowing for any additional development, such
 20 as a solar energy system. So it's a way for
 21 the county to contribute to a funding source

Page 108

1 that would allow for preservation of future
 2 properties and agricultural lands to come.
 3 Additional legislation or regulations were
 4 added in there with regards to the clearing of
 5 topsoil on site, as well as some of the removal
 6 of some of the existing facilities on site once
 7 the solar energy system was decommissioned as
 8 well.
 9 After that, I believe Councilman Leshner
 10 proposed an additional amendment to that
 11 language to include the ranking of properties
 12 and what would be classified and qualified to
 13 be utilized and proposed for solar energy
 14 systems.
 15 If those applications for those properties
 16 proposing large scale solar energy systems
 17 scored over that certain amount based on the
 18 system that we currently use to rank those
 19 applications, then they would not essentially
 20 be eligible for large scale solar energy
 21 systems to be put in place because they would

Page 109

1 be deemed to be prime agricultural lands.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Council, you got any
 3 questions before we start the public hearing?
 4 MR. PACK: Brennan, the offset, that would
 5 be the payments that the company is making to
 6 the county; is that correct?
 7 MR. TARLETON: That's correct. So that
 8 offset payment would be calculated based on the
 9 scope of the area and the acreage utilized for
 10 the large scale system proposed. That money
 11 would go into the county's funding source that
 12 gets annually sent up through to the MALPF
 13 funding program.
 14 Currently, we contribute a little bit over
 15 what the minimum requirement is to participate
 16 in that program. So it would allow the county
 17 to be a little bit more competitive in that
 18 program and contribute a little bit more, thus
 19 allowing the matching funds to be significantly
 20 larger from MALPF as well for some farms and to
 21 allow for potentially more offers and a funding

Page 110

1 cycle than we currently receive today.
 2 MR. PACK: Okay.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Is that it, Mr. Pack?
 4 MR. PACK: Yes.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Ms. Price, you have
 6 anything right now?
 7 Mr. Divilio, anything right now?
 8 Okay. Thank you.
 9 So I'll go ahead and open it up to the
 10 public hearing. Like I said, three minutes for
 11 an individual, five minutes for if you're
 12 representing somebody.
 13 So I want to start right over here.
 14 Anybody want to come up and talk about 1524?
 15 MR. SHOWALTER: Thank you, President
 16 Callahan, Members of the Council. Ryan
 17 Showalter, 100 North West Street, Easton,
 18 Maryland.
 19 I'm here really to focus my comments on
 20 amendment number one. As you know, I
 21 participated I think in every Council meeting

Page 111

1 and Planning Commission meeting since the
 2 moratorium was adopted.
 3 And the bill itself is I think a good work
 4 product. It was reviewed significantly by the
 5 Planning Commission. They received input from
 6 a lot of different stakeholders. Balanced
 7 interest, and I think it's a fair bill.
 8 I'm not here to oppose amendment number
 9 one, but I'm here to suggest that it needs --
 10 it requires more thought.
 11 And first, I'd like to just note a
 12 procedural issue. Amendment one is a
 13 substantive change from what the Planning
 14 Commission reviewed and recommended. So I
 15 don't think this Council can adopt a
 16 substantive amendment without receiving a
 17 recommendation from the Planning Commission.
 18 But I'd like to draw to your attention
 19 just a few examples of I think questions that
 20 need to be evaluated and understood.
 21 And the first is just a basic question

Page 112

1 about the threshold number. This amendment
 2 number one uses 240 points as the threshold or
 3 cutoff for land to be used for larger scale
 4 solar. I don't know what that number
 5 originates from and whether that's appropriate
 6 or whether it should be 245 or 260. So I think
 7 there should be discussion about how that
 8 number was chosen.
 9 And when you look at the -- the county has
 10 a spreadsheet. There's an Excel spreadsheet
 11 with formatting which is focused on the
 12 preservation with the ranking of ag land for
 13 making offers for preservation easements.
 14 There's one area which deals with stewardship
 15 practices that is excluded by your amendment.
 16 But there are a couple of other areas that
 17 are not well defined. And I think there's one
 18 that is inconsistent with what is probably the
 19 county's preference.
 20 And so one of those components, section
 21 number four, provides points based on the

Page 113

1 woodland acreage preserved. The more acreage
 2 that you preserve, the more points you get.
 3 And as I read that, it's not entirely clear
 4 whether woodland acres preserved in this
 5 context means woods that are actually imposed
 6 with some type of permanent protection or
 7 whether that's just woods that are not cleared
 8 or proposed for development. But either way,
 9 the larger that number is, the higher the
 10 number of points. So you're discentivizing
 11 the landowner. You're telling the landowner if
 12 you save 50 acres of woods, you score 20
 13 points, which makes your property less likely
 14 to be able to use for this.
 15 And I think that either that scale should
 16 be included or it should be reversed so that
 17 you get fewer points the more woods you're
 18 disturbing. I'm sorry. You get more points
 19 for the more woods that you're disturbing. So
 20 if you're disturbing woods, would reduce the
 21 likelihood that you could use that property.

Page 114

1 I think if you adopt this current formula,
 2 you're actually discentivizing the protection
 3 of woodland, which doesn't make sense to me.
 4 The second area that I'll just flag for
 5 additional discussion is you have a category
 6 that looks at the concentration of conserved
 7 land. It's not defined in the county's
 8 spreadsheet. And based on some discussions
 9 I've had with county staff, it's not entirely
 10 clear how that's applied.
 11 In other counties, I've seen a reference
 12 to assigned points based on the number of acres
 13 within a defined radius, a one-mile radius of
 14 the property. It's not clear whether those are
 15 only permanent easements that get considered as
 16 conserved lands, whether CRP or CREP gets
 17 considered, whether land that is partially in
 18 and partially out of that defined radius counts
 19 for the entire parcel or only the acreage
 20 within the defined dimension.
 21 But I think if you're going to adopt a

Page 115

1 formula for a regulatory purpose, you need
 2 clear definitions so that people can understand
 3 what the rules are and they can be applied
 4 fairly.
 5 So again, I'm not opposing amendment
 6 number one, but I think it's premature because
 7 I think there are a number of details that need
 8 to be fleshed out before it's adopted as a
 9 regulatory measure. Thank you.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,
 11 Mr. Showalter. Okay.
 12 Would anybody else? Yup.
 13 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. President.
 14 My name is Scott Williams. I'm here tonight to
 15 speak on behalf of my father-in-law, Gordon
 16 Barons.
 17 Gordon was born and raised in Talbot
 18 County. He's 85 years old and is a second
 19 generation farmer.
 20 I'm here to tell you that he supports Bill
 21 1524 as written. He supports the way it was

Page 116

1 created over several months and meetings with
 2 input from all stakeholders.
 3 I'm also here to tell you that he does not
 4 support amendment number one to 1524.
 5 Amendment number one was not created with the
 6 input from all stakeholders, was not vetted by
 7 the Planning Commission.
 8 It almost feels as if amendment number one
 9 was dropped on us at the last minute and is
 10 being sneaked through in the dark of the night.
 11 This is not the way a bill or an amendment
 12 should be created.
 13 As a second generation farmer, I can tell
 14 you that, or my father-in-law, that farmers
 15 work hard. They spend countless hours and vast
 16 sums of money to take good care of their land,
 17 to be good stewards of their land. And there
 18 is no one who cares more about their land than
 19 a farmer.
 20 So why in the world would we introduce an
 21 amendment that penalizes them for their lives'

Page 117

1 hard work to improve the quality of their farms
 2 by telling them that their farms are too good
 3 to be able to be used for a solar farm? Where
 4 is the equity in that?
 5 We take some issue with the presumptions
 6 that are used, what feels like are used to
 7 create this amendment or purports to address
 8 the concerns.
 9 Most importantly, farmland is not lost
 10 forever. At most, it will be withdrawn from
 11 agricultural use for a period of 35 years, not
 12 forever. The underlying zoning is not changed.
 13 The land is not developed with houses or
 14 retail.
 15 Secondly, the notion that all farmland
 16 will be covered over by solar farms is patently
 17 false. And I'm quite sure we all know this.
 18 It takes years to get a project permitted and
 19 approved.
 20 There is little excess capacity on the
 21 distribution lines and the grid for new

Page 118

1 projects. And improvements to the grid that
 2 will allow for future solar projects is years
 3 away and hundreds of millions of dollars away.
 4 Critically, and I hope everybody will take
 5 the time to learn this, farming and agriculture
 6 and solar are not mutually exclusive. They do
 7 coexist. So the ag land is not lost.
 8 This is the true win-win and truth that's
 9 not discussed here.
 10 There was a front page article in The Wall
 11 Street Journal on 9/6, on the 9/6 edition, that
 12 speaks to the coexisting of both agriculture
 13 and solar. I beg that you all read it.
 14 I'm sure that you've all seen the panels
 15 in front of the Calhoun Engineering School or
 16 MEBA. I have to admit last summer when I was
 17 driving past it, looked over and didn't see the
 18 panels and ashamedly asked somebody where they
 19 went. They were there. They were just hidden
 20 by the corn. That's a prime example of
 21 agricultural and solar coexisting in the same

Page 119

1 piece of ground.
 2 I think it's critically important that
 3 everybody understands that the two do work
 4 together and they do so all day and every day.
 5 And I think the most important point that
 6 we want to make is solar leases provide farmers
 7 with an option to diversify their farming
 8 incomes, to allow them to generate money if
 9 they have bad droughts or too much water.
 10 Solar leases will make it easier for
 11 families for third and fourth generation
 12 farmers to maintain ownership of their farms
 13 and not to see them broken up.
 14 This will be important to my
 15 father-in-law's plans. My father-in-law said
 16 to me yesterday my land is my 401(k), it's my
 17 pension, it's my retirement. Why do they want
 18 to take away the value of my farmland now?
 19 Where is the equity in that?
 20 Thank you, Mr. President.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.

Page 120

1 Appreciate it. Okay.
 2 Anybody else would like to get up on this
 3 side, on my left here, talk about 1524? Okay.
 4 Switch over here. Yeah. Come on, come on
 5 up, Zach.
 6 MR. SMITH: Good evening, Council. Zach
 7 Smith on behalf of SolHarvest Energy.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: You got a gentleman coming
 9 right up here behind you.
 10 MR. SMITH: Sure thing. So following up
 11 on the correspondence I sent earlier this week,
 12 SolHarvest Energy doesn't oppose Bill 1524,
 13 either. But they do have concerns about
 14 amendment number one.
 15 And just to recap, SolHarvest began
 16 designing a project last fall, submitted a
 17 complete application to the county in January
 18 that was in compliance with all the applicable
 19 rules, went through -- and at that time, I
 20 should say, there was no moratorium in place
 21 and, to our knowledge, none contemplate. Went

Page 121

1 through the process, got a favorable
 2 recommendation from the Planning Commission,
 3 got approval from the Board of Appeals for the
 4 special exception. But we weren't able to
 5 continue on to the next step in the County's
 6 review process, the site plan review, because
 7 of the moratorium.
 8 And so we patiently waited and
 9 participated in the Planning Commission's
 10 discussions. We're satisfied with what came to
 11 be Bill 1524. But then when amendment one came
 12 into being, if enacted, that would essentially
 13 pull the rug out from under Solar Harvest
 14 Energy because we would not be able to proceed
 15 with the development of this project. And we
 16 think that's incredibly unfair.
 17 So from that perspective, we just ask the
 18 Council, if you're going to adopt amendment
 19 number one, to please consider an exception for
 20 projects that already have an approval, special
 21 exception approval. And we had proposed the

Page 122

1 April date that the moratorium went into place
 2 because our project had special exception
 3 approval at that time. So we propose that
 4 language. We hope you'll consider it.
 5 Alternatively, we did propose an exception
 6 for projects in the VM zone, the idea being
 7 that VM zone permits a host of commercial,
 8 institutional, and relatively dense residential
 9 use. And so it makes sense to us that you
 10 would allow solar in that area and not prohibit
 11 it based on soil conditions when none of those
 12 other uses have a similar prohibition.
 13 And so we just ask for the Council to
 14 consider one of those two options.
 15 Certainly we don't oppose amendment number
 16 one going back through the process, and we
 17 would participate in that. But we would just
 18 hope that the moratorium wouldn't be extended
 19 and that we would be able to pursue our project
 20 approvals at this time.
 21 John.

Page 123

1 MR. FORGASH: Great. John Forgash,
 2 SolHarvest Energy.
 3 And a bit off of what Zach said. In terms
 4 of Bill 1524, I think during that process of
 5 the discussion and during the working group,
 6 there was a lot of conversation just about
 7 trying to make this a win-win for all involved.
 8 We spent five months in drafting that bill,
 9 which I think does a lot.
 10 As mentioned earlier, it really is going
 11 to limit any topsoil from being removed from
 12 the properties, which was a real concern. It's
 13 going to also ensure that all the facilities
 14 are removed, all of them specifically.
 15 We've already touched on the MALPF
 16 payments that will be created for additional
 17 preservation of parcels by solar projects that
 18 do move forward under this bill.
 19 And also, I think what is really important
 20 is we spent a lot of time on really focusing on
 21 really beefing up the decommissioning language

Page 124

1 within the zoning requirement so that it's
 2 really going to be an efficient process and
 3 going to move forward as proposed.
 4 So just to build off of Zack as well in
 5 terms of moving forward, we're requesting some
 6 fairness moving forward. And again, are in
 7 support of Bill 1524 with potentially some of
 8 the conditions that Zach just mentioned.
 9 Appreciate your time and consideration.
 10 MR. SMITH: Thank you.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 12 MS. PRICE: Before they run away.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
 14 MS. PRICE: We have small, medium, and
 15 large scale solar.
 16 Your project is a large scale solar?
 17 MR. FORGASH: It is.
 18 MR. SMITH: That is correct. The county
 19 defines large as anything over -- that
 20 generates two megawatts or more and/or is
 21 situated on ten or more acres of land.

Page 125

1 And so John's project is designed to
 2 generate two megawatts of power on 18 acres of
 3 land. So it does fall just above that --
 4 MS. PRICE: How many solar panels does
 5 that look like?
 6 I'm just trying to get a visual in my
 7 head, to generate two megawatts I guess.
 8 MR. FORGASH: Well, again, it's going to
 9 take up about 15, about 15 acres of modules. I
 10 could do the calculation for you real quick.
 11 MS. PRICE: No, no. So I mean basically
 12 it's the whole parcel would be.
 13 MR. FORGASH: About -- within the fenced
 14 area. It's about going to be a little bit more
 15 than half that would be covered by the panels.
 16 MS. PRICE: And what's currently on that
 17 land now?
 18 MR. FORGASH: Currently, it's a farm.
 19 MS. PRICE: Actively farming?
 20 MR. FORGASH: Actively farming, yes.
 21 So we'll be using about 30 percent of that

Page 126

1 property for solar and the rest of the
 2 70 percent of the property that wouldn't be
 3 under solar or would not be fenced, would
 4 continued to be farmed by the farmer and
 5 utilize the current irrigation system that's
 6 out there.

7 So and that's -- in terms of community
 8 solar, which just does fall into this large
 9 scale solar definition, we view that as a
 10 benefit. I think as was mentioned earlier,
 11 trying to co-locate the solar and potentially
 12 agricultural to allow those two to coexist on
 13 the same parcel.

14 MS. PRICE: Right. So typically you're
 15 not going to have something too far away from a
 16 major power line to get the power where it
 17 goes. So you're pretty close to something like
 18 that in order to hook up, so to speak, as we're
 19 talking about hooking up sewer lines, to hook
 20 up and move that generated power?

21 MR. FORGASH: Well, yeah. So our project

Page 127

1 is connected to the distribution grid, are able
 2 to just incorporate a simple line tap from the
 3 existing prephased power that runs along
 4 Cordova Road.

5 And I guess it differentiates from the
 6 larger, larger scale projects, which would
 7 require a substation to tap into a transmission
 8 line. Trying --

9 MS. PRICE: -- more for informational
 10 purposes for me. I appreciate you --

11 MR. FORGASH: Yeah. Just trying to
 12 utilize the existing infrastructure that's
 13 there.

14 MR. SMITH: We certainly think community
 15 solar is distinguishable from utility scale.
 16 But it's not distinguished in your code. So we
 17 all lumped into the same category. Thank you.

18 MR. PACK: I have a question, if I may.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, sure.

20 MR. PACK: And I know this is a public
 21 hearing. I do apologize for my question.

Page 128

1 But the topsoil removal was a concern of
 2 mine. From fifteen acres. I'm not
 3 understanding why this language is in here to
 4 begin with regarding it have to remain on site.

5 How do you mitigate for 15 acres of
 6 topsoil?

7 MR. FORGASH: There won't be any topsoil
 8 removal, material removal.

9 There may be some that needs to be removed
 10 for an access road or something of that nature.
 11 But in terms of actually removing the topsoil
 12 from the site to allow for the construction of
 13 the project, it's not something that our
 14 project would do or is really industry
 15 standard.

16 So I think there may have been a few
 17 articles or discussions about where that has
 18 been seen in the past or landowners potentially
 19 trying to, you know, to go down that road if
 20 they were to put a solar project on a property.

21 But again, in our case, it's not something

Page 129

1 that we would plan for in our design or
 2 would -- nor does the industry do that on a
 3 regular basis.

4 MR. PACK: Thank you.

5 MR. FORGASH: Sure.

6 MR. PACK: Mr. Thomas, the moratorium is
 7 still in place pending the Council's decision
 8 on this resolution; is that correct?

9 MR. THOMAS: I believe it was adopted in
 10 April. Is that correct? I think it was
 11 adopted April 12th and it was for five months.

12 MR. PACK: April 12th. So you're talking
 13 about November.

14 MS. PRICE: Right. So we're done. May,
 15 June, July, August, September.

16 MR. THOMAS: Yeah.

17 MS. PRICE: So the moratorium is over?

18 MR. THOMAS: So the moratorium was in
 19 place to allow the development of the bill,
 20 which became Bill 1524.

21 MS. PRICE: Right. But it's now past

Page 130

1 September 12th. So therefore, technically, the
 2 moratorium is over.
 3 MR. THOMAS: Correct.
 4 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Gerard.
 6 SECRETARY: See it?
 7 MR. GERARD: Do I need to click that?
 8 SECRETARY: Yeah. It's right here.
 9 MR. GERARD: Sorry. Thank you.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Could you state your name
 11 and position, if you don't mind.
 12 MR. GERARD: Alan Gerard. Eastern Shore
 13 director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation
 14 located here in Easton on Washington Street.
 15 Here in support of amendment one to Bill
 16 1524. I can tell you our support didn't come
 17 easily. This was something that we looked at
 18 closely to see if this strikes the balance that
 19 I think members of the community are testifying
 20 on that you all are seeking here.
 21 You have two public goods. One is the

Page 131

1 supply of clean renewable energy. Maryland has
 2 ambitious goals for meeting standards for clean
 3 renewable energy around the state. And we also
 4 want working farmland to supply food and fiber
 5 for consumers. And also to make sure that we
 6 have preferable land uses on the landscape.
 7 The Bay Foundation believes that well
 8 managed farms that help prevent nutrients and
 9 sediments that run off the landscape and arrive
 10 in the Chesapeake Bay is a preferred land use
 11 when development is the alternative.
 12 So two competing public goods. You all
 13 are about balance. Where is the balance in a
 14 proposal like this?
 15 And so we tried to do some analysis of the
 16 impacts of this amendment. And I just want to
 17 run through a couple of slides and show you
 18 some of what we found. The resolution is here.
 19 I think this is in your packets, by the
 20 way. You can check out the hyperlink on the
 21 top to look at these interactive map anytime

Page 132

1 that you would like. We just did some screen
 2 shots of the map and put them in this
 3 Powerpoint presentation.
 4 This just shows you the publicly
 5 accessible data that we use to run some
 6 calculations, again, on what the effects of
 7 amendment one would be on Bill 1524.
 8 Essentially using some GIS tools, I just
 9 want to draw you to a couple of areas here on
 10 this map. Number one, the lower left-hand
 11 corner shows the number of agricultural acres
 12 in the county at about 125,000 acres.
 13 Second thing I want to draw your attention
 14 to is sort of the dashed sort of black lines
 15 that run through the map here. Those are the
 16 existing transmission lines here in the county
 17 and I guess outside the county as well. And
 18 then over on the right, you can see the
 19 color-coded scores. This is the Maryland
 20 agricultural land preservation scoring system
 21 that you heard reference to.

Page 133

1 How do parcels in the county rank in terms
 2 of their score? How many parcels are above
 3 240, which would be prohibited from large scale
 4 solar development under this amendment, and how
 5 many are below? And that was just a question
 6 we had and we thought it would be good for
 7 Council to just get a visual of that, and the
 8 public here as well.
 9 Important to note just the types of
 10 elements that go into the score. Maximum of
 11 400 points, again, under existing county policy
 12 with preserving agricultural land. This is the
 13 scoring system that is already used for land
 14 preservation decisions in the county.
 15 Soil capability, soil productivity, you
 16 can see the list here and the scores that are
 17 assigned to each. I just want to draw your
 18 attention to stewardship practices. Here under
 19 amendment one, that does get a zero. Which
 20 practices are we talking about? These are
 21 actually management practices on the farm.

Page 134

1 Cover crops, stabilization, grass waterways,
 2 really best management practices that farmers
 3 use to protect water quality, steward their
 4 natural resources.
 5 Since there's up to 100 points that you
 6 can get for that under the existing ag
 7 preservation program, we didn't think it made
 8 sense for a landowner or farmers to remove
 9 those best practices from the farm in order to
 10 get to a lower score to make it eligible for
 11 large scale solar development.
 12 So the amendment does remove those 100
 13 points from the score. So instead of you get a
 14 total of 500, you only get a total of 400 for
 15 the various attributes that you saw on the
 16 previous slide.
 17 So what does that look like here? Again,
 18 if you do do the interactive map at home, take
 19 a look at this further, you can see the little
 20 red circle. If you click on that, you can see
 21 a page pulls up. And there's a couple of

Page 135

1 attributes you can fill in.
 2 We did minimum farm size to see if that
 3 was one of the factors that you would want to
 4 include in this policy. We didn't really do
 5 anything with that.
 6 Can you give a couple more minutes? Thank
 7 you.
 8 But in the next box there, you can enter
 9 in a score from anywhere from zero to 400 and
 10 see what that does.
 11 Let me see if I can just go back here.
 12 Previous. Thank you.
 13 So you can see the difference here. I
 14 just want to run through that again.
 15 So we enter in 240. You can see on the
 16 map that where the parcels are that would fall
 17 240 or lower and the number of parcels in the
 18 county.
 19 So you remember we were around 125,000
 20 acres county wide of agricultural land from the
 21 tax map data. 240 and below would get you down

Page 136

1 to 65,000 acres. So really more than half of
 2 the county's agricultural land would still be
 3 eligible to be developed with large scale solar
 4 under this amendment.
 5 Another attribute in this feature, you can
 6 play with this a little bit, what happens with
 7 conserved lands? Some parcels are under
 8 conservation easements or other easement or
 9 deed restrictions that would limit certain
 10 activities, presumably solar activity might be
 11 one of those. So if you knock out preserved
 12 parcels from the remaining 65,000 acres here,
 13 you end up down with 58,000. So about
 14 7,000 acres of that remaining, those remaining
 15 parcels that score 240 or lower are still
 16 allowable for solar development in the county.
 17 So just wanted to run through with you a
 18 scenario and demonstrate that the number is not
 19 arbitrary, at least from our reading of the
 20 amendment. Again, just trying to understand
 21 what would be the impacts of the economy.

Page 137

1 Is solar prohibited with this amendment
 2 one being included? No. There are still a
 3 significant number of acres that would be
 4 available to develop large scale solar while
 5 meeting the county's priority for making sure
 6 that we preserve our prime agriculture
 7 farmland. This is in the Comprehensive Plan.
 8 This is something that this County Council and
 9 others have said is a priority. We value and
 10 want to protect our agricultural land.
 11 And our view is that this amendment does
 12 strike that balance. Yes, there is still
 13 agricultural land that would be eligible to
 14 develop solar. Yes, there is still
 15 agricultural land that would be considered
 16 prime and would be off limits to large scale
 17 development.
 18 MR. PACK: Time.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 20 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Over here to my

Page 138

1 right, would anybody else like to talk about
 2 1524? Okay.
 3 We'll go ahead and keep that open.
 4 MS. PRICE: I've got a general question
 5 and I'm not sure --
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Go ahead.
 7 MR. DIVILIO: Carol.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, I'm sorry.
 9 MS. BEAN: Thank you. Carol Bean. I'm
 10 representing Eastern Shore Land Conservancy.
 11 And I just wanted to echo our support also
 12 for the bill and for the amendment as well.
 13 I think the amendment in our view helps to
 14 sort of rectify one of the things that isn't
 15 very clear in the initial bill when I looked at
 16 some of the language that was used in the
 17 moratorium, the resolution establishing the
 18 moratorium.
 19 Really one of the main concerns why the
 20 resolution for the moratorium was passed is the
 21 desire to protect the prime agricultural

Page 139

1 farmland. That was the concern and why there's
 2 been this pause.
 3 And I think that everyone has sort of
 4 agreed here that that sort of process has
 5 been -- I think all the people that spoke here
 6 today really lauded what that process was like.
 7 But I do think the need for the amendment
 8 was to specify a mechanism to ensure that the
 9 prime farmland, which is the reason for
 10 establishing the moratorium in the first place,
 11 that there's an established mechanism, and I
 12 think more importantly that also has the
 13 potential to survive any kind of Public Service
 14 Commission challenge. So it's not an arbitrary
 15 new system that's being created out of thin air
 16 to try to control where solar is being placed.
 17 It's an existing system, scoring system
 18 that the county uses, and I think that that is
 19 a fair system to apply, to continue to apply
 20 that, especially since the bill also references
 21 MALPF, that language about the MALPF program is

Page 140

1 in the bill. So I think by extension, it just
 2 makes sense to continue to use the MALPF
 3 criteria to sort of further define where is the
 4 appropriate siting.
 5 And I think it accomplishes protecting the
 6 prime farmland. And I think you see from the
 7 maps there it leaves a considerable -- it's not
 8 overly restrictive. It leaves really a lot of
 9 farmland still available.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
 11 Yes, sir. Come on up.
 12 MR. HALLOT: Hello, everyone. My name is
 13 Andy Hallot.
 14 So I applaud the county for trying to
 15 protect the farmland and scenery from too much
 16 solar. But I have to add after listening that
 17 it's, you know, the lady before said it's not
 18 overly restrictive. Well, it's not overly
 19 restrictive unless it's your farm or your
 20 property.
 21 So I have several hundred acres here that

Page 141

1 are near the power lines. I have a couple of
 2 solar leases in my pocket. And I've been
 3 offered large industrial scale projects
 4 development that, you know, would take up
 5 100 acres or more. And I turned them down
 6 because I care about the scenery and the
 7 farming here as a landowner.
 8 And the only project we would even
 9 consider is something real small. You know,
 10 maybe like ten, ten acres, and we would tuck it
 11 away where nobody can see it. And we'd
 12 probably plant some trees around it.
 13 I read through the bill and the amendment.
 14 The bill has a lot of things in it that we
 15 already negotiated with the developers, things
 16 like protecting the soil, decommissioning,
 17 important things like that.
 18 I also read through the amendment. And
 19 the whole point system, it doesn't really make
 20 sense to me. And I just got to say that me,
 21 personally, I would never consider a large

Page 142

1 project that's 100 acres or more just because
 2 my family or my ancestors were first settlers
 3 here in the county going back several
 4 centuries. I care about the land, about the
 5 community. I would never want to do that, but
 6 I can't say the same for everybody else.
 7 And my concern is that if we take away the
 8 ability of somebody like myself to just do
 9 maybe under five percent of the available land
 10 for a small community solar project, then the
 11 only option that the larger landowners here
 12 have is to go through the Public Service
 13 Commission project and just do a big 100-acre
 14 or more project, which a lot of people don't
 15 want.
 16 If you look at that map that was up there
 17 by the power lines, you can only really do a
 18 project near the power lines.
 19 And the last final point I would make is
 20 I'm a graduate student at Johns Hopkins in the
 21 global security studies program. And a

Page 143

1 long-term trend that we're studying is energy
 2 security. And it's a major national security
 3 issue. I personally believe that within
 4 several decades, it would be in our long-term
 5 strategic interest to have our own energy
 6 production capability here on the Eastern Shore
 7 of Maryland.
 8 That's all I got.
 9 MR. DIVILIO: I apologize. A point of
 10 procedure, and I could rattle off Alan Gerard's
 11 statement because he always comes up often.
 12 The same thing with Zach Smith. We know who
 13 everybody is.
 14 We ask for your name and where you're
 15 from.
 16 MR. HALLOT: Oh, sure thing.
 17 MR. DIVILIO: We can follow up and know
 18 who you are.
 19 MR. HALLOT: Andy Hallot.
 20 MR. PACK: Hallot?
 21 MR. HALLOT: Hallot, yes, sir. In Talbot

Page 144

1 County.
 2 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 3 MS. PRICE: Question?
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, go ahead.
 5 MS. PRICE: Right before you came up, I
 6 was basically going to offer some very similar
 7 type comments.
 8 So Mr. -- I asked Mr. Barons -- and you
 9 can go back to your seat. It's not any direct
 10 question to you.
 11 MR. HALLOT: Thank you.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 13 MS. PRICE: You said some of the things
 14 that I was going to ask in my general question.
 15 And I asked how many acres. And Mr. Baron said
 16 15 of the 18 on that parcel, but it's still
 17 part of a larger farm that is still working.
 18 And then another gentleman, I'm sorry, I
 19 can't remember his name, who was speaking on
 20 behalf of his father-in-law and saying that the
 21 scoring system would preclude anything from

Page 145

1 going on the property.
 2 And I am all for preserving our best
 3 farmland.
 4 But again, I like to talk about
 5 compromise. And when you said, you know, a
 6 certain percentage, we do that all the time. I
 7 think our next public hearing is about changing
 8 something to another 15 percent larger,
 9 30 percent larger. We do that kind of thing
 10 all the time. So rather than always allowing
 11 it 100 percent or disallowing it 100 percent,
 12 you know, I appreciate what you just said about
 13 you personally, your family wouldn't take
 14 200 acres and put the whole thing in solar.
 15 But not everybody would do that.
 16 But having some ability to do a small
 17 section, to tuck it away, as you referenced,
 18 makes sense to me.
 19 And so I see Mr. Councill, our chairman of
 20 our Planning Commission out there.
 21 Was -- and you can -- it is a question for

Page 146

1 you.

2 MR. COUNCELL: You want to put me on the

3 hot seat?

4 MS. PRICE: I am going to put you on the

5 hot seat.

6 MR. PACK: Are we done with a public

7 hearing?

8 MS. PRICE: Well, we haven't heard from

9 any -- so it's a pretty simple question.

10 Did you -- because you helped with this.

11 And we really appreciate you bringing this idea

12 forward to help the MALPF program and funding

13 and all of that. So very, very appreciative.

14 Did you ever talk about --

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Price, excuse me.

16 Can you --

17 MS. PRICE: I'm sorry.

18 MR. COUNCELL: Sure. Chip Councill. I'm

19 a farmer in the county, but also serve as

20 chairman of the Talbot County Planning

21 Commission.

Page 147

1 MR. CALLAHAN: And we still are in the

2 public hearing. So just make sure we

3 understand that.

4 MS. PRICE: Okay. I apologize if I'm out

5 of turn, but it really fits with the narrative

6 of what just happened with the last couple of

7 speakers.

8 Did you consider something like that?

9 And when we're talking about the scoring

10 with one amendment, and I know maybe you

11 weren't involved in drafting amendment one. So

12 Mr. Gerard might be able to answer that. Of

13 having a certain percentage. If you have a

14 farm of X size, you know, saying okay, you can

15 do ten percent in solar, you're still

16 preserving the vast majority. Was that any

17 part -- when we're talking about this

18 moratorium and all that, was any of that

19 discussed?

20 MR. COUNCELL: So I would back up and say

21 the Planning Commission was actively involved

Page 148

1 in the bill, along with the solar developers.

2 We had a workshop somewhere along the way with

3 the Council. I think three, I think three of

4 you were there.

5 As a result of that workshop, I think

6 there was some interest in preserving prime

7 farmland and if there was a way to do that that

8 would hold up to the Public Service Commission.

9 The Planning Commission was not involved in

10 that.

11 By the time that Mr. Leshner's amendment

12 came to light, so to speak, the Planning

13 Commission had already made our recommendation

14 and passed it up. So the Planning Commission

15 has not looked at amendment one.

16 Personally, I guess what I would say is,

17 you know, we heard, the Planning Commission

18 heard all along. I think at every step of the

19 way, we heard the need and the concern of

20 preserving prime farmland. But again, with

21 what has been put on us by the Public Service

Page 149

1 Commission, we said well, there's nothing we

2 can do.

3 We have an acreage cap they told us they

4 don't have to uphold. How can we do it?

5 Quite honestly, we didn't have an answer.

6 I think, you know, Alan Gerard came up with

7 something. He asked me to look at it. I

8 looked at it. You know, I think that strikes a

9 good balance. You're still almost half the

10 farmland in the county that would be available

11 for solar. Obviously, there are certain places

12 that it could go and certain places that it

13 couldn't go.

14 I guess my concern is if you start to

15 compromise, where does that hold you with the

16 Public Service Commission on the rest it?

17 Obviously, Mr. Forgosh, he and I have

18 talked several times. Mr. Baron's son-in-law

19 came to my house.

20 I understand what we're trying to do, the

21 problems, so forth and so on.

Page 150

1 I worry about every farmer that I know
 2 that gets two or tree letters from a solar
 3 developer a week, me included.
 4 I, you know, we hear that there are this
 5 interest from solar developers all up and down
 6 the Route 50 corridor, all up and down the 309
 7 corridor. You know, I know of at least a half
 8 a dozen farmers that have entered some type of
 9 agreement to allow the solar developers to move
 10 forward in the exploratory stage.
 11 So I guess my, you know, my question to
 12 you is do you want to get ahead of it or do we
 13 want to look back and say boy, I wish we had
 14 seen it coming?
 15 MS. PRICE: Well, it's interesting that
 16 you said where does it start to compromise with
 17 the Public Service Commission.
 18 But however, if we're telling half the
 19 people, half the farmers that they can't put
 20 any solar in there because they scored higher
 21 than 240, then those people might just go

Page 151

1 straight to the PSC and get that overturned.
 2 But if we allow for a certain amount, it
 3 might actually work to our benefit. So we
 4 don't really know with PSC what will work to
 5 our benefit. But if we said we're disallowing
 6 half the acreage outright, maybe they're not
 7 going to pay any attention to what we're doing.
 8 But if we allow a certain percentage on that.
 9 So I'm just saying maybe we need to
 10 consider that and maybe this needs to go back
 11 to the Planning Commission for an amendment
 12 review.
 13 MR. COUNCELL: That's why you guys get to
 14 make the tough decisions.
 15 My answer to that in talking with other
 16 counties in Maryland, they knew Talbot was up
 17 to something. They knew the Planning
 18 Commission. They heard through the grapevine.
 19 I had four counties contact me. Now, this is
 20 at the Planning Commission level. And say hey,
 21 what's up, what are you guys doing. And I told

Page 152

1 them what we were doing. I think you will see
 2 something like that in other areas of the
 3 state.
 4 Again, their concern is protecting prime
 5 farmland. Every one of those counties, either
 6 presidents of their commissions or Planning
 7 Commissions, said that they have been struck
 8 down by the Public Service Commission because
 9 they didn't have adequate area for the projects
 10 to go. Okay.
 11 And I don't know. I'm not a utility
 12 judge, whatever. But the information that the
 13 Planning Commission received is if this is
 14 adequate area in the county, if they can go
 15 somewhere, the Public Service Commission has to
 16 take a harder look at it.
 17 MS. PRICE: Well, my concern is, my
 18 concern would be that we're taking away the
 19 ability to have any solar, even a small piece
 20 in the --
 21 MR. COUNCELL: No, I don't think we are.

Page 153

1 So anything --
 2 MS. PRICE: -- over 240.
 3 MR. COUNCELL: Anything under ten acres
 4 can go. That's a medium size system.
 5 So the gentleman, you know, testified that
 6 he might want a ten-acre project. 9.999 moves
 7 through as a medium scale.
 8 MS. PRICE: You can isolate just under ten
 9 acres. If you own 100 acres.
 10 MR. COUNCELL: Yup.
 11 MS. PRICE: You could do 9.99 acres in
 12 solar?
 13 MR. COUNCELL: Yes, ma'am. Yup.
 14 So in other words, in 2016 I think Talbot
 15 County was groundbreaking in our solar
 16 legislation. That was one of the things that
 17 came out above that. When the Planning
 18 Commission looked at all the existing ordinance
 19 for solar systems, there were several things
 20 that were decided not to change. That size was
 21 one of them.

Page 154

1 So you know, unfortunately, as you know
 2 with zoning, there has to be a number.
 3 MS. PRICE: Must be a number, but you can
 4 also do a percent. So you could say if it's
 5 more than 100 acres, you could do five -- or
 6 200 acres, do five percent or ten percent --
 7 MR. COUNCELL: So I guess --
 8 MS. PRICE: Figure that out.
 9 MR. COUNCELL: Yeah. You know, that's
 10 your guys' decision. Yeah.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,
 12 Mr. Councill.
 13 MR. COUNCELL: Okay. Thanks.
 14 MS. PRICE: Thank you.
 15 MR. FORGASH: I just have two initial
 16 comments.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. Come on up.
 18 MR. FORGASH: Again, thank you. This is
 19 John Forgash, SolHarvest Energy again.
 20 Just in response to the map right there.
 21 While the map does show all properties that are

Page 155

1 scored at 240 or more, it does not show which
 2 properties would be available for a solar
 3 development based upon connection to the
 4 interconnection grid or adjacent to a
 5 distribution line.
 6 So there may be 70 or 80,000 acres that
 7 don't meet the 240 criteria. But again, we
 8 have no idea exactly how many properties or how
 9 many acres would be considered viable based
 10 upon just eliminating those 240.
 11 And then in terms of the community solar
 12 projects, projects that would participate in
 13 that type of program and under net metering
 14 law, that law right now caps a project at
 15 approximately two megawatts. And based on the
 16 acreage needed for the optimal system, right
 17 now you're talking about 15 to 20 acres in
 18 order to develop a project of about two
 19 megawatts.
 20 So there's, as Zach mentioned, there's a
 21 little bit of disconnect right now in terms of

Page 156

1 where a community solar fits into the
 2 definitions for medium and large. And so we're
 3 kind of right at the cusp there. We're right
 4 at the two-megawatt limit that's also
 5 identified in the code. So you know, we're
 6 trying to walk a fine line here. But as it
 7 currently stands, gets lumped into the large
 8 scale definition.
 9 MR. PACK: Mr. Forgash, did you say you
 10 were for or against the amendment?
 11 MR. FORGASH: We're against the amendment
 12 number one, yes.
 13 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Showalter.
 15 MR. SHOWALTER: So I hadn't seen these
 16 maps obviously before.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Can you --
 18 MR. SHOWALTER: I'm sorry. Ryan
 19 Showalter, for the record. 100 North West
 20 Street, Easton.
 21 I had not seen the maps before the

Page 157

1 meeting.
 2 And I'm not necessarily opposed to
 3 amendment one. I just think it requires
 4 significantly more thought. And Ms. Price's
 5 comments or questions about the Public Service
 6 Commission and preemption I think are
 7 appropriate.
 8 Mr. Councill made the point that if you're
 9 9.999 acres, you could get that project built
 10 today whether you adopt amendment one or not.
 11 But it's important to understand that the
 12 Public Service Commission only has authority
 13 for those projects over two megawatts. So
 14 generally, anything that's ten acres or less
 15 isn't subject to Public Service Commission
 16 review anyway.
 17 I think another thing that's important to
 18 understand is that in addition to the point
 19 that Mr. Forgash made, the proximity to
 20 transmission lines with capacity is essential.
 21 So if you can't be within close proximity to

Page 158

1 the transmission line, it's not cost effective
 2 to develop solar, either community solar or
 3 large scale solar. And that's a key
 4 consideration for the Public Service
 5 Commission.
 6 Another landscape consideration that
 7 occurred to me as you look at this map is most
 8 of the parcels identified as being available
 9 for solar are in the Critical Area. And you
 10 know, I'm not going to express an opinion on
 11 that today, but I'll just note that I'm not
 12 sure that's consistent with the county's
 13 policies or preferences.
 14 If you look at most of the parcels
 15 available for solar, they're out in the neck
 16 districts, almost all of which is in the
 17 Critical Area or close to the Critical Area.
 18 And out on the ends of spurs, not on the main
 19 transmission lines that have the most capacity.
 20 So my only suggestion is I think you
 21 should adopt the bill as it was recommended by

Page 159

1 the Planning Commission. And if further review
 2 and discussion for some threshold is
 3 appropriate, you should get additional study
 4 and be more thoughtfully considered before it's
 5 just adopted. Thank you.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Showalter.
 7 Okay.
 8 MS. PRICE: Does this bill expire?
 9 MR. THOMAS: Yes.
 10 MR. PACK: (Inaudible.)
 11 SECRETARY: The bill will expire on
 12 October 13th.
 13 MS. PRICE: Okay.
 14 MR. THOMAS: So that leaves us to the next
 15 meeting at least.
 16 SECRETARY: Yeah.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Anybody else on this side
 18 would like to come up? Okay.
 19 So really appreciate the great
 20 conversation and trying to help move forward on
 21 this and do great things. So I want to keep

Page 160

1 that open.
 2 MR. PACK: So if I may.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Go ahead, Mr. Pack.
 4 MR. PACK: Just for the record, again,
 5 Mr. Thomas, I just want to reiterate that the
 6 moratorium that was set back in April has now
 7 elapsed. So those projects that were being
 8 held up due to the moratorium can now proceed
 9 underneath its current status; is that correct?
 10 MR. THOMAS: The version I'm looking at
 11 indicates it would have been adopted on
 12 April 12th.
 13 I don't know if Ms. Moran can confirm.
 14 SECRETARY: I can't right now.
 15 MR. THOMAS: If it was passed on
 16 April 12th, if the resolution was adopted on
 17 April 12th, then yes, it would have expired.
 18 MR. PACK: I just want to make sure we get
 19 that straight for the public. Thank you.
 20 MS. PRICE: So what happens in between the
 21 expiration of that and us adopting this?

Page 161

1 Something gets approved. It wouldn't fall
 2 under these rules that we may or may not pass?
 3 MR. THOMAS: I don't know that there are
 4 any that are, that would be approved in that
 5 window. I don't know if there's any pending.
 6 I don't know. Brennan might be able to comment
 7 on that.
 8 MS. PRICE: Other than the first gentleman
 9 who testified.
 10 MR. PACK: Where is Solar Harvest?
 11 MS. PRICE: Yeah.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, Brennan. Can you come
 13 up for one second? Because I know that one
 14 gentleman had to stop in midstream. And we
 15 need to know at midstream, was he at the end of
 16 this process or where he was in that process,
 17 if you could help us.
 18 MR. TARLETON: Yeah, certainly. As Zach
 19 Smith and Mr. Forgash --
 20 MR. SHOWALTER: We're still in the public
 21 hearing.

Page 162

1 MR. TARLETON: Sorry. Brennan Tarleton,
 2 acting director for Planning and Zoning.
 3 As Zach Smith and John Forgash alluded to,
 4 they did receive special exception approval or
 5 recommendation of special exception approval
 6 from the Planning Commission, their special
 7 exception approval from the Board of Appeals.
 8 They're now set to move forward with what
 9 would essentially be our site plan review
 10 process, which does require several meetings
 11 outlined within the zoning code, which would
 12 include a technical advisory review committee
 13 meeting and a public hearing for a major site
 14 plan in front of the Planning Commission for
 15 review and approval.
 16 And that time frame for scheduling based
 17 on when this bill is set to expire, they would
 18 not be able to be scheduled for that meeting as
 19 well as go before the Planning Commission for a
 20 possible approval for the project prior to
 21 October 13th based on our review and submittal

Page 163

1 deadlines that we currently have.
 2 MR. PACK: So you're saying that until
 3 this bill is resolved, those projects that are
 4 in the pipeline would still have to wait?
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: It's not it's going to have
 6 to wait I don't think. It's the time frame --
 7 MR. TARLETON: Well, not that it would
 8 have to wait. But I'm just saying if you were
 9 to move forward with the bill as proposed and
 10 it was to be voted on at a later time, I don't
 11 think the project would move forward under the
 12 current code requirements.
 13 So if you were to vote to enact the bill,
 14 they would be moving forward through our review
 15 process. But until they receive that approval,
 16 they haven't been vetted through that system.
 17 So if that language was enacted, they would
 18 still go through the new language as adopted by
 19 you all if it was adopted.
 20 MS. PRICE: So how much longer does the
 21 process take for the one that's in the pipeline

Page 164

1 right now? Another couple of months? Longer?
 2 MR. TARLETON: Likely a couple of months
 3 would be an expedited time frame I would say
 4 given that they would need to go to a TAC
 5 meeting, they would need to go to a Planning
 6 Commission hearing, and that usually takes
 7 between two and three months of scheduling and
 8 actual review time as well.
 9 MR. THOMAS: And just to clarify, the
 10 resolution establishing the moratorium was
 11 adopted on April 26th. So it is still in
 12 effect.
 13 MS. PRICE: Just until the end of the
 14 month.
 15 MR. PACK: Until September 26th.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir.
 17 Are we done with Brennan?
 18 MR. PACK: Yes.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
 20 Appreciate it.
 21 MR. FORGASH: Sorry. Just to be clear, we

Page 165

1 haven't moved forward with --
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: We're in a public hearing.
 3 Sorry.
 4 MR. FORGASH: Sorry. John Forgash,
 5 SolHarvest Energy.
 6 Just for the record, we have not moved
 7 forward with any additional development efforts
 8 after receiving our special exception permit.
 9 Our priority was to work with the county
 10 and through the moratorium to help define what
 11 the new bill and new regulations were going to
 12 look like.
 13 So we don't -- I think we're still pretty
 14 far away from being able to submit anything
 15 site plan wise to the county for our proposed
 16 project. At this point in time, we still have
 17 a lot of engineering work and other development
 18 that we need to accomplish before we're at that
 19 point.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. Okay. Thank
 21 you.

Page 166

1 MR. FORGASH: You're welcome.

2 MR. PACK: Well, since the moratorium is

3 still in place, my comments are mute.

4 MR. FORGASH: We've just chosen not to do

5 it.

6 MR. PACK: Yeah.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Right, right. Okay.

8 Yes, sir. One more.

9 MR. GERARD: Thank you. Mr. President,

10 Alan Gerard, Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

11 I heard three issues that I thought were

12 good ones. Proximity to transmission lines,

13 the Critical Area overlay issue, and then

14 Ms. Price was bringing up a potential carve out

15 at some percentage that might be appropriate

16 for larger parcels.

17 You know, those are issues that I would be

18 willing to work with stakeholders to try and

19 resolve. Mr. Forgash, Mr. Showalter, others

20 that have experience in that area, be happy to

21 work with them and see if we can come up with a

Page 167

1 revised amendment or something as appropriate.

2 I don't know how that fits with the timing

3 of the six-month expiration and the urgency to

4 get 1524 through. I'll leave that to you to

5 navigate.

6 There are 70 percent of the land that's

7 expected to be under solar will be on the

8 Eastern Shore as a result of interest in solar

9 development. So as Chairman Councell said,

10 solar is coming, it is important to get this

11 right. There's interest in the room on all

12 sides to find that compromise and that balance

13 and work through a solution that the county

14 will accept.

15 So we urge you to try and allow us in the

16 community to work with you to get something

17 workable for the Council.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.

19 Appreciate it.

20 You want to say something?

21 MR. DIVILIO: Nope.

Page 168

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Anybody else? All

2 right. Okay.

3 So like Alan was saying, Mr. Gerard was

4 saying, we're all here to try to balance this

5 all out and work together on this. And it

6 really sounds like we can get there.

7 So I appreciate everybody's input on this

8 and patience. And hopefully this Council can

9 get it done for you and everybody can be

10 satisfied with what we come up with. Okay.

11 So let's move on. Madam Secretary, can

12 you kind of get me straight. I think we're on

13 Bill 1525.

14 SECRETARY: Yes.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. Yes, ma'am. Okay.

16 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1525, a bill to

17 amend Chapter 190 of the Talbot County Code,

18 zoning, subdivision, and land development,

19 regarding the expansion of structures utilized

20 by nonconforming uses, subject to certain

21 conditions.

Page 169

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. All

2 right. He's coming up.

3 We're off.

4 (Recess taken.)

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Let's get rolling. Okay.

6 Let's get ready to roll here. We got a public

7 hearing here. So let's try to wrap this stuff

8 up. Okay.

9 So we're on 1525. You guys are at the

10 table.

11 MR. YELTON: Council, Bryce Yelton,

12 planner two.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

14 MR. YELTON: This bill is to amend Chapter

15 190 to the Talbot County Code. It relates to

16 nonconforming uses or nonconforming uses

17 section that we had previously talked about

18 with the RC district and golf courses and

19 country clubs.

20 This amendment would allow for the

21 expansion of structures utilized for

Page 170

1 nonconforming uses subject to certain
 2 conditions.
 3 Currently in our nonconforming uses
 4 section, the expansion of structures utilized
 5 for those nonconforming uses are limited no
 6 more than the greater of 20 percent. Or
 7 currently it's limited to 20 percent of gross
 8 floor area of the nonconforming use.
 9 This bill would allow for that to be
 10 either the greater of that 20 percent of the
 11 gross floor area of the nonconforming use or
 12 3,000 square feet. And also, no larger than
 13 100 percent of what you have currently
 14 existing.
 15 This would allow businesses that are
 16 currently nonconforming uses to expand to
 17 greater heights than 20 percent of their gross
 18 floor area, it would allow for greater
 19 flexibility in that, and it would still be
 20 subject to minor site plan approval. And at
 21 that 3,000 square foot threshold, which is the

Page 171

1 maximum allowed, it would need major site plan
 2 approval as well.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Brennan, you got anything
 4 to add? You good?
 5 MR. TARLETON: No. I think as we
 6 mentioned in the first time this was presented
 7 to you, the Planning Commission did provide a
 8 favorable recommendation of the amended
 9 language that you see here.
 10 Originally, it did not include the
 11 addition of the exceeding of the 100 percent, I
 12 think which was an original concern of the
 13 Council, that threshold for that 3,000 square
 14 feet and where that came from.
 15 The applicant chose to use that revision
 16 and amendment to address that.
 17 The Planning Commission also thought that
 18 that was a good amendment and good suggestion.
 19 And that's what they forwarded here for you to
 20 review.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great, great.

Page 172

1 MS. PRICE: So just to make sure I got the
 2 math right. So if you had a 3,000 square foot
 3 building, you could go up to six?
 4 MR. TARLETON: That's correct.
 5 MS. PRICE: Okay. Is there a minimum lot
 6 size or anything like that for that?
 7 MR. TARLETON: There's not a minimum lot
 8 size, but typically additional site constraints
 9 for properties that would be limited by those
 10 expansions would also be further encumbered by
 11 building restriction lines and many other times
 12 also lot coverage requirements as well.
 13 MS. PRICE: Okay. Thank you.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Anything else from Council?
 15 Okay.
 16 So let's go ahead and -- thank you, guys.
 17 Go ahead and open it up for 1525. Over
 18 here to my right, if anybody wants to come up
 19 and speak on 1525. Okay.
 20 Over here to my right, anybody would like
 21 to come up? Yeah. Come on up, Zach.

Page 173

1 MR. SMITH: Good evening, Council.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.
 3 MR. SMITH: For the record, Zach Smith,
 4 114 Bay Street here in Easton within Jerry and
 5 Susan Davis.
 6 Please recall we were before the Council
 7 back in June. We had proposed this text
 8 amendment. We were before the Council back in
 9 June asking for your support for introduction.
 10 Please recall that Jerry and his wife have
 11 a commercial storage building in the Village of
 12 McDaniel. It's on Maryland 33. It was built
 13 in the '90s. Conformed at that time to the
 14 zoning for the VC zone.
 15 In 2018, when the county reclassified the
 16 village zoning, McDaniel became zoned VH, and
 17 storage uses, commercial storage was no longer
 18 permitted.
 19 And a consequence of that, when Jerry came
 20 in to propose a relatively small expansion of
 21 his building, he found that the use was no

Page 174

1 longer permitted and, therefore, he could not
 2 propose an expansion of more than 20 percent.
 3 Twenty percent can make sense I think in
 4 certain circumstance. But for a relatively
 5 small building like Jerry, which is only 3,000
 6 square feet, a 20 percent expansion was
 7 economically infeasible for him to move
 8 forward.
 9 So because of that issue, we proposed to
 10 the Council you adopt this bill that would
 11 allow for the greater of 20 percent or 3,000
 12 square feet, which would allow relatively small
 13 buildings that have nonconforming use within
 14 them to propose through the special exception
 15 process and subject to the Board of Appeals
 16 review and approval, reasonable and appropriate
 17 expansions.
 18 And when we were before you back in June,
 19 Ms. Price raised the issue of what if you had a
 20 500 square foot building, this would allow up
 21 to have many multiples of size. And so we

Page 175

1 understood that concern, and we proposed to the
 2 Planning Commission this additional language
 3 that caps the expansion at no more than
 4 100 percent of existing. The Planning
 5 Commission supported that additional text, and
 6 that is, as Bryce said, what they forwarded
 7 their favorable to the Council.
 8 So we would ask that you approve this
 9 bill, which would allow Jerry and Susan to
 10 propose a second building on their site up to
 11 3,000 square feet through that special
 12 exception process.
 13 And I just wanted to note that that
 14 special exception process is an important
 15 safeguard. It's a very public process. It
 16 involves notice to the neighbors and puts
 17 burdens on applicants to prove certain
 18 findings, like there won't be significant
 19 adverse impacts to the surrounding
 20 neighborhood.
 21 So we think that safeguard is important,

Page 176

1 and we would certainly be subject to that with
 2 any proposal that we have.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Thank you.
 4 MR. DAVIS: And just basically to
 5 reiterate what Zack is saying is that I felt
 6 that the way it's set up now, there really is
 7 no appeal process. It's just that number and
 8 that's it.
 9 Whereas, other issues in the zoning, you
 10 do have the appeal process. So basically
 11 you're not giving a carte blanche that anybody
 12 could build a larger building. It's that now I
 13 still have, we still have to go through another
 14 hoop because, okay, you approve the bill.
 15 We'll still have to go to the appeal process.
 16 And the appeal board has to take a look at all
 17 the circumstances that are currently around it.
 18 And like Zach is saying, the original
 19 building was built in 1963. It was an oyster
 20 house, and it was turned into a storage
 21 facility in 1994. So it's been in the

Page 177

1 community and things like this. So these are
 2 things that we feel that we can go to the
 3 appeals board and basically plead our case.
 4 Whereas, currently right now, we cannot do
 5 that.
 6 So that's all we are asking for.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds great.
 8 Anything from Council?
 9 Thank you, guys. Appreciate it.
 10 MR. SMITH: Thank you.
 11 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate your patience
 13 tonight, too. I know it's been a long night.
 14 MS. PRICE: How do you think Mr. LeCates
 15 feels over there just sitting there waiting for
 16 his presentation?
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: I know. Yeah. He's on
 18 call 24/7 anyway.
 19 MS. PRICE: Just let him go home for a few
 20 hours and then come back.
 21 MR. LeCATES: I could sleep (inaudible).

Page 178	Page 180
<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: He can sleep tomorrow, you 2 know. All right. 3 Anybody else would like to talk about 4 1525? Okay. 5 So we'll go ahead and keep that open 6 for -- and Madam Secretary, are we saying we're 7 keeping it open so that means anybody that can 8 e-mail or whatever up to a certain date, right? 9 SECRETARY: You want to pick a date? 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. I mean I didn't know 11 if we needed to. 12 MR. DIVILIO: Close it on the 23rd and the 13 27th will be the next County Council meeting. 14 Will that work? 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. That will be great. 16 MS. PRICE: Though I would say we might 17 want to completely leave the solar bill, 1524, 18 open in case anything extra gets proposed or we 19 ask them, anybody to work on that bill because 20 I think that's gotten the most discussion. So 21 I wouldn't want to close that before we come</p>	<p>1 that would have to be done at the next meeting 2 because the Planning Commission only has one 3 more meeting during this term. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. That's what I was 5 kind of getting at. 6 SECRETARY: I don't think there would be 7 enough time. 8 MR. THOMAS: October. 9 MR. STAMP: (Inaudible) deliberate by the 10 25th of October. 11 SECRETARY: It would have to go to the 12 Planning Commission tonight. Right, Brennan? 13 MR. TARLETON: Pardon me? 14 SECRETARY: Anything that the Council 15 wanted to go to the Planning Commission, would 16 have to be referred tonight, right, for the 17 October Planning Commission meeting? 18 MR. TARLETON: That's correct. 19 SECRETARY: Yeah. So if you want 20 something to go to the Planning Commission for 21 its October meeting, you would have to refer it</p>
<p>Page 179</p> <p>1 back again and Mr. Leshar is here since that 2 amendment one is his amendment. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: That's fine. Yeah. 4 MS. PRICE: Okay. We have two more 5 meetings before we have to vote on that one. 6 MR. DIVILIO: So keep solar open until 7 let's go -- 8 MS. PRICE: Let's just not -- let's make a 9 decision in two weeks at the next meeting. 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Not only that, but am I 11 right by saying it's got to go to the Planning 12 Commission, too, before it comes back to us for 13 recommendation? 14 MR. THOMAS: It may, depending on want 15 amendments, if any, get adopted. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 17 MS. PRICE: Right. Thank you. 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. No problem. 19 MR. THOMAS: But that would have to be 20 done -- if any amendments were made that 21 require referral to the Planning Commission,</p>	<p>Page 181</p> <p>1 tonight. 2 MR. PACK: I would ask, if I may, 3 Mr. Callahan, that Resolution 334 go to the 4 Planning Commission and the Public Works 5 Advisory Board, also the amendment to Bill 6 15 -- let me get myself straight. 7 SECRETARY: Twenty-four? 8 MR. PACK: Twenty-four, thank you. 9 The amendment to Bill 1524 also go to 10 them. They have not reviewed that one yet. 11 And one more I had here. 12 I think that was it. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Is that it? 14 MR. PACK: Those two. 15 MS. PRICE: So I have an amendment 16 formulating in my head, but I don't have exact 17 verbiage. So I'm not sure how we do this. 18 But you heard me refer to perhaps a 19 percentage of a larger property. I mean like 20 right now we're talking about this, the greater 21 of 3,000 square feet or 20 percent. So we do</p>

Page 182

1 this kind of stuff all the time.
 2 I don't know what the right percentage is.
 3 But pretend you've got a 200-acre parcel,
 4 right. So we said 9.99 acres is okay because
 5 that's medium, I guess that's medium scale.
 6 But if you've got 200 acres, like one of
 7 the last guys who testified, to tuck away 15
 8 acres in the back corner someplace where it's
 9 really not disturbing anything, to me may be
 10 appropriate. And I honestly believe that that
 11 may actually strengthen our argument with the
 12 Planning Commission that we're not disallowing
 13 everything over a score of 240.
 14 So somehow I'd like to refer some type of
 15 amendment like that. I don't know if we can
 16 come up with an amendment, a percentage, plug a
 17 number for now. And then the Planning
 18 Commission may be able to work out if I said 10
 19 percent tonight, maybe the right number is
 20 five percent, maybe it's 15 percent.
 21 But rather than a finite number, because

Page 183

1 ten acres on a 50-acre parcel is pretty big.
 2 But ten acres on a 200-acre parcel or 500-acre
 3 parcel is not very much at all for that to make
 4 sense for that larger farm. So...
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Do we need a Council
 6 decision on your second and motion for Mr. Pack
 7 for the request that you made to send those to
 8 the Planning Commission?
 9 MR. PACK: No. I was just saying --
 10 MS. PRICE: I'll second those.
 11 MR. PACK: I don't know what procedure you
 12 need a motion to send it to the Planning
 13 Commission. I mean if we --
 14 MR. THOMAS: A motion would be
 15 appropriate.
 16 MR. PACK: I would certainly make the
 17 motion that both 334.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: And the amendment.
 19 MR. PACK: And the amendment to 1524 both
 20 go over to the Planning Commission for their
 21 review and Public Works Advisory Board for

Page 184

1 their review and be ready for us when they can
 2 get it back to us.
 3 MS. PRICE: So I'll second that.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So Madam Secretary,
 5 we've got a motion and second it to move 334 to
 6 Public Works and the Planning Commission. Can
 7 you call the vote, please? I'm sorry.
 8 MR. STAMP: And 1524.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Did you say -- you didn't
 10 say that.
 11 (Inaudible speaking.)
 12 MR. PACK: I think they've already heard
 13 1524.
 14 MR. THOMAS: Yes.
 15 MR. PACK: But not the amendment.
 16 MR. THOMAS: Amendment one.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Right, the amendment one.
 18 MR. PACK: Am I wrong, Brennan? They both
 19 need to go. If they both need to go, then I'll
 20 modify my amendment.
 21 MR. TARLETON: Sorry. Brennan Tarleton

Page 185

1 again, acting planning director.
 2 I just wanted to say did you also include,
 3 did you mean to include 335 in there as well?
 4 MR. PACK: Maybe that was the one I
 5 forgot. Thank you.
 6 MR. TARLETON: I just want to make sure we
 7 were clear before you made a motion on it and
 8 voted on it and we had to start all over again.
 9 MR. PACK: I know I had three in my mind.
 10 But the longest of the night, probably forgot
 11 335. And 335.
 12 MS. PRICE: Wait? Where is 335?
 13 SECRETARY: 335 was just introduced.
 14 MR. TARLETON: Oh, it was just introduced?
 15 I apologize.
 16 SECRETARY: You just introduced 335.
 17 MS. MORRIS: 336 would have (inaudible).
 18 MR. TARLETON: 335, 336. Okay. All
 19 right. Sorry for the extra confusion.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.
 21 MS. PRICE: So then is there any way to

Page 186	Page 188
<p>1 send -- to try to verbalize as best I can what 2 I'd like it to be and then have Patrick draft 3 something? 4 And then the Planning Commission could 5 look and see. And maybe with the help of the 6 Chesapeake Bay Foundation... 7 MR. DIVILIO: You would need to introduce 8 an amendment, get it seconded, and then it 9 would be discussed and then you can request it 10 to go through. 11 MS. PRICE: Right. So obviously the 12 problem is timing and three weeks? notice for 13 the Planning Commission. 14 So that's why I'm trying to do it as best 15 I can on the fly because if I wait, then we 16 won't be able to consider, you know, I was -- 17 MR. DIVILIO: So we're on 1524. So you 18 would want to offer amendment two on Bill 1524 19 to set a percentage limitation of land that 20 could hold solar? 21 MS. PRICE: Right. So I would say maybe</p>	<p>1 articulate exactly what the amendment would be 2 and then introduce that so I -- 3 MS. PRICE: God. Frank, just did great. 4 I think you did such a great job on the 5 amendment I want to introduce. 6 MR. THOMAS: I'm pulling up the bill now. 7 MR. DIVILIO: So you -- 8 MR. CALLAHAN: But this would be the 9 second amendment to 234. 10 MR. THOMAS: Yeah. So this would be 11 amendment number two to Bill 1524. 12 MR. CALLAHAN: 334, right. This would be 13 the second amendment. 14 MS. PRICE: So on parcels larger than 15 100 acres, ten percent could be utilized in the 16 large scale solar. That's the most simple form 17 of it. 18 MR. DIVILIO: Would allow solar up to 19 ten percent? 20 MS. PRICE: Yeah. Up to ten percent. 21 That would be fine.</p>
Page 187	Page 189
<p>1 if you use ten percent. So at 100 acres, 2 you're already covered by the ten-acre rule. 3 So on parcels greater than 100, you could do 4 ten percent. 5 And then certainly the Planning Commission 6 can see if that's appropriate. I think and 7 with the help of the other groups that have 8 been able to provide information tonight. And 9 like Alan Gerard doing that research, hopefully 10 they can help with that. 11 So that, I think that's probably the 12 easiest way to propose it. That on parcels up 13 to 100 acres, they're covered, that's ten 14 percent. Over 100 acres I would say ten 15 percent. And then let's let people that are 16 smarter than us see if that's the appropriate 17 number. 18 But at least we get a chance for the 19 Planning Commission to have some discussion on 20 something like that. 21 MR. THOMAS: So I think it would help to</p>	<p>1 MR. THOMAS: So would this be in lieu of 2 the amendment that Mr. Leshner proposed? It was 3 an amendment to the location requirements that 4 said that a parcel of agricultural land upon 5 which the large scale system is to be sited is 6 based on the MALPF evaluation criteria. And if 7 it exceeds 240, then it can't be sited on the 8 property. 9 So would this -- 10 MS. PRICE: Right. Because you really 11 wouldn't need my -- 12 (Cross talk.) 13 MR. DIVILIO: So D2AIII would be... 14 MS. PRICE: Where are you reading from? 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Jess, Jess. 16 MS. MORRIS: Can I ask a question? I do 17 think that this needs staff time to work out. 18 Is it possible for Mr. Thomas to work on 19 this amendment, it be introduced by Ms. Price 20 and any other Council members on the 27th? 21 Brennan, is there a provision in the</p>

Page 190	Page 192
<p>1 Planning Commission bylaws for them to amend 2 their agenda and add this as a discussion 3 topic?</p>	<p>1 instead of Mr. Leshler's amendment. I think his 2 amendment still stands on its face, correct?</p>
<p>4 MR. TARLETON: Yes. I believe we could do 5 so so long as sufficient public notice is 6 provided for the actual meeting, I believe the 7 agenda can be revised to include additional 8 items.</p>	<p>3 So this would be her amendment separate 4 and apart from Mr --</p>
<p>9 MR. THOMAS: Well, I think the problem 10 they run into is the time period on public 11 notice.</p>	<p>5 MR. THOMAS: I understand that. 6 But what I'm saying is based on where it 7 would go in the ordinance.</p>
<p>12 MS. PRICE: Right. So that's why I think 13 I need to get something on the record tonight.</p>	<p>8 MR. PACK: Oh, the order.</p>
<p>14 MR. PACK: Well, Ms. Price, if you don't 15 have it in your mind, because of the lateness 16 of the hour and two more presentations to go, 17 we've been here quite a --</p>	<p>9 MR. THOMAS: Right. Because what his 10 proposed amendment does is it adds a new 11 subsection B under D, the location requirements 12 under D1. Because all it says right now is 13 location, large scale solar energy systems are 14 prohibited in the RC zoning district.</p>
<p>18 MS. PRICE: Okay. So I didn't know this 19 was going to come up. I got a lot of 20 information tonight.</p>	<p>15 He adds -- he makes that be an A and adds 16 a B. So Ms. Price's amendment would add a new 17 B, which says what she just said.</p>
<p>21 MR. PACK: I do understand that.</p>	<p>18 MR. PACK: So we're going to let you, as 19 the professional, work out the legalese on this 20 thing tonight, whatever she said, if we can get 21 a second, it's golden.</p>
Page 191	Page 193
<p>1 MS. PRICE: So I'm going to propose the 2 amendment as best I can like what I just --</p>	<p>1 And then you tweak it whatever way you see 2 fit.</p>
<p>3 MR. PACK: That's fine.</p>	<p>3 And I will second the amendment. I don't 4 know what it says, but I'll second it so we can 5 move along.</p>
<p>4 MS. PRICE: -- said. And hopefully, 5 again, people smarter than us may tweak the 6 numbers or the language a little bit.</p>	<p>6 MR. THOMAS: What it says, it adds a new, 7 it adds a proposed D1B, A and B. The B 8 provides that on parcels larger than 100 acres, 9 large scale solar systems can only take up to 10 ten percent of property.</p>
<p>7 So on parcels larger than 100 acres, up to 8 ten percent could be utilized in large scale 9 solar. And you can make that sound a little 10 prettier.</p>	<p>11 MR. PACK: Okay. And you tweak it and 12 bring it back to us for our review. Okay? 13 Thank you.</p>
<p>11 MR. PACK: Okay.</p>	<p>14 MS. PRICE: Thank you very much. 15 Appreciate that, Mr. Pack.</p>
<p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p>	<p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: So I don't, I don't need a 17 motion and second.</p>
<p>13 MR. PACK: That's the amendment. Do we 14 have a...</p>	<p>18 MR. PACK: I already seconded the 19 amendment.</p>
<p>15 MR. THOMAS: So that would be instead of 16 Mr. Leshler's proposed amendment, correct?</p>	<p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p>
<p>17 MS. PRICE: Right. Otherwise you wouldn't 18 need it.</p>	<p>21 MR. DIVILIO: So.</p>
<p>19 MR. THOMAS: So this would be amendment 20 number two --</p>	
<p>21 MR. PACK: I don't think you can do it</p>	

Page 194

1 MR. STAMP: So just for clarity, would you
 2 like Patrick to go draft that --
 3 MR. THOMAS: I'll go right now and bring
 4 it right back.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. That's fine.
 6 MR. STAMP: You can move on with the
 7 agenda.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: We can move on. All right.
 9 Okay.
 10 So Madam Secretary, we're doing a
 11 presentation of a FY23 Maryland Agricultural
 12 Land Preservation Foundation. Yes.
 13 MS. ROANE: Anne Roane. I'm the planner
 14 three with Talbot County Planning and Zoning.
 15 As you're familiar with this and we met
 16 earlier today, that the State requires for the
 17 MALPF program that the County Council, that it
 18 gets a recommendation from the County Council.
 19 And that recommendation has been -- there's
 20 been a Planning Commission recommendation and
 21 the Ag Preservation Advisory Board

Page 195

1 recommendation. And that's what we're here to
 2 discuss, on which applications to send to the
 3 State for consideration for their easement
 4 program.
 5 This is an annual program. This year,
 6 this is its 42nd year, and this year we
 7 received 27 applications from different farms
 8 in the county. And the State allowed us or is
 9 allowing us to recommend 14 of those.
 10 And they are in your packet, as we
 11 discussed earlier today in closed session.
 12 So I am seeking a recommendation from this
 13 Council to forward these applications that are
 14 to the State.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds good.
 16 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.
 17 MR. PACK: And I'll second that,
 18 Mr. Callahan.
 19 As Ms. Roane said, those parcels, which
 20 we're not going to speak directly about, are in
 21 the Council's packet. Council has had a chance

Page 196

1 to review those 14 properties and acreage and
 2 location in the county.
 3 So I think it's appropriate that we move
 4 those 14 along. I'll second Mr. Divilio's
 5 motion.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary, we
 7 got a motion and second to move these 14
 8 properties to get approved.
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 12 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 13 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 14 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 16 MR. PACK: Aye.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. There you go.
 18 MS. ROANE: Thank you. Thank you very
 19 much.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job, good job. Okay.
 21 They're ready, they're ready. Come on up,

Page 197

1 come on up. All right. We've got Talbot
 2 County's finest and the best.
 3 MR. LeCATES: Well, thank you, sir.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem, no problem.
 5 We've got the Talbot County hazardous
 6 mitigation and community resilient plan that
 7 you're doing.
 8 MR. LeCATES: Good evening, Council.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.
 10 MR. LeCATES: Brian LeCates, director of
 11 Talbot County Emergency Services. With me for
 12 this project, I have Geneva Schaffle, emergency
 13 management coordinator.
 14 Thank you for your time.
 15 I will turn it over to Geneva because she
 16 is the shining star of this project, and she
 17 deserves all the spotlight. I'm just here to
 18 support her.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.
 20 MS. SCHAFFLE: Good evening. So my name
 21 is Geneva Schaffle, the emergency management

Page 198

1 coordinator for Talbot County Emergency
 2 Services.
 3 I did want to thank Dr. Maguire for
 4 shouting out National Preparedness Month. That
 5 is September.
 6 But today I am here to, one, keep it brief
 7 and, two, talk about mitigation.
 8 So we are coming to a close on our hazard
 9 mitigation and resiliency plan update. This
 10 plan, we used Smith Planning and Designing to
 11 contract with us, our planning process. It has
 12 been a two-year planning process. We started
 13 in late 2019, and we're now coming to a close
 14 hopefully at the end of this month.
 15 So mitigation, the point of this plan is
 16 to essentially eliminate or reduce the risk of
 17 disasters that could happen here in Talbot
 18 County.
 19 We are unique here in Talbot that we
 20 address resiliency in this plan. So it is a
 21 requirement that we address natural hazards,

Page 199

1 but we take it a step further to include that
 2 community resilience and the ability to bounce
 3 back after these disasters.
 4 This is just a quick blurb that for every
 5 dollar that you would invest in mitigation, it
 6 is a \$6 return of investment when it comes to
 7 disaster damage costs.
 8 And here is the meat of why I'm here.
 9 This is a FEMA required plan, and it's required
 10 to be updated every five years. Within the
 11 requirements, it lays out the planning process,
 12 who needs to be a part of the planning process.
 13 And finally, we are required to have an
 14 approved plan in order to apply for federal
 15 funding. So a lot of our mitigation funds need
 16 this plan to be approved in order for us to
 17 move forward to receive those funds.
 18 As it stands today, the plan is approved
 19 by FEMA. It is approved by the Maryland
 20 Department State -- Maryland Department of
 21 Emergency Management, yes. And it is also

Page 200

1 adopted by all five of our municipalities.
 2 I'm going to do a quick overview of the
 3 plan.
 4 This, our community pillars are not new to
 5 this Council. So our plan is based around
 6 these pillars. These pillars also allow us to
 7 integrate this plan with our other plans.
 8 Those pillars being health, safety, and
 9 welfare, economic stability, education,
 10 infrastructure, and the environment.
 11 The planning process. We had a core
 12 planning team that was made up of myself,
 13 Public Works, Planning and Zoning, and the
 14 Health Department. We had a larger planning
 15 committee. From there, we did a reflection on
 16 our last plan.
 17 The bulk of this plan is data collection,
 18 historical data and present data, along with
 19 some future data.
 20 We had a very extensive public and
 21 stakeholder, public stakeholder surveys and

Page 201

1 outreach, some workshops, and then now we are
 2 in the draft form and the adoption phase of the
 3 planning process.
 4 A couple of the components are what I just
 5 explained.
 6 We included hazard identification and risk
 7 assessment. We profile all of our towns, the
 8 county, and our critical infrastructure. And
 9 then we also assess all of our vulnerabilities.
 10 The meat and purpose of this plan is the
 11 third section, the mitigation strategies.
 12 Essentially we have 30 strategies. Low cost
 13 and no cost to more costly to address our
 14 mitigation, essentially strategies, and risks
 15 to different natural hazards. And then it
 16 concludes with supporting documentation.
 17 Here I have identified our hazards. The
 18 ones highlighted in blue that you see are ones
 19 that are rated highly. These hazards were
 20 rated on a couple of different things. One,
 21 data, what has currently occurred and what is

Page 202

1 in the past and now, and then also public
 2 survey.
 3 We were thankful to get almost 500
 4 responses from county citizens.
 5 So what you're looking at here is things
 6 that affect our county frequently and also what
 7 our citizens are most concerned about.
 8 I'll highlight a couple. Our coastal
 9 hazards and flooding, which is no surprise.
 10 This year with our survey, extreme heat was a
 11 concern.
 12 We also added some new hazards and threats
 13 to this plan from our previous plan. Those
 14 being our threats, our manmade hazards,
 15 emerging infectious diseases, active assailant,
 16 cybersecurity or cyber-attacks, and complex
 17 coordinated terrorist attacks. Of those,
 18 emerging infectious diseases was rated high in
 19 our public survey.
 20 So the development of our action items to
 21 address these hazards. We conducted a status

Page 203

1 update from our previous projects, some
 2 completed, some tabled, some in the works. We
 3 collected some new ideas through workshops and
 4 surveys. We did a prioritization process of
 5 those projects. And then now we're hopefully
 6 going to move into the implementation phase of
 7 working on those projects.
 8 I'm going to go over just not all 30 of
 9 them. I'm just going to go over some themes of
 10 our action items. I listed a couple of them
 11 here. Twelve of the 30 were rated high from
 12 our planning committee. Some of these
 13 projects, like I said, some are low cost, no
 14 cost, some are very costly. Some are in
 15 conjunction with State partners, some here
 16 locally.
 17 I wanted to point out some of these aren't
 18 our traditional mitigation projects of just
 19 high dollar things of culvert mitigation and
 20 roadway updates. Some of them are things that
 21 we do on daily basis, a lot of them being

Page 204

1 outreach and education, which I think really
 2 ties in the resiliency part of how our
 3 community can individually be prepared and
 4 lessen the effects of diasters.
 5 Just a couple of the overarching themes,
 6 plan efforts, outreach, assessing inventory in
 7 our current capabilities, codes and standards,
 8 and then those mitigation activities to our
 9 critical infrastructure.
 10 This project website has been live for 18
 11 months. This entire process has been well
 12 documented and available to the public. It is
 13 going to stay live so they can see the notes
 14 from our meetings, our workshops, our surveys.
 15 You name it, it is all out there.
 16 And that is all.
 17 I want to do a big thanks to a couple of
 18 people. Jenny Smith and Eric Messick. They
 19 were with Smith Planning and Design, wonderful.
 20 And thank everyone that supported our process
 21 because it was definitely a whole community,

Page 205

1 two-year-long process.
 2 That was the slowest presentation I've
 3 ever given also.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: It was good.
 5 Mr. Pack, got anything for us?
 6 MR. PACK: Wonderful job as always.
 7 Whether you believe in global warming or
 8 not, I think all you have to do is look out
 9 your front door and you can see that things
 10 have certainly changed across the nation,
 11 across the world, quite frankly.
 12 When you look at these long periods of
 13 just intense heat and drought in some areas of
 14 the country, followed by downpours of rain and
 15 mud slides, something is certainly happening.
 16 And cause and effect is always with us.
 17 So having these types of plans in place to
 18 go to will assist us here in Talbot County and
 19 keep our people safe, because, you know, we're
 20 not immune from natural disasters. You know,
 21 floods can happen. We had an earthquake a

Page 206

1 couple of years ago that came through. So
 2 natural disasters have to be mitigated for,
 3 have to be planned for.
 4 So I certainly appreciate all the time and
 5 effort that you guys put into this.
 6 Again, you can pray that we will never
 7 have to use it, but that's just fruitful
 8 thinking. The reality is that somewhere some
 9 day, we're going to have to pull this thing out
 10 and use it.
 11 So thank you very much.
 12 MS. SCHAFFLE: Thank you.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 14 Ms. Price.
 15 MS. PRICE: That was great. Thank you for
 16 all the work.
 17 We have all these long-range plans in all
 18 the departments, and they're all very important
 19 to have these documents in place. And people
 20 go oh, gosh, why do you do all that.
 21 This is one that we know we better have in

Page 207

1 place because, right, it will happen at some
 2 point.
 3 So thank you very much.
 4 MS. SCHAFFLE: Thank you.
 5 MS. PRICE: Great job.
 6 MS. SCHAFFLE: Thank you.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Divilio.
 8 MR. DIVILIO: I appreciate the
 9 comprehensive report. And I really appreciate
 10 all the input from all the different engaging
 11 partners that helped you with this and gave
 12 information.
 13 It's always a nice time when Brian is in
 14 front of us not asking us to buy like an
 15 ambulance or something.
 16 MS. PRICE: That's coming.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: That's next.
 18 MR. PACK: A truck, an ambulance, a
 19 building.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Go ahead, Mr. Stamp.
 21 MR. STAMP: I just want to take a moment.

Page 208

1 I mean I'm very proud of Geneva and Brian, the
 2 team down there obviously.
 3 I think the point I would like to make,
 4 this was a highly inclusive process. They had
 5 a lot of input from the community. It's never
 6 been so important.
 7 Of course, I love promoting the concept of
 8 comprehensive approach to mitigation. But this
 9 plan specifically in this time that we're in is
 10 really important.
 11 The federal government has opened the
 12 doors to grant money to the tune that we
 13 haven't seen before. And the way this money is
 14 going to reach down to touch communities is
 15 through plans like this. And fortunately,
 16 Talbot County had broadened our view from just
 17 a natural hazard mitigation plan to a
 18 comprehensive plan, which opens the door to all
 19 kinds of creative solutions to reduce risk in
 20 the areas of education, environment, public
 21 safety, health, and welfare, and the others,

Page 209

1 economic stability.
 2 So it's timely, it was a good job, and
 3 certainly I'm proud of the work that they did.
 4 Thank you.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. And I would say
 6 the same thing, Geneva and Brian and your whole
 7 team.
 8 You know, you're always behind the scenes.
 9 But you know, with the professionalism and the
 10 dedication of you guys, is really off the
 11 charts. And I can't thank you enough for
 12 really protecting us, you know. Because when
 13 something happens, you know, everybody runs to
 14 you guys. So you know, you're going to be able
 15 to be there for us.
 16 So really appreciate all the hard work
 17 you're doing.
 18 MR. LeCATES: Thank you.
 19 MS. SCHAFFLE: Thank you.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. What do we have to
 21 do, Madam Secretary? Do we have...

Page 210

1 SECRETARY: Well, you have an
 2 administrative resolution to approve and that's
 3 the plan, approve the plan.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: So do I have a motion?
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Want to read it? Read it.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, I'm sorry. We got to
 7 read it first.
 8 SECRETARY: Do you want me to read the
 9 whole thing or just the caption?
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Just the caption is fine.
 11 SECRETARY: Administrative resolution
 12 adopting the 2022 Hazard Mitigation and
 13 Community Resilience Plan for Talbot County,
 14 Maryland.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds good.
 16 MR. PACK: And the plan is on the website
 17 for the public. I mean for the sake of time --
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: It is.
 19 MR. PACK: For the record, if you wish to
 20 go on, go onto talbothazardplan.org and review
 21 the plan. So we're not trying to do anything

Page 211

1 nefarious or underhanded. The public can go
 2 onto ww.talbothazardplan.org.
 3 And with that reading, Mr. Callahan, I
 4 make a motion that we accept the resolution.
 5 MS. PRICE: Second.
 6 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 7 MR. PACK: I'm sorry. Is that for
 8 introduction only?
 9 MS. PRICE: Oh, wait.
 10 MR. STAMP: No. This is action. It's an
 11 administrative resolution.
 12 MR. PACK: So it doesn't need to be
 13 introduced first?
 14 MR. STAMP: Oh, you can introduce, yeah.
 15 SECRETARY: It does need to be introduced,
 16 yeah.
 17 MR. PACK: So I'll wait for your
 18 instruction. Show of hands.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Raise of hands.
 20 SECRETARY: Yup.
 21 MR. PACK: And it is an administrative

Page 212

1 resolution, I would just say, Mr. Callahan,
 2 that we can move this forward to a vote
 3 tonight.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds great.
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, we got a
 7 motion and second to move the plan forward.
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 11 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 13 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 15 MR. PACK: Aye.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 17 MR. STAMP: Your plan is approved.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Perfect.
 19 MR. LeCATES: Thank you all for your time.
 20 MS. SCHAFFLE: Thank you.
 21 MR. STAMP: You want to stay here?

Page 213

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yup, yup. So I
 2 guess we've got Council consideration of Public
 3 Works agreement. That's next. The Preserves
 4 at Wye Mills property and the owners
 5 association. Mr. Clarke.
 6 MR. CLARKE: Yeah. I can try and help out
 7 here, Council. We have been working with the
 8 Office of Law as well as the property owners
 9 association for The Preserve at Wye Mills.
 10 This is actually an agreement to transfer
 11 the wastewater treatment system from The
 12 Preserve at Wye Mills homeowners association to
 13 Talbot County.
 14 At that point, upon your review I guess or
 15 consideration for approval of that, we will
 16 then begin the process of executing that and
 17 then working to go to closing. And then I
 18 guess within about two to three weeks, we would
 19 end up acquiring the wastewater treatment plant
 20 along with the spray irrigation fields.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,

Page 214

1 Mr. Clarke.
 2 Council.
 3 MR. DIVILIO: I would just like to thank
 4 Mr. Clarke and Mr. Thomas for working
 5 diligently with all parties involved to clean
 6 up this unfortunate situation that I am glad
 7 that we're taking over.
 8 I don't believe that neighborhood-run or
 9 HOA-run facilities like this work. We've had I
 10 believe three strikes and they're out. So I
 11 would be happy to see that banned in Talbot
 12 County.
 13 I will go ahead and make a motion to
 14 approve the Public Works advisory agreement.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 16 MR. PACK: I'll second that motion.
 17 And I will add to Mr. Divilio's statements
 18 that this Public Works agreement is in line to
 19 I think the overarching plan that not only this
 20 Council has and hopefully future Councils will
 21 share as well, that these small subdivisions,

Page 215

1 if they're built, those wastewater treatment
 2 facilities are run through the county, which
 3 has more expertise and manpower to keep them
 4 running and running up to code.
 5 We needed this agreement to be in place in
 6 order for us to get the funding from the State
 7 for any improvements.
 8 Mr. Thomas, who had to step out, has been
 9 in the negotiations. Mr. Divilio also sat in
 10 on those negotiations as well.
 11 So this is that next step, if you would,
 12 so that we can go ahead and get this agreement
 13 done, take possession of the property.
 14 Mr. Thomas is coming in now. And therefore, we
 15 can go ahead and now apply for, with
 16 Mr. Clarke's direction, apply for any State
 17 funding that could be possibly out there for
 18 any improvements to this facility.
 19 It's in dire need of repair. It's
 20 probably going to have to be a tear down and
 21 rebuild in my opinion because of how the system

Page 216

1 is so antiquated and poorly maintained. But we
 2 need to have this in place for funding
 3 purposes.
 4 And with that, I'm going to stop as I see
 5 Mr. Thomas has now come into the room.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: He's working tonight hard.
 7 MR. DIVILIO: We've got a motion and a
 8 second to approve the Public Works agreement at
 9 Wye Mills. Do you have anything, Mr. Thomas,
 10 that you would like to add?
 11 MR. THOMAS: No. I would just add I mean
 12 this is consistent. The Council adopted
 13 Resolution 326 back in April to amend the
 14 comprehensive water and sewer plan in part to
 15 acquire The Preserves' wastewater facility.
 16 That was approved by MDE and is part of the
 17 comprehensive water and sewer plan.
 18 This Public Works agreement is required
 19 under Chapter 152 of the Code when the county
 20 acquires a wastewater treatment facility. So
 21 it's just consistent with what's required under

Page 217

1 the code and the amendment as previously
 2 adopted by Council.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Thank
 4 you.
 5 Ms. Price, you good?
 6 MS. PRICE: I'm good.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 8 MR. PACK: Just one last question of
 9 Mr. Clarke.
 10 Mr. Clarke, we did not need for this
 11 agreement to be witnessed or reviewed by our
 12 Public Works Advisory Board; did we not?
 13 MR. CLARKE: No, no. We have I think
 14 presented information. And they did, I think
 15 when we did the resolution, they did review the
 16 resolution, which was to take over the
 17 facility. But we have not shared the
 18 agreement, this agreement with the Public Works
 19 Advisory Board.
 20 MR. PACK: Okay.
 21 MR. CLARKE: Because this was more, in all

Page 218	Page 220
<p>1 honesty --</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: More administrative thing.</p> <p>3 MR. CLARKE: It's more of administrative</p> <p>4 and internal.</p> <p>5 MR. PACK: That's fine.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So we got a motion</p> <p>7 and second on the floor to approve the Public</p> <p>8 Works agreement as presented. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>9 could you call the vote.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>13 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>15 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>17 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Great.</p> <p>19 MR. STAMP: Would you like to go forward</p> <p>20 with the amendment now?</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Thomas.</p>	<p>1 Board for review.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is that a motion?</p> <p>3 MR. STAMP: Did you introduce?</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: I'm sorry.</p> <p>5 MS. PRICE: Oh, do you want to go back --</p> <p>6 MR. PACK: I thought I introduced.</p> <p>7 MS. PRICE: We did.</p> <p>8 MR. THOMAS: Well, now that you actually</p> <p>9 have the --</p> <p>10 MS. PRICE: Okay. So I'll introduce that.</p> <p>11 MR. PACK: And I'll second it again and</p> <p>12 I'll introduce it.</p> <p>13 MS. PRICE: Or I guess.</p> <p>14 MR. STAMP: Introduced by Council less</p> <p>15 Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>16 (Inaudible cross talk.)</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, yeah.</p> <p>18 MR. DIVILIO: No. It's confusing.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, I'm good.</p> <p>20 (Inaudible cross talk.)</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Yup.</p>
<p>Page 219</p> <p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Mr. Thomas, go ahead</p> <p>2 and do the amendment. Thank you.</p> <p>3 MR. THOMAS: So the amendment, this would</p> <p>4 be amendment number two to Bill 1524 for the</p> <p>5 purpose of amending section 190-32.4, solar</p> <p>6 energy systems, subsection D, large scale solar</p> <p>7 energy systems, regarding the location to</p> <p>8 add -- to make the language large scale solar</p> <p>9 energy systems are prohibited in the RC zoning</p> <p>10 district, a subsection A. And adding a new</p> <p>11 subsection B that would read large scale solar</p> <p>12 energy systems proposed to be sited on a parcel</p> <p>13 of real property greater than 100 acres shall</p> <p>14 not occupy more than ten percent of the</p> <p>15 parcel's acreage.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>17 MS. PRICE: Sounds pretty simple.</p> <p>18 MR. PACK: Mr. Callahan, I would ask that</p> <p>19 like the first amendment drafted by Mr. Leshner,</p> <p>20 that this amendment also be sent down to the</p> <p>21 Planning Commission and Public Works Advisory</p>	<p>Page 221</p> <p>1 MR. THOMAS: And then make a motion to</p> <p>2 send it --</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Yeah. I make a motion that we</p> <p>4 send it down.</p> <p>5 MS. PRICE: Second.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Got a motion and second to</p> <p>7 send it to the Planning Commission.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: Thank you.</p> <p>9 MS. PRICE: Thank you, Mr. Pack.</p> <p>10 MR. THOMAS: Motion and second. You got</p> <p>11 to vote. You just need a vote on the motion.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you</p> <p>13 call the vote.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>17 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>19 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>21 MR. PACK: Aye.</p>

Page 222

1 MR. STAMP: Good evening, Council.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.
 3 MR. STAMP: Clay Stamp, county manager.
 4 MR. PACK: After tonight, are you sure?
 5 MS. PRICE: Introduce yourself for the
 6 record.
 7 MR. STAMP: So Brian LeCates, would you
 8 like to come up?
 9 Tonight will be Brian LeCates' evening
 10 under county manager report. He has three
 11 items.
 12 MR. PACK: Is a truck one of them?
 13 MS. PRICE: Can we go yes, yes, yes?
 14 MR. STAMP: Brian, I'm going to go ahead
 15 and read the form here. And then I'll hand it
 16 to you and you can add detail.
 17 The first item, the Department of
 18 Emergency Services is requesting to utilize
 19 FY23 budget funds to purchase a 2023 Horton
 20 ambulance with Ford F-550 chassis from Fesco
 21 Emergency Sales utilizing an HGAC, that's a

Page 223

1 Houston Galveston Area Council, cooperative
 2 purchasing agreement in the sum of \$298,560.
 3 There are sufficient funds in the FY23
 4 budget for this purchase.
 5 And Mr. LeCates can add any detail.
 6 MR. LeCATES: Good evening. Thank you for
 7 having me back.
 8 So I would, before we get into that, I
 9 would like to take the opportunity to introduce
 10 Matt Watkins. He is our new EMS chief. New as
 11 in eight months ago, but I've never had the
 12 opportunity to bring him to Council for a
 13 formal introduction.
 14 So Matt has been with us for a great deal
 15 of time. Climbed through the ranks and hit the
 16 ground running in January of this year and has
 17 done phenomenal work so far.
 18 So I did want to bring Matt here because
 19 he is our EMS chief now.
 20 MS. PRICE: Welcome, Matt.
 21 MR. WATKINS: Thank you.

Page 224

1 MR. STAMP: So he should ask for the
 2 ambulance.
 3 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.
 4 MR. LeCATES: So the request is just for a
 5 new ambulance. This is going to be a
 6 replacement of existing unit with 2011 with
 7 140,000 miles on it currently. So by the time
 8 we get a replacement, it's going to have well
 9 over that.
 10 MR. DIVILIO: I make a motion.
 11 MR. PACK: Second.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 13 second to go ahead and purchase a new
 14 ambulance. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 15 vote.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 19 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 21 MS. PRICE: Aye.

Page 225

1 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 2 MR. PACK: Aye.
 3 MR. STAMP: The second request Emergency
 4 Services has is to enter a contract for the
 5 development of an RFP for the 911 Center's
 6 computer aided dispatch system, to replace
 7 that.
 8 Specifically, they want Council approval
 9 for a contract with Mission Critical Partners
 10 for the development of this proposal in the sum
 11 of \$137,430.
 12 Talbot County would be using the HGAC
 13 cooperative purchasing agreement to procure
 14 services. And this company is currently
 15 assisting all nine counties on the Eastern
 16 Shore with a migration to Next Generation 911.
 17 There are sufficient funds in the 2023
 18 budget for this purchase.
 19 And again, will turn it over to Emergency
 20 Services for detail.
 21 MR. LeCATES: Thank you, sir. So this

Page 226

1 would be hiring a consultant to come in and
 2 look at our existing CAD system and then meet
 3 with stakeholders from law enforcement, EMS,
 4 fire, dispatchers, anybody that has anything to
 5 do with our CAD system, to determine what would
 6 be the best thing for our future.
 7 The current CAD system does not meet all
 8 of our needs, and we would like to look into
 9 replacing that or adding to the existing one if
 10 possible.
 11 So this is a company that specializes in
 12 911 centers and has a great deal of technical
 13 knowledge. The State of Maryland has
 14 contracted with Mission Critical Partners to do
 15 several studies in 911 centers across the State
 16 of Maryland.
 17 As the county manager advised, that they
 18 have been contracted with the entire Eastern
 19 Shore, all nine counties, to make the Next
 20 Generation 911 migration over to that system.
 21 So they have a great deal of knowledge about

Page 227

1 our 911 Center, but about all Maryland 911
 2 centers already. So that's one of the reasons
 3 that we want to go with this company. The
 4 learning curve would be rather easy for them to
 5 come in, know exactly what we need and what's
 6 going to service our citizens the best.
 7 MR. DIVILIO: Make a motion to approve.
 8 MS. PRICE: Second.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 10 second to go ahead and the 911 division
 11 computer aided stuff, to get that going. Madam
 12 Secretary, could you call the vote.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 16 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 18 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 20 MR. PACK: Aye.
 21 MR. STAMP: And their final request is to

Page 228

1 enter a contract for service for increased
 2 reimbursement for transport of Medicaid
 3 patients.
 4 They're requesting Council approval to
 5 procure services from Public Consulting Group
 6 to assist Emergency Services with data
 7 collection and submission to the State of
 8 Maryland, Maryland's emergency service
 9 transporter supplemental payment program.
 10 There's got to be an acronym for that.
 11 This program will allow Talbot County to
 12 submit a request for supplemental funding for
 13 all transported patients insured by Medicaid.
 14 PCG, that company, will bill Talbot County
 15 12 percent and receive reimbursements.
 16 If approved, Talbot County will be joining
 17 with other counties utilizing existing contract
 18 for Palm Beach County, Florida.
 19 Several Maryland counties are utilizing
 20 this PCG for this service.
 21 And Brian can give you more information.

Page 229

1 MR. LeCATES: So this is a program that
 2 was passed into legislation last year that
 3 allows Emergency Services, or EMS services, to
 4 bill Medicaid for -- it's retrospectively
 5 billing for calls that you've had in the last
 6 calendar year.
 7 Currently, Medicaid pays us \$100 per
 8 transport. That hasn't been raised in I don't
 9 think in my entire time in EMS. So we get paid
 10 \$100 whether we do an advanced level life
 11 support call, basic life support call. We get
 12 paid \$100.
 13 So \$100 doesn't necessarily pay all the
 14 bills when we come here and ask for a \$300,000
 15 ambulance. So that's not anything unique to
 16 Talbot County.
 17 So across the board, they have introduced
 18 legislation and passed last year that allows us
 19 to go back. And as long as we can demonstrate
 20 that we're not making a profit from our
 21 billings, which we are not, we can go back and

Page 230

1 bill Medicaid. So it's not the patient. So
 2 it's going to be billing the government for the
 3 extra, the gap in there.
 4 So we're getting paid \$100. We're on
 5 average about 700 and something dollars per
 6 transport. So there's a \$600 gap in there. We
 7 can go back and bill the patients, or not the
 8 patients, I'm sorry, bill the State for those
 9 patients on Medicaid and say you owe us more
 10 money kind of thing.
 11 And then they will give us a portion of
 12 it. They won't give us the entire amount, but
 13 they will give us a portion.
 14 MS. PRICE: Brian, but we did get a raise
 15 this year to --
 16 MR. LeCATES: It's not in effect yet. But
 17 yes, there is a raise coming.
 18 MS. PRICE: So I would assume then, so
 19 once you get up to the \$150, and right now it's
 20 just for transport, you should have the same
 21 type program once the bill takes effect, which

Page 231

1 gets it up to \$150.
 2 We don't have to transport. We can treat
 3 on site there.
 4 MR. LeCATES: Yes, that is correct.
 5 MS. PRICE: I haven't had a chance to
 6 really see you since that all took place.
 7 MR. LeCATES: Yes.
 8 MS. PRICE: So I hope you're very happy
 9 with that one.
 10 And that's that bill that also, if you
 11 just transport to an urgent care facility.
 12 MR. LeCATES: Yes.
 13 MS. PRICE: Currently it was \$100 and only
 14 to an ER.
 15 MR. LeCATES: Yes.
 16 MS. PRICE: So this hopefully is going to
 17 beef up and provide additional revenues to...
 18 MR. LeCATES: It does.
 19 MS. PRICE: To EMS to help pay these
 20 bills.
 21 MR. LeCATES: Yes. That bill was huge for

Page 232

1 us because it does allow us to do transports to
 2 alternate care facilities and get paid for
 3 them.
 4 MS. PRICE: Right.
 5 MR. LeCATES: So we were not able to do
 6 that before. So that's huge.
 7 And then the increase in there for \$50.
 8 Still leaves that deficit, but it still starts
 9 to close that gap.
 10 MS. PRICE: Right. But now we should also
 11 be able to, so when you're not transporting.
 12 So is this just a one-year thing, it's 12
 13 percent, or is that you think it's going to be
 14 every year?
 15 MR. LeCATES: The program we believe will
 16 continue. So it was introduced last year. And
 17 not all Maryland counties participated in it.
 18 We did not.
 19 This year it seems like a lot more
 20 counties are participating in that program. I
 21 think it's going to continue into the future,

Page 233

1 especially when we're talking about, you know,
 2 the billing has been raised to \$150 or the
 3 receivable to \$150.
 4 There's still a big gap in there. So I
 5 think the program is going to continue into the
 6 foreseeable future.
 7 MS. PRICE: So is it just going to be the
 8 gap on the transports -- it's not just going to
 9 be transports to ER. Now when you transport
 10 anywhere, you should be able to collect that
 11 gap.
 12 MR. LeCATES: Correct.
 13 MS. PRICE: Will this program help if
 14 people are refusing transport or you're just
 15 treating on site in their home?
 16 MR. LeCATES: Currently, it does not. But
 17 it will in the future, yes.
 18 MS. PRICE: That's great. That's great.
 19 So that's an extra bonus that we didn't even
 20 talk about at MACo when we introduced this
 21 bill.

Page 234

1 MR. LeCATES: Yes.

2 MS. PRICE: So that's wonderful. Makes my

3 heart sing.

4 MR. DIVILIO: Any chance to recoup money.

5 MR. LeCATES: Absolutely.

6 MR. DIVILIO: I make a motion that we

7 enter into an agreement with PCG to help

8 collect data from the SMESTSPP.

9 MS. PRICE: Second.

10 MR. STAMP: You made the acronym.

11 MR. DIVILIO: Exactly.

12 MS. PRICE: There you go. Second that.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. We got a motion

14 and a second to what Frank said with the

15 contract. Madam Secretary, could you call the

16 vote, please.

17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

19 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.

20 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.

21 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.

Page 235

1 MS. PRICE: Aye.

2 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.

3 MR. PACK: Aye.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

5 MR. STAMP: Only thing in closing I would

6 mention, you took the vote on it, but your

7 estimated revenue for this year is going to be

8 what?

9 MR. LeCATES: Approximately \$200,000.

10 MR. STAMP: And so we're buying a new

11 ambulance this year that you just approved.

12 Now, you did approve ARPA funds to do

13 that, but this will bring in enough funds to

14 help with a capital purchase in the future.

15 MS. PRICE: Undoubtedly, there will be an

16 ambulance next year, too.

17 MR. STAMP: So anyway, just thought I

18 would share that with you.

19 Mr. Council President, this concludes your

20 county manager report. Thank you.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job.

Page 236

1 MR. LeCATES: Thank you all for your time

2 and consideration.

3 MS. PRICE: Thank you, Brian. Welcome,

4 Matt.

5 MR. WATKINS: Thank you very much.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Welcome, Matt.

7 MR. DIVILIO: Public comment, we have one

8 name signed up.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

10 MR. DIVILIO: For Dave Stepp.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Come on up here, Dave

12 Stepp. You got goodies for us, don't you.

13 MR. STEPP: I do. I brought props today.

14 MS. PRICE: Did you bring us candy?

15 MR. STEPP: It is not, Ms. Price.

16 MS. PRICE: We need some sugar.

17 MR. STEPP: Just a second to set up here,

18 please.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

20 MR. STEPP: Thank you so much. All right.

21 Council, Dave Stepp, Easton.

Page 237

1 I'd like to thank you for your time today

2 and service to our county, as usual.

3 May I start off by proposing a fictitious

4 offer to the Council. In front of me I have

5 four drinks, one for each Council member. I

6 approved these four drinks for human

7 consumption for anyone over the age of six

8 months. All of you certainly qualify for this

9 offer.

10 I'm not going to tell you everything

11 that's in them, but you can trust me, they're

12 safe.

13 In exchange for consuming one of these

14 eight-ounce drinks, you'll be rewarded with a

15 \$50 gift card to a local merchant. Pretty good

16 deal, right.

17 Now for what I hope to be a rhetorical

18 question to the Council. Would any one of you

19 like to take me up on my offer? Mr. Divilio,

20 Mr. Callahan, Ms. Price, Mr. Pack? No. Okay.

21 Last call. Just eight ounces, \$50 gift card.

Page 238

1 Okay.

2 Wonder where this was going, aren't you?

3 All right.

4 Well, I thank you for going through this

5 fictitious scenario here today, and I can say

6 I'm not surprised at any of your decisions. In

7 fact, I'm pleased at your choice of discretion.

8 I, myself, would certainly be suspect of this

9 offer and would not take the bait, or should I

10 say bribe.

11 There's just one problem, though. This

12 fictitious scenario actually played out in

13 reality right here in Talbot County last year.

14 You may or may not know that Talbot County

15 Public Schools has partnered with local

16 philanthropists, Talbot County Economic

17 Development, and the Mid-Shore Community

18 Foundation to offer \$50 gift cards to students

19 between the ages of 12 and 18 who got fully

20 vaccinated against COVID-19.

21 This offer was announced October 1st of

Page 239

1 2021, and implementation began only three days

2 afterwards at schools across the county and

3 throughout October 2021.

4 Talbot County youth between the ages of

5 birth and age 20 have seen zero deaths due to

6 COVID-19, a stat that our very own Talbot

7 County health officer previously sat right here

8 and shared with you.

9 The most recent COVID-19 vaccine bears

10 data for youth in similar age range to those

11 who were eligible to receive gift cards now

12 reports 125 deaths and over 50,000 COVID-19

13 vaccine injuries reported, many of which

14 injuries are life threatening and permanently

15 disabling our children, and are even disclosed

16 in the potential vaccine fact sheets provided.

17 We've seen, continue to see, and continue

18 to battle life threatening COVID-19 vacs

19 injuries in this same age group right here in

20 Talbot County.

21 I, as well as many Talbot County

Page 240

1 residents, wonder why this information is not

2 being disclosed by our Health Department.

3 At this point, there's enough data, even

4 from sources like Harvard Medical and Johns

5 Hopkins that are exposing the realities of the

6 risks severely outweighing the perceived

7 benefit.

8 \$50 may not be a lot to any of you, but to

9 most children and some families it is.

10 October 1, 2022, is only a few weeks away.

11 If this happens again, please think about our

12 time today and immediately do the right thing.

13 Let families and their respective medical

14 professionals make their own decisions when it

15 comes to their health without any government

16 pressure, influence, or bribery.

17 I would ask each of you to come together

18 and upon such an announcement, work with Talbot

19 County Public Schools and our Board of

20 Education to immediately stop this type of

21 bribery and willful wrongdoing. Our country's

Page 241

1 children are not science experiments.

2 Thank you for your time and most

3 importantly swift action when called upon.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Dave.

6 Appreciate it. Okay.

7 Anybody else?

8 MS. PRICE: So what's really in there? Is

9 there any wine in there? It's been a long

10 night.

11 MR. STEPP: Water and food coloring. Just

12 props to get the point across. Thank you.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

14 MS. PRICE: Thank you.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Anybody else would like to

16 come? Lynn? All right. Okay.

17 We're getting things wrapped up here with

18 Council comments. Mr. Divilio.

19 MR. DIVILIO: I'd just like to say briefly

20 that I attended two different nonprofit charity

21 fundraisers over the weekend. And it was a lot

Page 242

1 of fun and exciting to get out and start
 2 attending those events again.
 3 COVID stopped a lot of that. Prevented --
 4 gave a lot of fear to individuals who didn't
 5 feel comfortable going out.
 6 And both were very positive environments
 7 where politics were not discussed.
 8 One was for dogs. Everybody brought their
 9 animals. Everybody was talking about their
 10 favorite dog or cat or how they rescued or
 11 participated positivity to make a difference.
 12 The other one was for children. And
 13 again, everybody was talking about their
 14 children, how they made it through day care and
 15 the impact that that made, the teachers.
 16 And again, it was a reminder that during
 17 COVID, a lot of people shut down, just focused
 18 on what the media was blasting, which was very
 19 polarizing.
 20 And I hope that we can continue back to
 21 opening back up to a more normal society where

Page 243

1 politics are not the first thing that's
 2 immediately discussed. It doesn't create an
 3 immediate divide in the conversation, that we
 4 all do realize that we are a wonderful
 5 community to live in, regardless of what -- who
 6 you voted for and where your stance is on
 7 certain issues. We all amazingly do get along
 8 well. And I just wanted to reiterate that I do
 9 see us as one community.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Well said.
 11 Ms. Price.
 12 MS. PRICE: Well, considering the hour, I
 13 will think that we've had enough discussion.
 14 It was good discussion tonight. And those
 15 public hearings were long.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: It was.
 17 MS. PRICE: But we had a lot of good
 18 information. And we don't always do a back and
 19 forth. And I think sometimes that's
 20 appropriate.
 21 But with that, good night, everybody.

Page 244

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup.
 2 Mr. Pack over there.
 3 MR. PACK: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Callahan.
 4 Just wanted to note a few things that are
 5 on our calendar coming up, as they will take
 6 place before this Council comes back together.
 7 On September the 24th. We had young Amber
 8 Redman in here earlier today as a student board
 9 member of the Frederick Douglass Honor Society,
 10 association that I also sit on. On the 24th of
 11 September will be the Frederick Douglass Day
 12 event that takes place here in Talbot County.
 13 There will be a parade that's starting at
 14 Easton Elementary School, coming through town,
 15 and ending here at the courthouse green.
 16 There will be events throughout the day,
 17 both on the courthouse lawn and right next door
 18 at the Talbot County Library running throughout
 19 the day. So just wanted to put that on your
 20 calendar in case you didn't have anything
 21 planned for the upcoming week taking place, to

Page 245

1 come out and be a part of that.
 2 The 15th of this month, we're going to
 3 have our annual county cookout. I just want to
 4 give a big shout out to Karen Roberts and
 5 Ms. Moran and the whole staff for putting that
 6 together. That's always a great event to go to
 7 see staff and county employees to get together
 8 and eat some hot dogs and hamburgers and play
 9 some corn hole. So that's going to be fun,
 10 too.
 11 And unfortunately, we didn't get an
 12 opportunity to come together in the day of
 13 remembrance for 9/11. We received some
 14 e-mails. I received a few phone calls from
 15 citizens asking what happened.
 16 None of us will ever forget, will ever
 17 forget the sacrifice. And as Mr. Divilio so
 18 eloquently mentioned in his prayer today, the
 19 sacrifices that were made of those firemen and
 20 emergency responders.
 21 We just had our EMS staff in here just

Page 246

1 moments ago. We certainly support them. We
 2 certainly are with them.
 3 Wish we could have had a day of
 4 remembrance today as we have done for several
 5 years before. And whoever is sitting in this
 6 seat next year, hopefully they will continue
 7 that tradition.
 8 Doesn't have to be anything long-winded.
 9 You get out there for an hour and a half and
 10 just make sure that we are remembering the
 11 sacrifices made.
 12 So again, just want to say to the public
 13 we did not forget. Timing, as it was, just did
 14 not allow the planning to take place as it
 15 normally does. We have a dedicated staff, but
 16 they had a number of other things to do as
 17 well. So I just wanted to make that point as
 18 well. Thank you.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 20 And I just want to highlight what
 21 Mr. Divilio was saying about being at events

Page 247

1 this weekend. I was at the fire department
 2 golf tournament, which had 140 people to it,
 3 golfers. And it just shows you the community
 4 output on what this community is all about.
 5 We have a great place around here. The
 6 golf course looks spectacular. Rich does a
 7 good job, his staff. The fire department ran a
 8 good, good event. We had a great time in the
 9 new venue that we did out there. It really
 10 looked great.
 11 So I'm really proud, I'm really proud to
 12 be there. To be a part of it for a good cause.
 13 So and leaning on what Ms. Price said
 14 tonight about the public hearing. Tonight was
 15 a little bit different and unusual. But that's
 16 what a public hearing is all about, trying to
 17 find a balance, you know, with some of these
 18 tough subjects that the Council has to deal
 19 with.
 20 So I appreciate you guys being here
 21 tonight and sticking here with us. And all the

Page 248

1 input and the education that we all get on
 2 public hearings because we all learn stuff.
 3 So being that's said, Mr. Divilio, could
 4 you lead us through the end here.
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Sure. So the County
 6 Council's next meeting will be held on Tuesday,
 7 September 27th, beginning at six p.m.,
 8 hopefully ending on the same day before
 9 midnight.
 10 The Council will be convening in open
 11 session at 4:30 p.m. and adjourning into closed
 12 session to discuss real estate, legal, and
 13 personnel matters, as listed on the statement
 14 for closing that meeting.
 15 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn
 16 this meeting and reconvene as noted?
 17 MS. PRICE: So moved.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Got a motion and second.
 19 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, call the
 21 vote.

Page 249

1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 6 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 8 MR. PACK: Aye.
 9 (Meeting concluded at: 9:54 p.m.)
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 21

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

5
 I further certify that the examination was
 6 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed
 from my stenographic notes to the within printed
 7 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription
 in a true and accurate manner.

8
 I further certify that the stipulations
 9 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my
 presence.

10
 I further certify that I am not of counsel
 11 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,
 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way
 12 interested in the outcome of this action.

13 AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 26th
 day of September, 2022, at Easton, MD.

14
 15 

16 _____
 Diane Houlihan
 Notary Public

17
 18
 19
 20 My commission expires September 16, 2025
 21

&	13th 3:16 4:7	18 96:8 125:2	2019 63:17
& 64:8 106:7	26:8 159:12	144:16 204:10	198:13
1	162:21	238:19	2021 239:1,3
1 58:5,5,19,20	14 195:9 196:1,4	18th 18:13	2022 1:7 24:5
82:6 240:10	196:7	19 238:20 239:6	25:17 26:9
1,000 37:15	140 247:2	239:9,12,18	51:10,17 63:21
1,500 37:15	140,000 224:7	190 92:14	210:12 240:10
96:13	15 37:19 63:16	105:16 168:17	250:13
1,600 39:3	65:7 125:9,9	169:15	2023 60:10
10 51:11 182:18	128:5 144:16	190-32.4 219:5	222:19 225:17
100 86:1 96:20	145:8 155:17	1910 96:2	2024 60:10
110:17 134:5,12	181:6 182:7,20	194 96:15	2025 250:20
141:5 142:1,13	150 230:19	1963 176:19	203 51:11
145:11,11 153:9	231:1 233:2,3	1990s 73:9	20s 32:17
154:5 156:19	152 216:19	1993 74:7,17	22,000 31:18
170:13 171:11	1522 51:8	75:3	23 40:2 49:3
175:4 187:1,3	1523 92:12,13	1994 176:21	234 188:9
187:13,14	105:8	19th 19:5	23rd 4:2 178:12
188:15 191:7	1524 105:14,15	1st 238:21	24,900,000 51:7
193:8 219:13	110:14 115:21	2	24/7 177:18
229:7,10,12,13	116:4 120:3,12	2 58:4,4	240 112:2 133:3
230:4 231:13	121:11 123:4	2.5 96:12	135:15,17,21
110 97:12	124:7 129:20	20 113:12	136:15 150:21
114 173:4	130:16 132:7	155:17 170:6,7	153:2 155:1,7
11th 2:20 4:1	138:2 167:4	170:10,17 174:2	155:10 182:13
60:1 61:14	178:17 181:9	174:6,11 181:21	189:7
12 36:10 94:4	183:19 184:8,13	239:5	245 112:6
228:15 232:12	186:17,18	200 145:14	24th 8:5 9:13
238:19	188:11 219:4	154:6 182:3,6	18:14 75:18
125 239:12	1525 168:13,16	183:2	244:7,10
125,000 132:12	169:9 172:17,19	200,000 235:9	25th 180:10
135:19	178:4	2001 85:19	26 51:10
12th 129:11,12	15th 245:2	2005 99:15	260 112:6
130:1 160:12,16	16 250:20	2007 63:15	26th 164:11,15
160:17	162 45:2	2011 224:6	250:13
13 1:7 74:17	175 66:15 72:13	2013 51:12	27 195:7
1362 250:15	73:7 75:21	2014 75:15	273 39:5
137,430 225:11	79:14 80:5,9,15	2016 153:14	27th 178:13
139 44:11	82:2 85:6	2018 173:15	189:20 248:7

298,560 223:2	401 119:16	700 230:5	absolutely 56:14
29th 18:4 54:14	40s 32:18	750 40:6	234:5
2ciii 80:9	41 41:8	77 58:4	abstract 81:6
2nd 36:1	42nd 195:6	8	84:11
3	4480 58:2	80,000 155:6	abuse 18:6
3,000 170:12,21	46,000 39:2	85 115:18	abut 68:6
171:13 172:2	4:30 248:11	88 44:10	academic 39:2
174:5,11 175:11	5	8th 44:17	accept 64:12
181:21	5 74:7	9	167:14 211:4
30 73:3 125:21	50 36:16 113:12	9.99 153:11	accepted 3:20
145:9 201:12	150:6 183:1	182:4	4:5,11 107:15
203:8,11	232:7 237:15,21	9.999 153:6	107:16
30,000 34:18	238:18 240:8	157:9	access 10:20
300,000 229:14	50,000 239:12	9/11 245:13	128:10
309 150:6	500 37:16	9/6 118:11,11	accessible 132:5
30th 4:6	134:14 174:20	90 30:17	accidents 78:4
326 216:13	183:2 202:3	90s 173:13	accommodate
329 67:12	53 58:4	91 40:6	74:11 75:5
33 67:12 173:12	550 222:20	911 225:5,16	accomplish
333 61:19,20	571 31:20	226:12,15,20	165:18
63:5 64:11	58,000 136:13	227:1,1,10	accomplishes
334 66:13,14	6	94 96:11	140:5
72:4 73:6 78:21	6 44:19 199:6	95 97:17	accomplishment
80:4 81:21 82:9	60 96:8 107:11	9:54 249:9	13:5
84:12 85:2	60,000 31:17	a	accounted 40:6
91:16 92:10	60/40 107:8	ability 142:8	accurate 89:1
181:3 183:17	600 37:3 230:6	145:16 152:19	250:7
184:5 188:12	614 52:21	199:2	acquire 216:15
335 59:21 185:3	623 51:14	able 5:11 8:16	acquires 216:20
185:11,11,12,13	65 25:13	25:14 47:12	acquiring 71:1
185:16,18	65,000 136:1,12	103:10 113:14	213:19
336 61:13	6:00 1:7	117:3 121:4,14	acquisition
185:17,18	6:30 60:2 61:14	122:19 127:1	51:20
35 117:11	6th 4:7	147:12 161:6	acre 142:13
39 96:10	7	162:18 165:14	153:6 182:3
4	7,000 136:14	162:18 165:14	183:1,2,2 187:2
4.718 60:11	70 126:2 155:6	182:18 186:16	acreage 109:9
40 32:20	167:6	187:8 209:14	113:1,1 114:19
400 133:11		232:5,11 233:10	149:3 151:6
134:14 135:9			155:16 196:1

219:15 acres 96:15,17 96:20 97:17 113:4,12 114:12 124:21 125:2,9 128:2,5 132:11 132:12 135:20 136:1,12,14 137:3 140:21 141:5,10 142:1 144:15 145:14 153:3,9,9,11 154:5,6 155:6,9 155:17 157:9,14 182:4,6,8 183:1 183:2 187:1,13 187:14 188:15 191:7 193:8 219:13 acronym 228:10 234:10 act 24:11 44:8 53:13 87:1 acting 106:7 162:2 185:1 action 2:16 61:1 202:20 203:10 211:10 241:3 250:12 actions 24:18 active 18:20 20:8 39:10 41:4 43:10 202:15 actively 125:19 125:20 147:21 activities 20:14 22:3 24:15 25:2 27:11 136:10 204:8	activity 136:10 acts 51:13 actual 164:8 190:6 add 60:10 92:16 93:13,21 140:16 171:4 190:2 192:16 214:17 216:10,11 219:8 222:16 223:5 added 36:5 108:4 202:12 adding 60:8 219:10 226:9 addition 13:5 18:13 19:7 68:8 157:18 171:11 additional 36:6 107:19 108:3,10 114:5 123:16 159:3 165:7 172:8 175:2,5 190:7 231:17 additions 4:2,9 address 47:3 98:8 117:7 171:16 198:20 198:21 201:13 202:21 adds 93:11 192:10,15,15 193:6,7 adequate 152:9 152:14 adjacent 155:4 adjourn 248:15 adjourning 248:11 administrations 40:7	administrative 50:21 53:14 54:4,12 55:18 56:17 210:2,11 211:11,21 218:2 218:3 admit 118:16 adopt 62:6 83:21 111:15 114:1,21 121:18 157:10 158:21 174:10 adopted 111:2 115:8 129:9,11 159:5 160:11,16 163:18,19 164:11 179:15 200:1 216:12 217:2 adopting 160:21 210:12 adoption 98:19 201:2 adults 17:13 advance 84:11 advanced 229:10 adverse 175:19 advertise 10:14 advertisement 10:17 advice 33:16 64:10 advised 87:19 226:17 advises 85:12 advisory 85:12 86:7 87:8 88:7 88:18 90:21 162:12 181:5 183:21 194:21	214:14 217:12 217:19 219:21 affect 98:13 202:6 affirming 24:16 africa 29:16 african 46:19,21 africans 46:21 afternoon 22:15 ag 67:21 112:12 118:7 134:6 194:21 age 25:13 237:7 239:5,10,19 aged 55:8 agencies 17:19 agenda 2:6 3:15 3:16,18,19 28:6 50:20 190:2,7 194:7 ages 25:8 238:19 239:4 aging 17:8,11 18:11 19:3 22:11 ago 22:20 35:17 40:12 41:8 87:12 96:8 206:1 223:11 246:1 agreed 74:9 139:4 agreement 150:9 213:3,10 214:14 214:18 215:5,12 216:8,18 217:11 217:18,18 218:8 223:2 225:13 234:7
---	--	---	---

<p>agricultural 108:2 109:1 117:11 118:21 126:12 132:11 132:20 133:12 135:20 136:2 137:10,13,15 138:21 189:4 194:11</p> <p>agriculture 118:5,12 137:6</p> <p>ahead 9:4,5 14:6 51:2 57:18 59:4 59:12 61:19 62:3 66:8 68:12 69:2 87:6 92:10 92:11,21 102:15 105:8,12,13 106:15 110:9 138:3,6 144:4 150:12 160:3 172:16,17 178:5 207:20 214:13 215:12,15 219:1 222:14 224:13 227:10</p> <p>aided 225:6 227:11</p> <p>air 139:15</p> <p>alan 84:21 130:12 143:10 149:6 166:10 168:3 187:9</p> <p>alert 33:6</p> <p>alerts 29:1</p> <p>allay 35:13 103:4</p> <p>allegiance 3:11</p> <p>alliance 79:4</p>	<p>allow 68:11 89:16,18 93:16 94:17 101:10 102:3 106:20 107:4 108:1 109:16,21 118:2 119:8 122:10 126:12 128:12 129:19 150:9 151:2,8 167:15 169:20 170:9,15 170:18 174:11 174:12,20 175:9 188:18 200:6 228:11 232:1 246:14</p> <p>allowable 104:14 136:16</p> <p>allowed 38:2 98:6 100:1 171:1 195:8</p> <p>allowing 11:3 74:19 77:10 107:19 109:19 145:10 195:9</p> <p>allows 17:13 229:3,18</p> <p>alluded 162:3</p> <p>alspach 79:2,3 81:17,20 84:18</p> <p>alternate 232:2</p> <p>alternative 73:17,20 86:6 86:17 88:2 131:11</p> <p>alternatively 122:5</p> <p>alternatives 85:9</p>	<p>altogether 10:20</p> <p>amazingly 243:7</p> <p>amber 244:7</p> <p>ambitious 131:2</p> <p>ambulance 207:15,18 222:20 224:2,5 224:14 229:15 235:11,16</p> <p>amend 57:20 60:6,21 61:3 66:15 92:14 105:16 168:17 169:14 190:1 216:13</p> <p>amended 51:13 61:21 64:12 171:8</p> <p>amending 79:8 91:4 219:5</p> <p>amendment 76:6,12 79:10 81:5 82:4 95:19 98:14,20 101:18 102:3,19 104:16 106:1,2,17 108:10 110:20 111:8,12,16 112:1,15 115:5 116:4,5,8,11,21 117:7 120:14 121:11,18 122:15 130:15 131:16 132:7 133:4,19 134:12 136:4,20 137:1 137:11 138:12 138:13 139:7 141:13,18 147:10,11</p>	<p>148:11,15 151:11 156:10 156:11 157:3,10 167:1 169:20 171:16,18 173:8 179:2,2 181:5,9 181:15 182:15 182:16 183:18 183:19 184:15 184:16,17,20 186:8,18 188:1 188:5,9,11,13 189:2,3,19 191:2,13,16,19 192:1,2,3,10,16 193:3,19 217:1 218:20 219:2,3 219:4,19,20</p> <p>amendments 3:17 73:7 179:15,20</p> <p>amenities 98:2 98:11 104:6</p> <p>america 6:7</p> <p>americans 24:7 46:19</p> <p>amount 51:7 60:11 107:5,10 107:11 108:17 151:2 230:12</p> <p>amounts 84:10</p> <p>analysis 131:15</p> <p>ancestors 142:2</p> <p>andy 140:13 143:19</p> <p>angela 53:6 57:11</p> <p>animal 44:19</p> <p>animals 45:1,3,8 242:9</p>
--	---	---	---

<p>ann 16:7 annapolis 85:18 86:5 87:17 anne 194:13 annotated 51:12 announce 61:10 announced 238:21 announcement 240:18 annual 96:12 107:7 195:5 245:3 annually 109:12 answer 86:21 98:21 99:4 103:11 147:12 149:5 151:15 antiquated 216:1 anxiety 50:5 anybody 11:5 22:4 49:1 63:3,4 76:20 78:18,20 91:16,18,20 92:5 95:12 99:10 105:7,9 110:14 115:12 120:2 138:1 159:17 168:1 172:18,20 176:11 178:3,7 178:19 226:4 241:7,15 anytime 131:21 anyway 157:16 177:18 235:17 apart 192:4 apologies 105:21</p>	<p>apologize 28:7 56:4 127:21 143:9 147:4 185:15 appeal 176:7,10 176:15,16 appeals 62:1,6 63:9,14 64:13 97:15 98:1 102:5 103:3 104:3 121:3 162:7 174:15 177:3 appeared 250:3 appears 82:6 applaud 140:14 applicable 95:2 120:18 applicant 65:11 171:15 applicants 175:17 application 58:13,21 60:15 64:20 95:19 120:17 applications 64:5 108:15,19 195:2,7,13 applied 51:18 114:10 115:3 apply 44:4,6 60:19 79:17 139:19,19 199:14 215:15 215:16 appointment 37:10,11 appreciate 2:5 3:9,14 12:13</p>	<p>14:1 15:4,6 17:6 23:4,17 28:9 46:5 50:1 66:5 68:21 78:18 99:9 120:1 124:9 127:10 145:12 146:11 159:19 164:20 167:19 168:7 177:9,12 193:15 206:4 207:8,9 209:16 241:6 247:20 appreciative 146:13 approach 208:8 appropriate 104:1,1 112:5 140:4 157:7 159:3 166:15 167:1 174:16 182:10 183:15 187:6,16 196:3 243:20 approval 62:7 62:17 82:3 94:6 97:14 102:4 104:4 107:14 121:3,20,21 122:3 162:4,5,7 162:15,20 163:15 170:20 171:2 174:16 213:15 225:8 228:4 approvals 94:6 122:20 approve 26:13 54:12 61:21 64:13 89:19</p>	<p>101:3 175:8 176:14 210:2,3 214:14 216:8 218:7 227:7 235:12 approved 35:21 62:15 72:16 76:8 77:14 89:9 98:15 117:19 161:1,4 196:8 199:14,16,18,19 212:17 216:16 228:16 235:11 237:6 approving 97:18 approximately 17:4 155:15 235:9 april 122:1 129:10,11,12 160:6,12,16,17 164:11 216:13 arbitrary 136:19 139:14 area 8:19 22:13 32:1 66:18 67:19 69:19 84:6 85:17 88:13 89:10 96:6,21 97:3 98:6 100:3,5,9 101:2,11 103:12 103:21 104:11 109:9 112:14 114:4 122:10 125:14 152:9,14 158:9,17,17 166:13,20 170:8 170:11,18 223:1</p>
---	---	---	---

<p>areas 6:6,17 39:19 74:12 104:18 112:16 132:9 152:2 205:13 208:20</p> <p>argument 182:11</p> <p>arpa 235:12</p> <p>array 24:15 25:1</p> <p>arrive 131:9</p> <p>art 8:1 11:20</p> <p>article 51:11 118:10</p> <p>articles 128:17</p> <p>articulate 188:1</p> <p>arts 19:8 20:16</p> <p>ashamedly 118:18</p> <p>aside 28:17</p> <p>asked 8:10 16:7 74:5 86:7 88:5 118:18 144:8,15 149:7</p> <p>asking 173:9 177:6 207:14 245:15</p> <p>aspect 14:17</p> <p>assailant 202:15</p> <p>assaulted 49:10</p> <p>assess 201:9</p> <p>assessing 204:6</p> <p>assessment 201:7</p> <p>assigned 114:12 133:17</p> <p>assist 205:18 228:6</p> <p>assistance 44:2</p> <p>assisted 44:10 250:7</p>	<p>assisting 225:15</p> <p>assists 44:6</p> <p>associated 11:17 54:9 68:1</p> <p>association 213:5,9,12 244:10</p> <p>assorted 73:19</p> <p>assume 230:18</p> <p>assuming 101:2</p> <p>attacks 202:16 202:17</p> <p>attainable 10:11</p> <p>attendance 39:13</p> <p>attended 241:20</p> <p>attending 242:2</p> <p>attention 28:12 28:17 38:10 45:7 49:9 111:18 132:13 133:18 151:7</p> <p>attorney 75:12</p> <p>attorneys 64:10</p> <p>attracted 21:20</p> <p>attractive 22:3</p> <p>attribute 136:5</p> <p>attributes 134:15 135:1</p> <p>audio 250:3</p> <p>august 4:1,6 75:18 129:15</p> <p>authority 51:8 62:6 82:12 157:12</p> <p>authorizing 51:5 52:10</p> <p>autumn 4:19 9:5 16:14</p>	<p>available 92:7 137:4 140:9 142:9 149:10 155:2 158:8,15 204:12</p> <p>average 230:5</p> <p>avoid 33:13 41:1</p> <p>avon 9:8</p> <p>aware 33:2 48:4</p> <p>awareness 18:15</p> <p>awesome 13:18 16:15 22:13</p> <p>aye 26:16,18,20 27:1,3 57:2,4,6 57:8 196:10,12 196:14,16 212:9 212:11,13,15 218:11,13,15,17 221:15,17,19,21 224:17,19,21 225:2 227:14,16 227:18,20 234:18,20 235:1 235:3 249:2,4,6 249:8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">b</p> <p>b 192:11,16,17 193:7,7 219:11</p> <p>bachelors 58:3 58:14</p> <p>back 7:18,21 9:18 11:11,18 12:3,10 13:8 49:13 69:4 77:21 89:16 91:1 101:21 122:16 135:11 142:3 144:9 147:20 150:13 151:10 160:6</p>	<p>173:7,8 174:18 177:20 179:1,12 182:8 184:2 193:12 194:4 199:3 216:13 220:5 223:7 229:19,21 230:7 242:20,21 243:18 244:6</p> <p>background 50:8 72:13 95:20</p> <p>bad 47:15 119:9</p> <p>bag 7:5</p> <p>bailey's 96:7</p> <p>bait 238:9</p> <p>balance 130:18 131:13,13 137:12 149:9 167:12 168:4 247:17</p> <p>balanced 111:6</p> <p>ball 103:6,7,16</p> <p>ballpark 69:6</p> <p>baltimore 250:2</p> <p>banned 214:11</p> <p>bar 75:1</p> <p>baron 144:15</p> <p>baron's 149:18</p> <p>barons 115:16 144:8</p> <p>barriers 79:20</p> <p>baseball 14:14</p> <p>based 89:6 108:17 109:8 112:21 114:8,12 122:11 155:3,9 155:15 162:16 162:21 189:6 192:6 200:5</p>
---	--	---	---

basic 111:21 229:11	143:3 182:10 190:4,6 205:7 214:8,10 232:15	162:17 163:3,9 163:13 165:11 168:13,16,16 169:14 170:9 174:10 175:9 176:14 178:17 178:19 181:5,9 186:18 188:6,11 219:4 228:14 229:4 230:1,7,8 230:21 231:10 231:21 233:21	102:5 103:3 104:3 121:3 162:7 174:15 176:16 177:3 181:5 183:21 194:21 217:12 217:19 220:1 229:17 240:19 244:8
basically 6:4,10 11:12 29:19 36:4 37:13 60:16 90:13 102:17 125:11 144:6 176:4,10 177:3	believes 131:7 benches 14:13 benefit 126:10 151:3,5 240:7 berm 69:21 best 2:12 134:2 134:9 145:2 186:1,14 191:2 197:2 226:6 227:6	billing 229:5 230:2 233:2 billings 229:21 bills 57:15 229:14 231:20 birdhouse 6:14 birth 239:5 bit 20:18,19 23:4 107:3 109:14,17 109:18 123:3 125:14 136:6 155:21 191:6 247:15	bocce 104:7 boil 72:17 bonanza 101:7 bond 54:2,3,9 bonds 51:6,15 51:17 52:3,7,9 52:10,13,16 53:3,14,16,16 53:17,17,18,19 54:7,10,13 55:13
basis 107:7,9 129:3 203:21 bathroom 71:12 battle 239:18 bay 16:8 18:20 25:4,10 44:18 85:1,15,17 130:13 131:7,10 166:10 173:4 186:6	better 73:17 206:21 betterment 25:21 beyond 68:2 71:5 104:14 bible 54:2 big 2:21 5:16 8:7 11:17 13:4 21:17 42:14 47:19 142:13 183:1 204:17 233:4 245:4	black 132:14 blanche 84:11 176:11 blasting 242:18 blisters 30:19 blood 41:15,16 blue 30:4 201:18 blurb 199:4 board 5:6 28:4 29:8 48:7 62:1,5 62:15 63:9,13 63:17 64:13 85:12 86:7 87:8 87:19 88:7,18 90:21 97:15,21	books 51:6,15 51:17 52:3,7,9 52:10,13,16 53:3,14,16,16 53:17,17,18,19 54:7,10,13 55:13 bonus 233:19 book 6:20 7:9,14 7:15 9:1 books 8:13,16 10:18 boondoggle 73:13 booster 35:19 36:5,13,15 border 96:21 born 115:17 bounce 199:2 boundary 74:21 bowling 22:19 box 6:12,20 7:1 7:8 9:12 14:15 135:8 boxes 6:5,12,14 6:15 11:4
beach 228:18 bean 138:9,9 bears 239:9 beds 90:14 beef 231:17 beefing 123:21 beg 118:13 began 63:18 120:15 239:1 beginning 86:15 248:7 behalf 115:15 120:7 144:20 behavior 49:2 behavioral 41:20 42:5 43:13 believe 46:3 59:1 77:21 79:5 100:6 107:2 108:9 129:9	bill 51:8 87:1 92:12,13,13 93:11 97:9,10 105:14,15,15 111:3,7 115:20 116:11 120:12 121:11 123:4,8 123:18 124:7 129:19,20 130:15 132:7 138:12,15 139:20 140:1 141:13,14 148:1 158:21 159:8,11		

boy 150:13	brought 21:9	c	61:15 62:2,18
boys 12:12,14	65:15 236:13	c 41:6,11,15	63:7,12 64:15
brands 36:2	242:8	cad 226:2,5,7	66:1,4,12 67:3,7
brennan 93:1	bryce 93:8 94:12	calculated 109:8	68:20 69:2
94:8 98:16	94:17 98:16	calculation	71:20 72:21
105:20 106:6,13	169:11 175:6	125:10	76:14,18,20
109:4 161:6,12	budget 222:19	calculations	78:16,18 81:19
162:1 164:17	223:4 225:18	132:6	84:17,19 87:4,6
171:3 180:12	buffer 104:17	calendar 229:6	91:12,15 92:2,5
184:18,21	build 21:18 55:3	244:5,20	92:9,20 93:3,7
189:21	124:4 176:12	calhoon 118:15	93:10 94:8 95:5
brian 197:10	building 52:1	call 25:19 26:13	95:8,11,16 99:5
207:13 208:1	55:7,8,14 85:18	35:6 36:11 49:8	99:7,9 101:14
209:6 222:7,9	86:2,4 172:3,11	87:10 90:13	102:15 105:5,19
222:14 228:21	173:11,21 174:5	177:18 184:7	106:4,8,14
230:14 236:3	174:20 175:10	218:9 221:13	109:2 110:3,5
bribe 238:10	176:12,19	224:14 227:12	110:16 115:10
bribery 240:16	207:19	229:11,11	119:21 120:8
240:21	buildings 85:20	234:15 237:21	124:11,13
bridge 73:13	174:13	248:20	127:19 130:5,10
brief 29:6 198:6	built 10:1,4	callahan 1:15	137:19,21 138:6
briefly 241:19	85:18 157:9	2:3 3:12 4:18	138:8 140:10
bring 15:6 17:20	173:12 176:19	5:8,13 9:5 12:6	144:4,12 146:15
28:11,16 38:9	215:1	12:21 13:12,16	147:1 154:11,17
62:12 193:12	bulk 200:17	13:20 14:6,7,8	156:14,17 159:6
194:3 223:12,18	bunch 91:21	15:11 16:3,10	159:17 160:3
235:13 236:14	burden 42:14	16:11 20:3 21:2	161:12 163:5
bringing 21:12	burdens 175:17	22:8 23:10,16	164:16,19 165:2
49:21 91:5	burry 95:17	23:20 24:2	165:20 166:7
146:11 166:14	business 2:17	26:12,17,18	167:18 168:1,15
broadened	31:13 55:5	27:16,20 28:9	169:1,5,13
208:16	83:17	46:5 47:7 48:14	171:3,21 172:14
broken 119:13	businesses	50:12,18,20	173:2 176:3
brookletts 16:4	170:15	53:4,8 54:16	177:7,12,17
18:19 22:1 25:2	busy 28:6 44:9	55:16,17 56:6	178:1,10,15
25:10	buy 10:9 79:18	56:11,17,20	179:3,10,16,18
brooks 16:7,11	207:14	57:1,2,10 58:8	180:4 181:3,13
21:1 22:7 23:6	buying 235:10	58:12 59:3,12	183:18 184:4,9
23:14,19 27:13	bylaws 190:1	59:16,19 60:3	184:17 185:20
		60:13,14 61:7	188:8,12 189:15

191:12 193:16 193:20 194:5,8 195:15,18 196:6 196:9,10,17,20 197:4,9,19 205:4 206:13 207:7,17,20 209:5,20 210:4 210:6,10,15,18 211:3,19 212:1 212:4,6,8,9,16 212:18 213:1,21 214:15 216:6 217:3,7 218:6 218:10,11,18 219:1,16,18 220:2,17,19 221:6,12,14,15 222:2 224:12,16 224:17 227:9,13 227:14 234:13 234:17,18 235:4 235:21 236:6,9 236:11,19 237:20 241:5,13 241:15 243:10 243:16 244:1,3 246:19 248:18 248:20 249:1,2 called 21:21 48:20 241:3 calls 29:9 37:1 48:1 229:5 245:14 campaign 34:7 34:20 candy 236:14 canterbury 97:1 cap 149:3	capabilities 204:7 capability 133:15 143:6 capacity 117:20 157:20 158:19 capital 54:21 60:9,10,16 61:4 85:14 235:14 caps 155:14 175:3 caption 210:9,10 card 20:17 237:15,21 cards 22:18 238:18 239:11 care 33:2 39:16 40:2 46:3 49:12 116:16 141:6 142:4 231:11 232:2 242:14 cared 25:14 careful 45:6 cares 116:18 carol 138:7,9 carol's 68:2 carte 84:11 176:11 carve 166:14 case 32:6 40:19 41:11 97:13 128:21 177:3 178:18 244:20 cases 30:2 31:17 31:19 32:1,3,12 32:18,20 37:15 37:18 45:2,8 cash 101:8 casino 20:18 22:5	cassandra 5:3 casual 31:12 cat 242:10 catalysts 24:12 catch 39:8 category 114:5 127:17 cause 30:12 205:16 247:12 caused 30:7 42:13 63:20 78:8 causes 30:6 32:7 cavanaugh 63:6 63:8,8,13 64:16 64:18 65:3 66:3 celebrate 2:21 center 16:5,8 17:9 19:19 20:20 22:2 25:3 25:4,11 37:5 41:6 55:4,5 70:11,17 76:5 77:12 78:7 80:7 80:19 81:3,14 83:20 85:9 227:1 center's 225:5 centers 16:21 17:10,12,14 18:20,20 19:21 20:6 24:4,11 25:18,20 26:4 27:10 226:12,15 227:2 central 29:15 centralized 86:4 86:5 centuries 142:4	certain 6:5 58:2 67:1 80:4 107:10 108:17 136:9 145:6 147:13 149:11 149:12 151:2,8 168:20 170:1 174:4 175:17 178:8 243:7 certainly 12:13 15:1 20:7 21:20 122:15 127:14 161:18 176:1 183:16 187:5 205:10,15 206:4 209:3 237:8 238:8 246:1,2 certified 38:15 certify 250:3,5,8 250:10 chair 3:19 4:4 4:10 chairman 63:9 63:11 72:7,11 87:10 145:19 146:20 167:9 challenge 11:13 11:15 49:17 139:14 chambers 1:10 chance 4:1 187:18 195:21 231:5 234:4 change 64:4 68:11 100:15,16 111:13 153:20 changed 63:17 65:7 76:3 98:7 117:12 205:10
---	---	---	--

<p>changes 30:7 42:9 65:1,13,15 changing 145:7 chapter 92:14 105:16 168:17 169:14 216:19 character 11:19 charity 241:20 charter 51:14,15 52:21 62:5 charts 209:11 chassis 222:20 check 22:5 131:20 checking 41:15 41:16 chenar 72:8 chesapeake 85:1 85:15,17 130:13 131:10 166:10 186:6 chi 18:17 chicken 40:18 chickenpox 34:1 chief 223:10,19 childlne 16:6 20:3 22:6 23:10 children 39:15 39:19 40:6,8 41:21 49:5,7 239:15 240:9 241:1 242:12,14 chip 146:18 choice 238:7 chooses 53:20 chose 171:15 chosen 112:8 166:4 chuck 1:15</p>	<p>church 11:2 circle 134:20 circulates 45:1 circulating 36:20 38:3 circumstance 174:4 circumstances 176:17 cite 49:3 citizens 25:5,7 25:12 202:4,7 227:6 245:15 city 250:2 claimed 17:8 clarified 65:9 clarify 164:9 clarity 194:1 clarke 58:9,12 59:8 60:13,14 61:16 67:5,6,8 68:21 69:5,8,13 70:8,19 71:9,16 71:21 85:12 88:4,6,21 89:21 91:2 213:5,6 214:1,4 217:9 217:10,13,21 218:3 clarke's 215:16 classes 19:8,9 classification 58:16 100:16 classified 108:12 clay 222:3 clean 62:11 65:20 131:1,2 214:5 cleaning 65:4</p>	<p>clear 85:7 113:3 114:10,14 115:2 138:15 164:21 185:7 cleared 50:14 113:7 clearing 108:4 clearly 75:4 click 130:7 134:20 climbed 223:15 clinic 42:18 44:15 clinics 37:4 40:11 45:16,17 close 31:4 42:18 43:15 44:13 126:17 157:21 158:17 178:12 178:21 198:8,13 232:9 closed 42:20 195:11 248:11 closely 130:18 closing 213:17 235:5 248:14 club 92:16,18 93:13 94:19 95:18 96:1,2,4,6 96:9,14 97:2,6 97:12,13,16,20 98:2,8,12 99:1,3 100:7,13 101:8 102:4 clubhouse 96:9 96:18 clubs 93:15,17 97:5 98:9 99:21 100:21 101:10 101:19 102:8,9</p>	<p>103:15 169:19 coastal 202:8 code 51:12 62:5 92:14 93:12,14 93:18 100:2 105:16 106:20 127:16 156:5 162:11 163:12 168:17 169:15 215:4 216:19 217:1 coded 132:19 codes 204:7 coexist 118:7 126:12 coexisting 118:12,21 coin 7:17 8:21 10:18 11:1,11 12:10 coins 8:14,18 11:13,15 collaborate 17:16 collaboration 21:11 colleagues 13:12 collect 233:10 234:8 collected 203:3 collection 52:14 66:19 200:17 228:7 color 132:19 coloring 241:11 combined 93:15 come 4:15 15:16 16:6 20:10 21:18 27:14 40:9 55:3,12</p>
---	--	--	--

58:9 63:3,4 67:5 71:14 72:6 75:8 76:21 78:21,21 81:5 84:19 86:18 87:11 89:16 92:8 93:2 93:3 95:16 105:10,20 108:2 110:14 120:4,4 130:16 140:11 154:17 159:18 161:12 166:21 168:10 172:18 172:21,21 177:20 178:21 182:16 190:19 196:21 197:1 216:5 222:8 226:1 227:5 229:14 236:11 240:17 241:16 245:1,12 comes 23:1 143:11 179:12 199:6 240:15 244:6 comfort 50:7 comfortable 242:5 coming 6:21 45:11 91:2 120:8 150:14 167:10 169:2 198:8,13 207:16 215:14 230:17 244:5,14 comment 2:14 86:8 105:8,10 161:6 236:7	commented 86:15 comments 2:9 55:16 72:17 83:6 84:15 87:21 110:19 144:7 154:16 157:5 166:3 241:18 commercial 104:20 122:7 173:11,17 commission 22:11 72:11,12 72:15 75:15 76:9 78:1 94:14 98:18 99:13,14 99:16 101:2 111:1,5,14,17 116:7 121:2 139:14 142:13 145:20 146:21 147:21 148:8,9 148:13,14,17 149:1,16 150:17 151:11,18,20 152:8,13,15 153:18 157:6,12 157:15 158:5 159:1 162:6,14 162:19 164:6 171:7,17 175:2 175:5 179:12,21 180:2,12,15,17 180:20 181:4 182:12,18 183:8 183:13,20 184:6 186:4,13 187:5 187:19 190:1 194:20 219:21	221:7 250:20 commission's 75:16 121:9 commissions 152:6,7 commitment 24:13 committee 162:12 200:15 203:12 communities 17:14 24:10,14 25:21 208:14 community 5:17 8:7 9:18 10:3 13:9 17:16,18 17:19 18:2,5,8 19:20 20:13 22:16 24:5,21 25:11 26:1,6 34:16 37:7 38:4 41:14,18 45:16 70:11 126:7 127:14 130:19 142:5,10 155:11 156:1 158:2 167:16 177:1 197:6 199:2 200:4 204:3,21 208:5 210:13 238:17 243:5,9 247:3,4 comp 60:21 61:3 91:4 company 109:5 225:14 226:11 227:3 228:14 compared 35:11 compete 6:9	competing 131:12 competitive 109:17 complete 5:16 9:15 10:20 17:5 120:17 completed 7:15 8:14,19 9:21 36:10 39:1 63:21 203:2 completely 178:17 completes 11:14 completing 8:2 complex 49:20 202:16 compliance 120:18 comply 82:17 components 112:20 201:4 composing 88:15 composting 85:16,21 87:15 88:9 89:7,18,20 comprehensive 48:17 57:21 59:6 60:7 62:11 77:19 81:5 99:15,20 100:17 100:18 137:7 207:9 208:8,18 216:14,17 compromise 145:5 149:15 150:16 167:12 computer 225:6 227:11 250:7
---	---	--	--

<p>comradery 19:12</p> <p>concentration 114:6</p> <p>concept 90:14 208:7</p> <p>concern 77:6 123:12 128:1 139:1 142:7 148:19 149:14 152:4,17,18 171:12 175:1 202:11</p> <p>concerned 19:14 33:18 73:11 78:2 202:7</p> <p>concerns 46:17 77:13 78:9,13 117:8 120:13 138:19</p> <p>concluded 249:9</p> <p>concludes 201:16 235:19</p> <p>conditions 25:14 52:4,7 67:2 122:11 124:8 168:21 170:2</p> <p>conducted 202:21</p> <p>conference 22:14</p> <p>confirm 160:13</p> <p>conflicting 65:18</p> <p>conformed 173:13</p> <p>conformity 62:12</p> <p>confusing 65:19 220:18</p>	<p>confusion 185:19</p> <p>congratulating 16:14</p> <p>congratulations 13:1</p> <p>conjecture 30:9</p> <p>conjunction 203:15</p> <p>connect 19:19 20:1 71:8 77:11 77:12 80:10 81:2,13 82:8,12 82:18,19 83:19 84:12</p> <p>connected 25:15 44:11 80:16 127:1</p> <p>connecting 80:18 84:7</p> <p>connection 43:21 52:12 66:17 79:21 80:6 82:3 84:13 155:3</p> <p>connections 17:18 24:6 26:1</p> <p>connects 86:4</p> <p>cons 84:9</p> <p>consent 3:20 4:5 4:12</p> <p>consequence 173:19</p> <p>conservancy 138:10</p> <p>conservation 92:19 97:3 100:9,10 101:1 136:8</p>	<p>conserved 114:6 114:16 136:7</p> <p>consider 121:19 122:4,14 141:9 141:21 147:8 151:10 186:16</p> <p>considerable 140:7</p> <p>consideration 84:16 94:16 124:9 158:4,6 195:3 213:2,15 236:2</p> <p>considered 35:2 73:18 79:13 84:5,8 86:11 114:15,17 137:15 155:9 159:4</p> <p>considering 64:11 103:1 243:12</p> <p>consistent 76:1 100:8 158:12 216:12,21</p> <p>consists 6:10 96:15</p> <p>consortium 46:14</p> <p>constraints 172:8</p> <p>construction 51:21 128:12</p> <p>consultant 226:1</p> <p>consultants 73:19</p> <p>consulting 228:5</p> <p>consumers 131:5</p>	<p>consuming 237:13</p> <p>consumption 237:7</p> <p>contact 31:5,7 31:12 33:13 151:19</p> <p>contacted 85:11 87:14</p> <p>contacting 87:8</p> <p>contained 250:9</p> <p>contemplate 120:21</p> <p>contend 100:13</p> <p>context 79:11 81:4 82:21 84:8 87:7,13 113:5</p> <p>contiguous 80:13</p> <p>continually 17:18</p> <p>continue 10:9 13:10 17:1 20:12 23:7 27:13 37:14 50:6 121:5 139:19 140:2 232:16,21 233:5 239:17,17 242:20 246:6</p> <p>continued 16:20 20:2 24:20 94:1 126:4</p> <p>continuing 96:5</p> <p>contract 198:11 225:4,9 228:1 228:17 234:15</p> <p>contracted 226:14,18</p>
--	--	---	---

<p>contribute 25:5 107:5,11,21 109:14,18</p> <p>contributed 106:21</p> <p>contributes 107:9</p> <p>contributing 46:20</p> <p>contributions 24:21 25:20</p> <p>control 139:16</p> <p>controls 100:4</p> <p>convening 43:9 248:10</p> <p>conversation 123:6 159:20 243:3</p> <p>cookout 245:3</p> <p>cooperative 223:1 225:13</p> <p>coordinated 202:17</p> <p>coordinates 6:5</p> <p>coordinator 197:13 198:1</p> <p>copperville 66:18 74:12</p> <p>cordova 127:4</p> <p>core 200:11</p> <p>corey 1:17</p> <p>corn 118:20 245:9</p> <p>corner 132:11 182:8</p> <p>correct 56:14 70:8 81:1 109:6 109:7 124:18 129:8,10 130:3 160:9 172:4</p>	<p>180:18 191:16 192:2 231:4 233:12</p> <p>corrected 97:9</p> <p>corrections 3:18 4:3,9</p> <p>correctly 20:19</p> <p>correspondence 120:11</p> <p>corridor 150:6,7</p> <p>cost 158:1 201:12,13 203:13,14</p> <p>costly 201:13 203:14</p> <p>costs 199:7</p> <p>councill 145:19 146:2,18,18 147:20 151:13 152:21 153:3,10 153:13 154:7,9 154:12,13 157:8 167:9</p> <p>council 1:1,4,10 1:14 3:16,21 4:7 11:1,11 15:5 16:12,19 17:8 20:4 21:7 25:16 43:10 48:8 51:9 53:7,12 54:11 55:1 57:9 60:18 62:8,16 67:9 69:12 71:10 72:16 77:8 79:2 84:21 88:17 91:13 93:8 95:5 99:5 105:6 109:2 110:16,21 111:15 120:6 121:18 122:13</p>	<p>133:7 137:8 148:3 167:17 168:8 169:11 171:13 172:14 173:1,6,8 174:10 175:7 177:8 178:13 180:14 183:5 189:20 194:17 194:18 195:13 195:21 197:8 200:5 213:2,7 214:2,20 216:12 217:2 220:14 222:1 223:1,12 225:8 228:4 235:19 236:21 237:4,5,18 241:18 244:6 247:18 248:10 250:3</p> <p>council's 66:6 129:7 195:21 248:6</p> <p>councilman 108:9</p> <p>councils 214:20</p> <p>counsel 250:4,9 250:10,11</p> <p>counselors 49:8</p> <p>counter 77:18</p> <p>counties 114:11 151:16,19 152:5 225:15 226:19 228:17,19 232:17,20</p> <p>countless 116:15</p> <p>countries 29:15 29:18,21 30:1,4</p>	<p>country 17:11 83:18 85:21 92:16,18 93:13 93:15,17 94:19 95:18 96:1,2,4,6 96:9,14 97:4,6 97:12,13,16,20 98:2,8,9,12 99:1 99:21 100:7,13 100:21 101:8,10 101:19 102:3,8 102:9 103:15 169:19 205:14</p> <p>country's 240:21</p> <p>counts 114:18</p> <p>county 1:1,1 2:16 5:19 6:19 8:17 10:15 12:17 13:6 14:2 14:4 16:20 18:10,10 20:7 25:3,5,16,17,18 26:3,8 27:17 32:4 37:17 38:17 39:1 44:18 51:4,5,9,9 51:14,16 52:1,2 52:18 53:1,13 53:20 57:21 60:7,9,14 62:1,5 62:8,16 63:9 64:9,10,21 66:21 67:14 68:6,11 71:1,6 73:19 74:5,6,16 75:12 81:12 82:1,4,7,14,17 82:19 83:2,11 83:17 85:15</p>
---	---	--	--

92:14 93:12 95:1 96:2,13 97:2,14,21 98:13 100:6 103:6 104:21 105:16 107:1,4 107:9,13,21 109:6,16 112:9 114:9 115:18 120:17 124:18 132:12,16,17 133:1,11,14 135:18,20 136:16 137:8 139:18 140:14 142:3 144:1 146:19,20 149:10 152:14 153:15 165:9,15 167:13 168:17 169:15 173:15 178:13 194:14 194:17,18 195:8 196:2 197:5,11 198:1,18 201:8 202:4,6 205:18 208:16 210:13 213:13 214:12 215:2 216:19 222:3,10 225:12 226:17 228:11 228:14,16,18 229:16 235:20 237:2 238:13,14 238:16 239:2,4 239:7,20,21 240:19 244:12 244:18 245:3,7 248:5 250:2,3	county's 64:6 75:3 76:5 82:12 109:11 112:19 114:7 121:5 136:2 137:5 158:12 197:2 couple 22:19,19 30:6 32:2 33:10 39:14 40:12 41:8 42:2,4,8 43:16 46:3 47:10 49:9 69:1 69:7,7,9 99:18 112:16 131:17 132:9 134:21 135:6 141:1 147:6 164:1,2 201:4,20 202:8 203:10 204:5,17 206:1 course 43:7 47:21 80:17 96:8 97:8 98:7 98:10,10 99:19 208:7 247:6 courses 93:14,19 94:19 169:18 court 103:5,14 courthouse 9:11 244:15,17 courts 96:19 103:17,18 104:7 cover 134:1 coverage 36:6 172:12 covered 117:16 125:15 187:2,13 covid 33:10 35:15,19 37:13 37:15 47:19	63:19,19 238:20 239:6,9,12,18 242:3,17 cpr 38:16,17 crafts 10:6 19:9 create 117:7 243:2 created 116:1,5 116:12 123:16 139:15 creative 208:19 creativity 24:12 credit 52:17 creek 67:18 crep 114:16 criteria 140:3 155:7 189:6 critical 100:3,5 101:2,11 104:11 158:9,17,17 166:13 201:8 204:9 225:9 226:14 critically 118:4 119:2 crops 134:1 cross 189:12 220:16,20 crp 114:16 culvert 203:19 curative 41:12 current 31:17 33:7 64:3 80:15 98:5 114:1 126:5 160:9 163:12 204:7 226:7 currently 5:7 37:9 55:8 88:21 93:14,19 107:1	107:8 108:18 109:14 110:1 125:16,18 156:7 163:1 170:3,7 170:13,16 176:17 177:4 201:21 224:7 225:14 229:7 231:13 233:16 curve 227:4 cushion 67:21 71:4 83:11 cusps 156:3 cut 17:3 cutoff 112:3 cyber 202:16 cybersecurity 202:16 cycle 107:12 110:1
d			
d 192:11 219:6 d1 192:12 d1b 193:7 d2aiii 189:13 daily 31:13 203:21 damage 199:7 dancing 20:17 dangerous 79:7 dangers 3:3 dark 116:10 dashed 132:14 data 132:5 135:21 200:17 200:18,18,19 201:21 228:6 234:8 239:10 240:3			

<p>date 23:14 40:4 59:18 65:16 122:1 178:8,9 dave 236:10,11 236:21 241:5 davis 173:5 176:4 177:11 day 4:14 8:6,8 8:15 9:13 26:4,8 37:15,16,18 55:2,12 119:4,4 206:9 242:14 244:11,16,19 245:12 246:3 248:8 250:13 days 30:17 239:1 deadlines 163:1 deal 21:17 46:16 78:3 223:14 226:12,21 237:16 247:18 dealing 90:5 deals 112:14 death 32:8 46:21 47:1 deaths 32:8 239:5,12 decades 30:3 75:9 143:4 december 43:20 decided 71:11 91:8 153:20 decision 86:12 86:13 129:7 154:10 179:9 183:6 decisions 24:18 133:14 151:14 238:6 240:14</p>	<p>declared 29:13 decline 49:3 decommission... 108:7 decommission... 123:21 141:16 decrease 42:1 dedicated 85:4 246:15 dedication 209:10 deed 136:9 deemed 82:11 109:1 defer 84:3 86:13 106:12 deficit 232:8 define 140:3 165:10 defined 112:17 114:7,13,18,20 defines 124:19 definitely 19:21 41:10 65:17 204:21 definition 92:16 93:12,13 97:6,7 126:9 156:8 definitions 65:10 115:2 156:2 definitive 39:8 delay 63:20 deletions 3:17 4:2,9 deliberate 180:9 deliberations 74:1 delivery 52:8 53:2</p>	<p>delmarva 96:3 demand 42:13 demart 16:7 demonstrate 136:18 229:19 dense 122:8 department 18:9 18:10 27:17 29:10 35:5,6 37:2 44:5 45:13 45:18 52:2 55:4 55:10 60:20 74:8 75:2 85:13 199:20,20 200:14 222:17 240:2 247:1,7 departments 206:18 depending 179:14 depends 103:21 describe 29:11 description 100:9 deserves 197:17 design 10:21 11:20 12:9 51:20 129:1 204:19 designated 51:16 designation 94:20 designed 7:18 8:1 9:16 12:2 74:10 75:5 125:1 designing 120:16 198:10</p>	<p>desire 138:21 detail 77:4,20 222:16 223:5 225:20 details 52:7 65:6 77:5 115:7 detention 41:5 determine 226:5 determined 32:3 develop 12:15 30:18 70:15 83:12 137:4,14 155:18 158:2 developed 117:13 136:3 developer 150:3 developers 141:15 148:1 150:5,9 development 8:18 10:16 73:15 77:15,18 78:10 83:7 92:15 105:17 107:19 113:8 121:15 129:19 131:11 133:4 134:11 136:16 137:17 141:4 155:3 165:7,17 167:9 168:18 202:20 225:5,10 238:17 diabetes 47:1 diagnosed 33:21 diane 1:21 250:2 250:16 diasters 204:4 difference 135:13 242:11</p>
--	---	--	--

<p>different 6:6,11 6:17 7:8,12,12 7:13,16 10:2,6 14:12 15:2 31:5 33:9 35:16 37:21 47:18 96:16 111:6 195:7 201:15,20 207:10 241:20 247:15</p> <p>differentiates 127:5</p> <p>difficult 48:10 79:18</p> <p>dignity 24:16</p> <p>diligently 214:5</p> <p>dimension 114:20</p> <p>dinner 23:12</p> <p>dire 215:19</p> <p>direct 31:7 144:9</p> <p>direction 64:10 215:16</p> <p>directly 34:10 77:18 195:20</p> <p>director 64:9 106:7 130:13 162:2 185:1 197:10</p> <p>disabling 239:15</p> <p>disallowing 145:11 151:5 182:12</p> <p>disaster 199:7</p> <p>disasters 198:17 199:3 205:20 206:2</p> <p>disbursement 52:9</p>	<p>disbursements 4:6,8,10,11</p> <p>discharge 73:12</p> <p>disclosed 239:15 240:2</p> <p>disconnect 155:21</p> <p>discontinued 94:4</p> <p>discretion 238:7</p> <p>discriminatory 83:18</p> <p>discuss 195:2 248:12</p> <p>discussed 118:9 147:19 186:9 195:11 242:7 243:2</p> <p>discussing 91:4</p> <p>discussion 18:2 18:4 112:7 114:5 123:5 159:2 178:20 187:19 190:2 243:13,14</p> <p>discussions 89:6 114:8 121:10 128:17</p> <p>disease 29:14 30:9 32:7 47:1</p> <p>diseases 40:17 41:10 202:15,18</p> <p>disenchanting 113:10 114:2</p> <p>dispatch 225:6</p> <p>dispatchers 226:4</p> <p>display 10:2</p> <p>displayed 6:16 9:20</p>	<p>disposal 68:17 86:3,17,19 88:12 89:3,10 89:17 91:9</p> <p>disruptions 48:19</p> <p>disruptive 43:5</p> <p>distinguishable 127:15</p> <p>distinguished 127:16</p> <p>distribution 52:11 117:21 127:1 155:5</p> <p>district 67:16 92:19 93:19 96:17 97:3,4 169:18 192:14 219:10</p> <p>districts 96:16 158:16</p> <p>disturbing 113:18,19,20 182:9</p> <p>diversify 119:7</p> <p>divide 243:3</p> <p>divilio 1:16 2:19 3:7,13 5:9 12:21 13:1,4 15:5,13 22:8,9 26:19,20 48:15,16 56:10 57:3,4 75:20 76:7 87:5,7 88:4 88:17 90:18 91:11 99:6 110:7 138:7 143:9,17 167:21 178:12 179:6 183:5 186:7,17 188:7,18 189:13</p> <p>193:21 195:16 196:11,12 207:7 207:8 210:5 211:6 212:5,10 212:11 214:3 215:9 216:7 218:12,13 220:18 221:16 221:17 224:3,10 224:18,19 227:7 227:15,16 234:4 234:6,11,19,20 236:7,10 237:19 241:18,19 245:17 246:21 248:3,5,19 249:3,4</p> <p>divilio's 196:4 214:17</p> <p>division 44:6 227:10</p> <p>doctor 33:20</p> <p>doctor's 34:3</p> <p>doctors 39:7</p> <p>document 54:1 63:19</p> <p>documentation 80:3 201:16</p> <p>documented 204:12</p> <p>documents 76:16 206:19</p> <p>dog 242:10</p> <p>dogs 242:8 245:8</p> <p>doing 3:9 4:21 6:1 12:19 14:1 20:21 23:3 27:8 41:7,14 45:15 50:1 64:20 68:16 89:3</p>
---	--	---

90:13 93:5 94:21 104:11 105:20 151:7,21 152:1 187:9 194:10 197:7 209:17 dollar 199:5 203:19 dollars 118:3 230:5 donation 10:8 door 205:9 208:18 244:17 doors 208:12 dorsey 63:10 doses 37:3 dots 29:21 douglass 4:14 5:1,5,20 6:2,13 6:18 7:2,17,19 7:20 8:6,8,9,15 9:9,13,19,21 10:7,13 14:3 15:7 16:16 244:9,11 downpours 205:14 dozen 85:21 150:8 dr 27:17,19,21 28:2,10 46:8 47:6 48:13,18 50:11,12,17,19 55:6 198:3 draft 186:2 194:2 201:2 drafted 72:14 219:19 drafting 123:8 147:11	draw 111:18 132:9,13 133:17 drinks 237:5,6 237:14 drive 44:17 97:1 driveway 78:8 driving 118:17 drop 40:1 dropped 40:2 116:9 drought 205:13 droughts 119:9 due 160:8 239:5 dugouts 14:14 e e 1:18 178:8 245:14 eagle 12:12 14:11 earlier 87:11 120:11 123:10 126:10 194:16 195:11 244:8 early 46:20 73:8 earthquake 205:21 easement 136:8 195:3 easements 107:17 112:13 114:15 136:8 easier 65:10,20 119:10 easiest 187:12 easily 30:8 130:17 eastern 31:21 42:19 130:12 138:10 143:6 167:8 225:15	226:18 easton 1:10 5:20 6:17 9:11 11:1 37:6 42:21 72:9 77:2 99:12 110:17 130:14 156:20 173:4 236:21 244:14 250:13 easton's 74:21 easy 227:4 eat 245:8 echo 138:11 economic 8:17 10:16 200:9 209:1 238:16 economically 174:7 economy 136:21 editing 65:13 edition 118:11 education 87:17 200:9 204:1 208:20 240:20 248:1 effect 97:11 164:12 205:16 230:16,21 effective 158:1 effectively 80:6 effects 132:6 204:4 efficient 56:13 124:2 effort 34:9 206:5 efforts 17:1 26:2 63:20 165:7 204:6 eight 37:18 38:21 96:17	223:11 237:14 237:21 either 94:2 103:18 113:8,15 120:13 152:5 158:2 170:10 elapsed 160:7 elder 18:6 elders 21:13 elementary 244:14 elements 104:4 133:10 eligible 34:17 35:2 36:12,13 55:18 108:20 134:10 136:3 137:13 239:11 eliminate 80:4 198:16 eliminates 81:21 eliminating 155:10 eloquently 245:18 embarked 16:15 emcee 8:10 emceeing 8:8 emergencies 28:18 29:5 38:19 emergency 28:10,15,20 29:14,17 38:14 197:11,12,21 198:1 199:21 222:18,21 225:3 225:19 228:6,8 229:3 245:20
---	--	---	--

<p>emerging 202:15 202:18</p> <p>employee 250:11</p> <p>employees 96:11 96:11 245:7</p> <p>employs 96:10</p> <p>empower 25:4</p> <p>ems 223:10,19 226:3 229:3,9 231:19 245:21</p> <p>enabling 24:20 51:13</p> <p>enact 163:13</p> <p>enacted 51:9 121:12 163:17</p> <p>encourage 18:21</p> <p>encumbered 172:10</p> <p>endeavor 16:18</p> <p>ended 49:12 99:17</p> <p>endemic 29:15 30:4</p> <p>ends 158:18</p> <p>energy 23:1 24:13 105:18 106:18,19 107:20 108:7,13 108:16,20 120:7 120:12 121:14 123:2 131:1,3 143:1,5 154:19 165:5 192:13 219:6,7,9,12</p> <p>enforcement 226:3</p> <p>engaged 38:13</p> <p>engaging 207:10</p> <p>engineering 118:15 165:17</p>	<p>enhance 26:4</p> <p>enjoy 22:17</p> <p>enjoying 2:13</p> <p>enrich 24:9</p> <p>enrollment 43:19,21 44:11</p> <p>ensure 25:12 43:5 123:13 139:8</p> <p>enter 135:8,15 225:4 228:1 234:7</p> <p>entered 150:8 250:9</p> <p>entering 46:10</p> <p>enters 40:4</p> <p>entire 8:2 16:18 34:19 99:17 114:19 204:11 226:18 229:9 230:12</p> <p>entirely 113:3 114:9</p> <p>entities 77:11</p> <p>enumerated 93:18</p> <p>environment 60:21 200:10 208:20</p> <p>environmental 69:20 88:10,15 89:2,8,11 90:1 90:12 104:2</p> <p>environments 242:6</p> <p>equal 107:11</p> <p>equipment 19:8</p> <p>equity 117:4 119:19</p>	<p>er 231:14 233:9</p> <p>eric 5:4 204:18</p> <p>especially 32:16 43:12 139:20 233:1</p> <p>essential 157:20</p> <p>essentially 93:11 106:16 107:5 108:19 121:12 132:8 162:9 198:16 201:12 201:14</p> <p>establish 66:16</p> <p>established 139:11</p> <p>establishing 138:17 139:10 164:10</p> <p>estate 248:12</p> <p>estimated 235:7</p> <p>evaluate 79:12</p> <p>evaluated 111:20</p> <p>evaluation 189:6</p> <p>evaluations 91:10</p> <p>evening 16:11 27:19,20 28:3 53:7 55:19 63:6 63:7 72:7 79:2 107:4 120:6 173:1,2 197:8,9 197:20 222:1,2 222:9 223:6</p> <p>event 8:7 11:14 11:17 244:12 245:6 247:8</p> <p>events 6:9 44:14 242:2 244:16 246:21</p>	<p>eventually 76:4</p> <p>everybody 2:5,7 65:21 106:5 118:4 119:3 142:6 143:13 145:15 168:9 209:13 242:8,9 242:13 243:21</p> <p>everybody's 168:7</p> <p>everyone's 28:12,16</p> <p>exact 94:12 181:16</p> <p>exactly 87:13 155:8 188:1 227:5 234:11</p> <p>examination 250:5</p> <p>example 9:7 80:9 118:20</p> <p>examples 19:17 111:19</p> <p>exceeding 51:7 171:11</p> <p>exceeds 189:7</p> <p>excel 112:10</p> <p>exception 94:2 104:5 121:4,19 121:21 122:2,5 162:4,5,7 165:8 174:14 175:12 175:14</p> <p>excess 117:20</p> <p>exchange 237:13</p> <p>excitement 23:1</p> <p>exciting 242:1</p> <p>excluded 112:15</p> <p>exclusive 118:6</p>
--	--	--	--

<p>excuse 87:2 146:15</p> <p>executing 213:16</p> <p>exempting 66:21</p> <p>exercise 18:18 19:8,8 20:16</p> <p>exist 95:1</p> <p>existence 96:5</p> <p>existing 62:9 73:21 74:13 75:6 79:8 84:14 94:18 103:14 108:6 127:3,12 132:16 133:11 134:6 139:17 153:18 170:14 175:4 224:6 226:2,9 228:17</p> <p>expand 93:18 97:15 104:21 170:16</p> <p>expanded 17:3 96:7 103:8</p> <p>expansion 78:13 84:5 92:17 94:18 97:19 98:1 168:19 169:21 170:4 173:20 174:2,6 175:3</p> <p>expansions 172:10 174:17</p> <p>expect 34:18</p> <p>expectancy 46:18</p> <p>expected 49:1 167:7</p> <p>expedite 79:20</p>	<p>expedited 164:3</p> <p>experience 24:9 166:20</p> <p>experiences 24:19</p> <p>experiencing 42:16</p> <p>experiments 241:1</p> <p>expertise 215:3</p> <p>experts 18:8,15</p> <p>expiration 160:21 167:3</p> <p>expire 159:8,11 162:17</p> <p>expired 160:17</p> <p>expires 250:20</p> <p>explain 53:8</p> <p>explained 94:11 201:5</p> <p>exploratory 150:10</p> <p>exposed 30:16 33:17 34:10</p> <p>exposing 240:5</p> <p>exposure 34:12</p> <p>express 77:10 158:10</p> <p>extended 122:18</p> <p>extending 68:12</p> <p>extension 140:1</p> <p>extensive 200:20</p> <p>extra 36:19,19 45:6 178:18 185:19 230:3 233:19</p> <p>extreme 202:10</p> <p>extremely 44:9</p>	<p>f</p> <p>f 1:15 222:20</p> <p>face 7:3 78:2 192:2</p> <p>facilitating 24:18</p> <p>facilities 22:12 49:15 85:17 87:17 88:1 108:6 123:13 214:9 215:2 232:2</p> <p>facility 23:2 68:9 68:16,19 80:1 86:1,10,18,20 87:16 88:20 89:5 90:3 91:6 176:21 215:18 216:15,20 217:17 231:11</p> <p>fact 18:1 32:8 238:7 239:16</p> <p>factored 81:13</p> <p>factors 46:20 135:3</p> <p>facts 75:13</p> <p>faculty 50:4</p> <p>failed 39:6</p> <p>failing 75:7</p> <p>failure 74:15</p> <p>fair 111:7 139:19</p> <p>fairly 115:4</p> <p>fairness 124:6</p> <p>faith 52:17</p> <p>fall 28:3 36:9 38:7,8 43:17,18 45:20 46:1,10 120:16 125:3 126:8 135:16</p>	<p>161:1</p> <p>falls 18:14,16</p> <p>false 117:17</p> <p>familiar 194:15</p> <p>families 119:11 240:9,13</p> <p>family 2:11 9:17 15:8 28:18,21 96:13 142:2 145:13</p> <p>far 14:15 41:8 46:11 73:17 126:15 165:14 223:17</p> <p>farm 72:8 83:9 101:7 107:18 117:3 125:18 133:21 134:9 135:2 140:19 144:17 147:14 183:4</p> <p>farmed 126:4</p> <p>farmer 115:19 116:13,19 126:4 146:19 150:1</p> <p>farmers 116:14 119:6,12 134:2 134:8 150:8,19</p> <p>farming 118:5 119:7 125:19,20 141:7</p> <p>farmland 117:9 117:15 119:18 131:4 137:7 139:1,9 140:6,9 140:15 145:3 148:7,20 149:10 152:5</p> <p>farms 107:13,15 109:20 117:1,2</p>
--	---	---	--

117:16 119:12 131:8 195:7 fashion 83:3 fast 56:5 father 115:15 116:14 119:15 119:15 144:20 favor 98:17 favorable 94:15 121:1 171:8 175:7 favorite 242:10 fear 35:14 242:4 fears 103:5 feature 136:5 featuring 19:10 federal 74:6 199:14 208:11 feel 22:2 30:14 68:14 177:2 242:5 feels 116:8 117:6 177:15 feet 90:9 170:12 171:14 174:6,12 175:11 181:21 fell 39:15,17,19 39:21 fellow 25:7 felt 176:5 fema 199:9,19 fenced 125:13 126:3 fesco 222:20 fewer 32:1,2 113:17 fiber 131:4 fictitious 237:3 238:5,12	field 67:21 fields 14:14 83:10 213:20 fifteen 128:2 fifth 96:4 figure 35:7 154:8 fill 135:1 final 5:16 52:12 53:12 58:16,17 142:19 227:21 finally 10:12 100:20 199:13 financing 51:19 find 6:5 43:2 55:7 70:16 167:12 247:17 finding 14:18 70:20 findings 75:14 75:16 175:18 fine 49:8 56:11 77:16 156:6 179:3 188:21 191:3 194:5 210:10 218:5 finest 197:2 finish 45:10 finite 182:21 fire 226:4 247:1 247:7 firefighter 3:2 firemen 245:19 first 2:10 4:13 9:3 16:13 32:8 36:15 40:10 53:11 56:1,15 59:9 70:4,6 73:9 111:11,21 139:10 142:2	161:8 171:6 210:7 211:13 219:19 222:17 243:1 firsthand 3:3 fiscal 60:9 fit 193:2 fits 147:5 156:1 167:2 five 17:4 32:1,2 39:21 46:20 58:18 63:1 67:13 72:3 81:15,17,18 95:13,21 110:11 123:8 129:11 142:9 154:5,6 182:20 199:10 200:1 flag 114:4 fleshed 115:8 flexibility 170:19 flooding 28:14 202:9 floods 205:21 floor 170:8,11 170:18 218:7 florida 228:18 flows 74:11 75:5 flu 30:14 45:11 45:12,13 46:12 fly 186:15 focus 18:5 110:19 focused 112:11 242:17 focusing 123:20 follow 65:21 76:11 90:19	143:17 followed 205:14 following 73:2 120:10 food 131:4 241:11 foot 170:21 172:2 174:20 force 66:19 67:10 68:7,10 74:10,14 80:11 82:3,13 ford 222:20 foreseeable 233:6 forever 117:10 117:12 forgash 123:1,1 124:17 125:8,13 125:18,20 126:21 127:11 128:7 129:5 154:15,18,19 156:9,11 157:19 161:19 162:3 164:21 165:4,4 166:1,4,19 forget 245:16,17 246:13 forgive 87:12 forgosh 149:17 forgot 185:5,10 form 52:2,5 188:16 201:2 222:15 formal 223:13 formatting 112:11 formed 95:18
--	--	---	---

former 75:12 99:12	151:19 181:7,8 237:5,6	61:5 107:6,12 107:21 109:11	138:4 144:14
formerly 9:8	fourth 96:3	109:13,21	generally 53:1 157:14
forms 64:4 65:5	119:11	146:12 199:15	generate 119:8 125:2,7
formula 114:1 115:1	fox 45:9	215:6,17 216:2 228:12	generated 126:20
formulating 181:16	frame 162:16 163:6 164:3	fundraisers 241:21	generates 124:20
formulation 36:3	frank 1:16 9:3 63:8 188:3 234:14	fundraising 10:5	generation 13:10 115:19 116:13 119:11 225:16 226:20
fort 114:19	frankly 205:11	funds 109:19 199:15,17	generous 10:8
forth 14:14 149:21 243:19	frederick 4:14 5:1,5,20 6:2,13 6:18 7:2,16,19 7:20 8:5,8,9,15 9:9,13,19,21 10:7,13 14:2 15:7 16:16 244:9,11	222:19 223:3 225:17 235:12 235:13	geneva 197:12 197:15,21 208:1 209:6
fortunately 43:2 208:15	free 18:11	furnishing 51:21	gentleman 40:20 77:3,16 120:8 144:18 153:5 161:8,14
forward 23:13 54:21 59:2 68:12 91:8 98:14 123:18 124:3,5,6 146:12 150:10 159:20 162:8 163:9,11,14 165:1,7 174:8 195:13 199:17 212:2,7 218:19	frequently 202:6	further 77:15,17 79:7 134:19 140:3 159:1 172:10 199:1 250:5,8,10	gentlemen 72:8
forwarded 171:19 175:6	friday 42:18	furthermore 100:11	geocache 6:11 6:12,15 7:11,20 9:14 11:13,14
foster 74:4	friends 9:17 19:16	future 55:11 71:11 108:1 118:2 200:19 214:20 226:6 232:21 233:6,17 235:14	geocachers 7:6
found 19:13 30:1 32:19 131:18 173:21	friendship 19:12	fy23 194:11 222:19 223:3	geocaching 6:2,4 6:7,9 7:17 10:18
foundation 85:1 130:13 131:7 166:10 186:6 194:12 238:18	fringes 96:21		gerard 84:20,21 87:10 90:17 130:5,7,9,12,12 147:12 149:6 166:9,10 168:3 187:9
foundation's 85:15	front 7:18,19 11:16 27:5 103:2 118:10,15 162:14 205:9 207:14 237:4	g	gerard's 143:10
four 30:21 36:17 55:1 112:21	fruitful 206:7	galveston 223:1	getting 18:2 31:16 33:3,12 34:13 36:21 49:5 104:4 180:5 230:4
	full 52:17 77:5 95:21 96:10	games 19:9	
	fully 32:3 86:11 238:19	gap 230:3,6 232:9 233:4,8 233:11	
	fun 22:21 242:1 245:9	gears 38:6	
	funding 10:15 10:17 60:20	general 33:5,7 51:6 53:15 54:5 54:8 60:19 99:2	

<p>241:17 giant 37:7 gift 237:15,21 238:18 239:11 girl 4:20 5:15 7:20 12:16 girls 12:14 gis 132:8 give 17:5 28:3 29:6 50:7 62:21 69:8 72:19 82:19 91:1 135:6 228:21 230:11,12,13 245:4 given 19:17 26:7 34:21 94:20 164:4 205:3 giving 13:8 176:11 glad 214:6 glebe 68:3,3 71:2,3,5 global 142:21 205:7 globally 31:16 go 2:4,4 9:4,5 14:6,17 15:14 21:7 29:3 32:14 33:19 44:1 51:1 54:20 55:14 57:18 59:4,12 61:18 62:3,3 66:8 68:12 69:2 77:20 79:8 80:21 83:1 87:6 92:9,11,21 102:15 103:2,19 105:7,9,12,13 106:14 107:15</p>	<p>107:16 109:11 110:9 128:19 133:10 135:11 138:3,6 142:12 144:4,9 149:12 149:13 150:21 151:10 152:10 152:14 153:4 160:3 162:19 163:18 164:4,5 172:3,16,17 176:13,15 177:2 177:19 178:5 179:7,11 180:11 180:15,20 181:3 181:9 183:20 184:19,19 186:10 190:16 192:7 194:2,3 196:17 203:8,9 205:18 206:20 207:20 210:20 210:20 211:1 213:17 214:13 215:12,15 218:19 219:1 220:5 222:13,14 224:13 227:3,10 229:19,21 230:7 234:12 245:6 goal 36:8 38:16 goals 131:2 god 188:3 goes 126:17 going 2:15,17 3:4 8:7,11 9:20 12:8 21:6 27:9 28:15 31:13,15 34:7,20 41:13 41:19 44:17</p>	<p>47:18 48:1 50:5 53:17 55:2,12 57:13,15 62:19 62:20 66:8 69:3 69:8,11,14,14 69:16 70:15 71:4 77:21 78:12 81:19 83:7,14 89:14 91:9 98:14 101:3,3 103:6 114:21 121:18 122:16 123:10 123:13 124:2,3 125:8,14 126:15 142:3 144:6,14 145:1 146:4 151:7 158:10 163:5 165:11 190:19 191:1 192:18 195:20 200:2 203:6,8,9 204:13 206:9 208:14 209:14 215:20 216:4 222:14 224:5,8 227:6,11 230:2 231:16 232:13 232:21 233:5,7 233:8 235:7 237:10 238:2,4 242:5 245:2,9 gold 4:20 5:15 7:21 golden 192:21 golf 93:14,19 94:18 96:8 97:7 98:6,10,10 169:18 247:2,6</p>	<p>golfers 247:3 good 13:20 14:3 16:11 23:17 27:19,20 28:3 28:12,17 32:14 33:16 41:9 47:16 53:7 59:3 59:16 61:7 63:6 63:7 72:7 79:2 92:4 93:6,7,7 94:9 99:6 106:11,12 111:3 116:16,17 117:2 120:6 133:6 149:9 166:12 171:4,18,18 173:1,2 195:15 196:20,20 197:8 197:9,20 205:4 209:2 210:15 217:5,6 220:19 222:1,2 223:6 235:21 237:15 243:14,17,21 247:7,8,8,12 goodies 236:12 goods 130:21 131:12 gordon 115:15 115:17 gosh 206:20 gotten 29:7,9 35:12 36:13,15 178:20 government 51:11 68:13 77:11 82:14 208:11 230:2 240:15</p>
--	--	---	---

<p>governmental 66:21 gps 6:5 graduate 142:20 grandfathered 102:11,12 104:20 grandiose 74:20 grant 208:12 granting 84:10 grants 74:6 grapevine 151:18 graph 32:11 grass 134:1 grateful 16:21 grave 78:13 great 4:16 5:8 12:6 13:4 15:11 17:15 22:12 23:3,18 26:7 27:13 29:1 40:13 50:13 51:3 54:16 61:15 62:18 63:12 66:4 106:8 123:1 159:19,21 171:21,21 177:7 178:15 188:3,4 197:19 206:15 207:5 212:4 218:18 223:14 226:12,21 233:18,18 245:6 247:5,8,10 greater 170:6,10 170:17,18 174:11 181:20 187:3 219:13</p>	<p>green 244:15 greenest 85:19 grid 117:21 118:1 127:1 155:4 griffith 48:18 gross 170:7,11 170:17 ground 77:14 90:4,5,8,8 119:1 223:16 groundbreaking 153:15 group 18:7 32:21 43:8 95:14 123:5 228:5 239:19 groups 22:15 34:16 49:21 187:7 growth 74:4 guaranties 74:18 guess 60:19 62:19 63:2 67:21 68:1,3,10 88:11 91:4 104:10 125:7 127:5 132:17 148:16 149:14 150:11 154:7 182:5 213:2,14 213:18 220:13 guidance 49:8 guide 99:20 guys 4:15 15:8 15:13 22:19 28:5 46:2 66:4 93:5 105:19 151:13,21</p>	<p>154:10 169:9 172:16 177:9 182:7 206:5 209:10,14 247:20 gym 19:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">h</p> <hr/> <p>half 125:15 136:1 149:9 150:7,18,19 151:6 246:9 hallot 140:12,13 143:16,19,19,20 143:21,21 144:11 hamburgers 245:8 hand 18:15 26:7 27:11 132:10 222:15 250:13 hands 27:9 31:14,14 33:15 56:3 59:13,14 61:8 211:18,19 happen 10:11 30:20 49:14 69:15 83:15 198:17 205:21 207:1 happened 147:6 245:15 happening 78:11 205:15 happens 54:2 82:8 100:5 136:6 160:20 209:13 240:11 happy 98:21 99:4 166:20 214:11 231:8</p>	<p>hard 3:8 35:19 39:19 116:15 117:1 209:16 216:6 harder 152:16 harvard 240:4 harvest 121:13 161:10 haven 77:2,7 78:3,10,11 hazard 198:8 201:6 208:17 210:12 hazardous 197:5 hazards 198:21 201:15,17,19 202:9,12,14,21 head 8:11 125:7 181:16 heal 30:21 heals 31:1 health 18:10 25:6,6 27:17 28:3,4 29:8,10 29:13,16 33:2 35:5,6 37:2 38:7 38:11,13,20 39:2 40:1,3 41:21 42:1,5,7 43:8,13,14,18 43:20 44:2,3,5 45:13,18,20 46:14,17,19 47:4 48:7 49:4 49:12 52:2 55:10 69:20 88:11,15 89:8 89:11 90:1,13 200:8,14 208:21 239:7 240:2,15</p>
--	---	--	--

<p>healthcare 33:20</p> <p>healthy 25:15 29:5 45:21</p> <p>hear 3:9 5:11 48:18 107:3 150:4</p> <p>heard 40:19 79:15 81:10 83:6 107:2 132:21 146:8 148:17,18,19 151:18 166:11 181:18 184:12</p> <p>hearing 2:16 3:18 4:3,10 39:3 57:13 59:17,21 61:13,17 62:20 72:1 86:16 92:10 95:12 109:3 110:10 127:21 145:7 146:7 147:2 161:21 162:13 164:6 165:2 169:7 247:14,16</p> <p>hearings 57:14 73:17 243:15 248:2</p> <p>heart 47:1 234:3</p> <p>heat 202:10 205:13</p> <p>heavy 15:17,18</p> <p>heights 170:17</p> <p>held 60:1 61:13 160:8 248:6</p> <p>hello 4:17,18 77:1 140:12</p> <p>helm 50:8</p>	<p>help 3:4,6 8:10 9:17 13:17 15:9 17:6 19:1 24:9 34:5 36:9 39:11 45:21 47:4 50:2 64:8 86:9 131:8 146:12 159:20 161:17 165:10 186:5 187:7,10 187:21 213:6 231:19 233:13 234:7 235:14</p> <p>helped 10:21 11:19 146:10 207:11</p> <p>helpful 50:14</p> <p>helping 10:14,14 10:19 25:11</p> <p>helps 138:13</p> <p>hepatitis 41:6,11 41:15</p> <p>hero 77:4</p> <p>heroes 2:20 3:1</p> <p>hey 101:6 151:20 161:12</p> <p>hgac 222:21 225:12</p> <p>hi 27:19</p> <p>hidden 6:6 118:19</p> <p>high 34:4,12 35:2 90:3 202:18 203:11 203:19</p> <p>higher 33:11 113:9 150:20</p> <p>highlight 17:12 202:8 246:20</p> <p>highlighted 201:18</p>	<p>highly 201:19 208:4</p> <p>hills 37:8</p> <p>hiring 226:1</p> <p>historic 6:18</p> <p>historical 5:19 200:18</p> <p>historically 102:10</p> <p>history 94:3 99:3</p> <p>hit 223:15</p> <p>hiv 32:21 34:13 41:6,14</p> <p>hoa 214:9</p> <p>hold 148:8 149:15 186:20</p> <p>hole 96:8 245:9</p> <p>holistically 47:4</p> <p>home 55:7 134:18 177:19 233:15</p> <p>homeowners 213:12</p> <p>homes 43:3 74:13 75:6</p> <p>homicide 47:1</p> <p>honestly 149:5 182:10</p> <p>honesty 218:1</p> <p>honor 5:5 8:9 10:7,13 15:15 16:16 244:9</p> <p>hook 76:4 126:18,19</p> <p>hooking 126:19</p> <p>hoop 176:14</p> <p>hope 10:1 23:6 28:2 41:17 72:19 118:4</p>	<p>122:4,18 231:8 237:17 242:20</p> <p>hopefully 9:20 23:11 45:19 46:15 48:3 168:8 187:9 191:4 198:14 203:5 214:20 231:16 246:6 248:8</p> <p>hoping 43:2</p> <p>hopkins 142:20 240:5</p> <p>horton 222:19</p> <p>hospitalized 37:16,20</p> <p>host 44:15 122:7</p> <p>hosted 40:10</p> <p>hosting 18:1 19:4</p> <p>hot 146:3,5 245:8</p> <p>hotel 9:9</p> <p>houlihan 1:21 250:2,16</p> <p>hour 190:16 243:12 246:9</p> <p>hours 116:15 177:20</p> <p>house 49:16 149:19 176:20</p> <p>houses 71:3,5,6 117:13</p> <p>houston 223:1</p> <p>huge 231:21 232:6</p> <p>hughes 72:7,8 73:1 75:21 76:8 76:14,15,19 99:11,11</p>
---	--	--	---

<p>human 237:6 hundred 16:8 18:20 25:4,10 42:21 140:21 hundreds 118:3 hurricane 28:13 hyperlink 131:20</p>	<p>implementation 203:6 239:1 importance 17:14 38:10 important 33:19 40:15 43:17 44:19 45:12 47:3 79:10 119:2,5,14 123:19 133:9 141:17 157:11 157:17 167:10 175:14,21 206:18 208:6,10 importantly 80:14 117:9 139:12 241:3 imposed 113:5 impressed 14:20 21:8 impressive 13:13,21 improve 17:12 117:1 improvement 51:16 improvements 60:12 118:1 215:7,18 inaudible 159:10 177:21 180:9 184:11 185:17 220:16 220:20 incident 52:8 include 47:15 61:3 64:2 108:11 135:4 162:12 171:10 185:2,3 190:7</p>	<p>199:1 included 113:16 137:2 150:3 201:6 including 22:4 39:3 42:20 52:5 inclusive 208:4 incomes 119:8 inconsistencies 62:12 inconsistent 74:9 112:18 incorporate 5:21 127:2 incorporated 18:12 incorporates 5:17 incorporating 4:21 increase 78:12 104:14 232:7 increased 42:13 58:15 78:4 228:1 increasing 32:13 incredible 49:17 121:16 independence 24:17 indicated 98:17 indicates 160:11 indicating 100:18 individual 7:1 49:11 62:21 110:11 individually 95:13 204:3</p>	<p>individuals 24:17 35:4 53:18 72:2 242:4 industrial 141:3 industry 128:14 129:2 inexorable 83:8 infeasible 174:7 infected 30:13 33:12 34:11,14 infectious 202:15,18 infiltration 69:21 influence 240:16 information 17:20 19:5 50:13,14 53:15 54:6,18 87:15 90:21 152:12 187:8 190:20 207:12 217:14 228:21 240:1 243:18 informational 127:9 informed 28:21 33:6 infrastructure 127:12 200:10 201:8 204:9 initial 138:15 154:15 initials 12:1 injures 239:13 injuries 239:14 239:19 inmates 41:7,9</p>
i			
<p>idea 84:6 122:6 146:11 155:8 ideas 203:3 identical 74:18 identification 201:6 identified 39:5 74:13 156:5 158:8 201:17 illness 30:13 34:1 illnesses 31:6 imagine 49:5 imaging 17:11 immediate 58:5 58:19 243:3 immediately 240:12,20 243:2 immune 205:20 immunity 38:4 immunocompr... 32:10 impact 79:13 242:15 impacts 131:16 136:21 175:19 impediment 80:18 impervious 104:12,14</p>			

inn 9:8 input 64:8 111:5 116:2,6 168:7 207:10 208:5 248:1 inside 6:20 22:18 92:8 inspiration 12:9 inspiring 7:3 instance 36:12 institutional 122:8 instruction 211:18 insurance 43:19 44:2,3 insured 228:13 integrate 200:7 intense 83:14 205:13 intensive 100:8 interactive 131:21 134:18 interacts 45:5 interconnection 155:4 interest 17:15 52:16,19 73:10 111:7 143:5 148:6 150:5 167:8,11 interested 250:12 interesting 38:12 42:3 150:15 interior 73:14 internal 218:4 interrogated 250:4	intervention 42:5 interventions 43:14 introduce 56:1 59:13 61:8 116:20 186:7 188:2,5 211:14 220:3,10,12 222:5 223:9 introduced 56:12,15 67:9 94:11 106:3 185:13,14,16 189:19 211:13 211:15 220:6,14 229:17 232:16 233:20 introduction 50:21 56:9,10 57:17 81:10 173:9 211:8 223:13 introductions 59:6 inventory 204:6 invest 199:5 investigate 88:19 91:1 investing 24:8 investment 199:6 investments 85:14 involved 78:4 123:7 147:11,21 148:9 214:5 involves 175:16 irrigation 126:5 213:20	isolate 153:8 isolation 18:6 42:9 issuance 51:5 52:4,8 53:2 issue 73:3,8 85:10 87:11 90:2 111:12 117:5 143:3 166:13 174:9,19 issued 54:10 55:13 issues 38:7 41:2 45:20 55:9 85:13 90:10 166:11,17 176:9 243:7 item 222:17 items 190:8 202:20 203:10 222:11 j jail 49:13 january 36:7 61:6 120:17 223:16 jenny 204:18 jermaine 77:1 jerry 173:4,10 173:19 174:5 175:9 jess 189:15,15 job 13:20 23:3 23:18 50:13 188:4 196:20,20 205:6 207:5 209:2 235:21 247:7 john 122:21 123:1 154:19	162:3 165:4 john's 125:1 johns 142:20 240:4 join 16:9 joining 27:4 63:10 228:16 journal 118:11 judge 152:12 july 44:10 51:10 63:21 129:15 june 63:15 129:15 173:7,9 174:18 k k 119:16 karen 245:4 keep 2:15 28:5 28:18,19 35:19 57:13 66:8,9 81:19 92:10 102:13 138:3 159:21 178:5 179:6 198:6 205:19 215:3 keeping 66:11 178:7 key 158:3 kids 39:12,20 kind 30:14,18 38:2,2 54:1 68:1 94:11 139:13 145:9 156:3 168:12 180:5 182:1 230:10 kinds 208:19 kit 28:20 knew 55:2,12 87:11 151:16,17
--	---	--	--

<p>knock 32:5 136:11</p> <p>know 3:3,4,5,7 6:3 13:7 15:19 18:19 19:15 21:10 22:14 23:8 28:13,13 29:11 30:10,12 31:9 33:6,14,17 34:13,15,17,21 35:20 36:17 38:1 39:8,12,16 40:16 41:21 42:6,11,16 43:9 44:20 47:11,19 49:19 50:3,15 57:16 67:10 69:3,13,13 86:8 87:20 88:2 90:2 91:18 98:16 102:16 110:20 112:4 117:17 127:20 128:19 140:17 141:4,9 143:12,17 145:5 145:12 147:10 147:14 148:17 149:6,8 150:1,4 150:7,7,11 151:4 152:11 153:5 154:1,1,9 156:5 158:10 160:13 161:3,5 161:6,13,15 166:17 167:2 177:13,17 178:2 178:10 182:2,15 183:11 185:9 186:16 190:18 193:4 205:19,20</p>	<p>206:21 209:8,9 209:12,13,14 227:5 233:1 238:14 247:17</p> <p>knowing 29:1</p> <p>knowledge 24:20 50:8 73:4 94:21 120:21 226:13,21</p> <p>known 6:7 59:20</p> <p>knows 60:18 106:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <hr/> <p>la 32:9</p> <p>ladies 27:4</p> <p>lady 13:13 72:8 140:17</p> <p>laid 53:10</p> <p>land 70:11,16 92:15 93:15 97:17 103:19 105:17 112:3,12 114:7,17 116:16 116:17,18 117:13 118:7 119:16 124:21 125:3,17 131:6 131:10 132:20 133:12,13 135:20 136:2 137:10,13,15 138:10 142:4,9 167:6 168:18 186:19 189:4 194:12</p> <p>landing 67:19</p> <p>landowner 113:11,11 134:8 141:7</p>	<p>landowners 128:18 142:11</p> <p>lands 108:2 109:1 114:16 136:7</p> <p>landscape 131:6 131:9 158:6</p> <p>lane 53:7,10 54:17,20 57:9</p> <p>language 65:4,9 104:9 108:11 122:4 123:21 128:3 138:16 139:21 163:17 163:18 171:9 175:2 191:6 219:8</p> <p>large 106:19 108:16,20 109:10 124:15 124:16,19 126:8 133:3 134:11 136:3 137:4,16 141:3,21 156:2 156:7 158:3 188:16 189:5 191:8 192:13 193:9 219:6,8 219:11</p> <p>larger 107:5 109:20 112:3 113:9 127:6,6 142:11 144:17 145:8,9 166:16 170:12 176:12 181:19 183:4 188:14 191:7 193:8 200:14</p> <p>lastly 44:13 45:10</p>	<p>late 198:13</p> <p>lateness 190:15</p> <p>lauded 139:6</p> <p>laura 1:18</p> <p>law 51:10 74:9 76:1 100:3 115:15 116:14 119:15 144:20 149:18 155:14 155:14 213:8 226:3 250:4</p> <p>law's 119:15</p> <p>lawn 244:17</p> <p>laws 76:12</p> <p>lay 77:2,4,7,9 78:3,10,11</p> <p>laying 55:1</p> <p>layout 103:21</p> <p>lays 54:8 77:14 77:17 199:11</p> <p>lead 2:19 248:4</p> <p>leadership 12:15</p> <p>leaning 247:13</p> <p>learn 118:5 248:2</p> <p>learning 19:1 227:4</p> <p>leases 119:6,10 141:2</p> <p>leave 2:18 66:7 105:12 167:4 178:17</p> <p>leaves 140:7,8 159:14 232:8</p> <p>lecates 177:14 177:21 197:3,8 197:10,10 209:18 212:19 222:7,9 223:5,6 224:4 225:21</p>
--	---	--	--

229:1 230:16 231:4,7,12,15 231:18,21 232:5 232:15 233:12 233:16 234:1,5 235:9 236:1 left 16:14 42:21 63:3 72:5 78:9 78:19 100:14 101:16 105:7 120:3 132:10 leg 40:21 legal 65:14 248:12 legalese 192:19 legislation 81:11 108:3 153:16 229:2,18 lengthy 74:1 lesher 2:10 106:3 108:9 179:1 189:2 219:19 220:15 lesher's 148:11 191:16 192:1 lessen 204:4 letter 74:7 75:3 letters 77:8 150:2 level 13:2 151:20 229:10 levy 52:13,20 liaison 44:8 library 8:6,11 18:11 244:18 lieu 189:1 life 2:21 6:19 46:18 229:10,11 239:14,18	light 148:12 likelihood 113:21 limit 82:12 123:11 136:9 156:4 limitation 52:20 82:7,16 186:19 limitations 75:10 limited 98:5 170:5,7 172:9 limits 104:15 137:16 line 73:3 74:3,20 75:4,7,11 76:2 79:21 80:8 81:14 83:5,13 84:7,14 85:3,4 99:19,19 126:16 127:2,8 155:5 156:6 158:1 214:18 lines 117:21 126:19 132:14 132:16 141:1 142:17,18 157:20 158:19 166:12 172:11 liquors 83:11,19 list 133:16 listed 203:10 248:13 listening 140:16 little 7:5 11:18 20:18,19 23:4 29:20,21 39:18 53:11 95:20 107:3 109:14,17 109:18 117:20	125:14 134:19 136:6 155:21 191:6,9 247:15 live 38:3 47:13 77:2 204:10,13 243:5 lives 17:12 38:3 47:13 116:21 living 32:21 local 19:10 29:1 35:5 51:10,11 73:10 237:15 238:15 locally 29:12 35:11 42:7,12 43:4,7 46:16 203:16 locate 126:11 located 58:2 130:14 location 45:18 189:3 192:11,13 196:2 219:7 locations 6:11 10:3 42:20 log 6:20 long 21:6,14 36:15 49:16 94:3 100:21 103:13 143:1,4 177:13 190:5 205:1,12 206:17 229:19 241:9 243:15 246:8 longer 163:20 164:1 173:17 174:1 longest 185:10 look 8:20 15:20 23:13 27:12	28:14 29:3 49:18,19 50:6 80:2 112:9 125:5 131:21 134:17,19 142:16 149:7 150:13 152:16 158:7,14 165:12 176:16 186:5 205:8,12 226:2 226:8 looked 118:17 130:17 138:15 148:15 149:8 153:18 247:10 looking 46:18 70:2 91:3 101:10 160:10 202:5 looks 15:17 30:18 33:15 79:19 100:11 114:6 247:6 lord 26:9 lost 117:9 118:7 lot 2:6 10:5 11:8 11:14,18 16:1 21:15,17 23:10 29:9 32:7 34:8 37:1 40:7 42:8 50:4,13,15 65:4 65:5,6,12,13 76:14 90:4 111:6 123:6,9 123:20 140:8 141:14 142:14 165:17 172:5,7 172:12 190:19 199:15 203:21 208:5 232:19
---	---	--	---

240:8 241:21 242:3,4,17 243:17 lots 33:16 48:1 lou 63:10 love 83:12 208:7 low 33:8 40:17 66:18 201:12 203:13 lower 40:21 132:10 134:10 135:17 136:15 lumped 127:17 156:7 lynn 241:16	mail 178:8 mails 245:14 main 36:2 66:19 67:10 68:7,10 74:10,14 80:12 80:18 82:3,13 138:19 158:18 maintain 22:12 119:12 maintained 216:1 major 42:17 64:4 65:1,4 92:17 99:16 126:16 143:2 162:13 171:1 majority 45:5 147:16 making 13:2 102:8 109:5 112:13 137:5 229:20 males 32:19 malpf 106:21 107:10,14 109:12,20 123:15 139:21 139:21 140:2 146:12 189:6 194:17 managed 131:8 management 133:21 134:2 197:13,21 199:21 manager 16:8 99:2 103:10 222:3,10 226:17 235:20	manmade 202:14 manner 250:7 manpower 215:3 map 29:20 58:4 131:21 132:2,10 132:15 134:18 135:16,21 142:16 154:20 154:21 158:7 maps 140:7 156:16,21 market 68:2 marlboro 37:5 maryland 1:1,10 31:19 37:14,17 43:20 45:1 51:5 51:12,15 52:18 58:3 60:20 67:12 72:9 74:7 75:2 96:5 99:12 100:4,4 110:18 131:1 132:19 143:7 151:16 173:12 194:11 199:19,20 210:14 226:13 226:16 227:1 228:8,19 232:17 250:1,2 maryland's 228:8 massive 34:20 master 19:3 matching 107:6 109:19 material 128:8 math 172:2	matt 223:10,14 223:18,20 236:4 236:6 matter 18:1 55:19 73:4 85:3 85:5 250:7 matters 248:13 maturing 52:15 maximum 133:10 171:1 mcdaniel 173:12 173:16 mcwilliams 99:1 md 250:13 mde 61:5 216:16 meals 22:16 23:8 mean 69:6 83:18 89:17 97:10,11 97:18 125:11 178:10 181:19 183:13 185:3 208:1 210:17 216:11 meaning 12:17 means 113:5 178:7 250:7 meant 34:9 measles 40:18 measure 115:9 meat 199:8 201:10 meba 118:16 mechanism 139:8,11 media 242:18 medicaid 39:21 44:4,7 228:2,13 229:4,7 230:1,9 medical 25:14 44:12 45:6
m			
ma'am 59:8 76:20 153:13 168:15 maco 233:20 madam 24:2 26:12 51:1 53:4 56:21 57:17 58:8 60:3 61:10 61:18 66:12 67:3 92:11 105:13 168:11 178:6 184:4 194:10 196:6 209:21 212:6 218:8 221:12 224:14 227:11 234:15 248:20 maguire 27:17 27:19,21 28:2 28:10 46:8 47:6 48:13 50:11,12 50:17,19 55:6 198:3			

<p>49:11 240:4,13 medium 124:14 153:4,7 156:2 182:5,5 meet 39:12 104:1,2,3 155:7 226:2,7 meeting 1:4 2:9 22:15 43:4 90:19 110:21 111:1 131:2 137:5 157:1 159:15 162:13 162:18 164:5 178:13 179:9 180:1,3,17,21 190:6 248:6,14 248:16 249:9 meetings 73:16 88:7 116:1 162:10 179:5 204:14 megawatt 156:4 megawatts 124:20 125:2,7 155:15,19 157:13 member 5:6 43:10 99:12 237:5 244:9 members 1:14 9:18 15:15 16:12 17:15,20 17:21 18:18,21 19:13,19 24:8 26:5 64:12 79:3 84:20 96:13 110:16 130:19 189:20</p>	<p>memory 19:2,4 men 32:16,16,17 mental 40:1 42:1 42:6 43:8,13 46:14,16,19 47:3 49:4,12 mention 74:19 235:6 mentioned 41:3 41:21 46:12 64:20 70:5,7,18 76:11 123:10 124:8 126:10 155:20 171:6 245:18 merchant 237:15 messick 204:18 met 194:15 metering 155:13 methods 33:4 michael's 21:12 78:5 83:5,10,20 microphone 5:10 102:1 mid 43:20 238:17 midnight 248:9 midshore 31:21 midstream 161:14,15 migration 225:16 226:20 mile 114:13 miles 73:13,14 224:7 milhollan 5:5 million 60:11 96:12</p>	<p>millions 118:3 mills 66:18 74:12 213:4,9 213:12 216:9 mind 8:20 27:4 28:5,19 92:2 102:18 130:11 185:9 190:15 mine 128:2 minimum 109:15 135:2 172:5,7 minor 170:20 minute 65:6 101:16 116:9 minutes 3:21 4:1 4:3,4 62:21 63:1 72:2,3,18 81:15 95:13,14,21 110:10,11 135:6 mission 225:9 226:14 mistake 99:21 100:12,13 mitigate 128:5 mitigated 206:2 mitigation 197:6 198:7,9,15 199:5,15 201:11 201:14 203:18 203:19 204:8 208:8,17 210:12 mixed 77:13 mobile 40:10 41:3,18 mobilizing 24:12 moderna 36:3 modification 92:17 97:19</p>	<p>98:1 104:5 modifications 102:5,13 modified 98:7 modify 97:15 104:21 184:20 modifying 60:8 modules 125:9 moment 207:21 moments 246:1 money 10:7 109:10 116:16 119:8 208:12,13 230:10 234:4 monkeypox 29:7 33:15 34:11 35:10 47:17 month 17:9 24:5 25:18 28:11 37:19 59:9 164:14 167:3 198:4,14 245:2 months 35:17 36:14 38:1 41:8 43:9 44:10 69:7 69:9,10 94:4 116:1 123:8 129:11 164:1,2 164:7 204:11 223:11 237:8 moran 160:13 245:5 moratorium 111:2 120:20 121:7 122:1,18 129:6,17,18 130:2 138:17,18 138:20 139:10 147:18 160:6,8 164:10 165:10</p>
---	--	---	--

166:2 morris 28:1 185:17 189:16 mosaic 9:16 motion 26:13 56:7,20 183:6 183:12,14,17 184:5 185:7 193:17 196:5,7 210:4 211:4 212:7 214:13,16 216:7 218:6 220:2 221:1,3,6 221:10,11 224:10,12 227:7 227:9 234:6,13 248:15,18 moton 9:11 mounted 6:16 mouth 30:20 move 55:4 56:18 61:17 68:12 91:8 92:12 123:18 124:3 126:20 150:9 159:20 162:8 163:9,11 168:11 174:7 184:5 193:5 194:6,8 196:3,7 199:17 203:6 212:2,7 moved 26:10 55:20 59:8 165:1,6 195:16 224:3 248:17 moves 3:19 4:4 4:11 153:6 moving 16:3 56:4,21 59:2 124:5,6 163:14	mud 205:15 multiple 76:10 80:20 multiples 174:21 municipalities 200:1 mural 9:10 museum 9:21 10:4 musical 19:9 mutations 30:7 mute 166:3 mutually 118:6 n name 4:19 6:21 84:21 106:5 115:14 130:10 140:12 143:14 144:19 197:20 204:15 236:8 named 75:6 250:3 narrative 147:5 nation 205:10 national 17:8,9 18:14 143:2 198:4 nationally 42:7 native 12:18 29:15 natural 134:4 198:21 201:15 205:20 206:2 208:17 nature 71:13 104:8 128:10 navigate 167:5 navigators 44:2 near 55:11 141:1 142:18	nearly 96:20 necessarily 71:17 157:2 229:13 necessary 52:14 68:14 necessitated 100:19 neck 73:14 75:1 96:7 158:15 need 3:5 28:8 29:4 33:4 42:4 43:14 47:5 50:3 54:17 55:3,7 65:6 70:6,14 71:17 94:7 111:20 115:1,7 130:7 139:7 148:19 151:9 161:15 164:4,5 165:18 171:1 183:5,12 184:19 184:19 186:7 189:11 190:13 191:18 193:16 199:15 211:12 211:15 215:19 216:2 217:10 221:11 227:5 236:16 needed 10:10 43:1 155:16 178:11 215:5 needs 53:12 54:11 70:12 97:9 111:9 128:9 151:10 189:17 199:12 226:8	nefarious 211:1 negotiated 141:15 negotiations 215:9,10 neighborhood 100:15 175:20 214:8 neighbors 175:16 net 51:17 155:13 never 29:19 74:19 97:6 141:21 142:5 206:6 208:5 223:11 new 17:15 30:9 35:18,21 36:3 37:15,18 38:9 40:20 43:2 55:3 55:7,11 60:10 74:2 100:17 117:21 139:15 163:18 165:11 165:11 192:10 192:16 193:6 200:4 202:12 203:3 219:10 223:10,10 224:5 224:13 235:10 247:9 newly 17:3 news 28:15 35:10,18 40:19 nice 12:4 13:9 47:10,14 207:13 night 20:18 22:5 116:10 177:13 185:10 241:10 243:21
--	--	---	--

nilly 100:16	110:20 111:8	180:8,10,17,21	71:19,20,21
nine 37:18 82:2	112:1,2,4,8,21	238:21 239:3	78:16 84:19
225:15 226:19	113:9,10 114:12	240:10	91:12,15,15,17
ninety 32:18	115:6,7 116:4,5	offer 20:15 41:6	92:20 94:8 95:8
non 17:21	116:8 120:14	144:6 186:18	95:11 99:5,7,9
nonconforming	121:19 122:15	237:4,9,19	101:14 105:2,6
92:18 93:17,21	132:10,11	238:9,18,21	105:11,19 106:8
94:18 97:12,16	135:17 136:18	offered 25:2	106:14 109:2
102:3 168:20	137:3 154:2,3	88:1 141:3	110:2,5,8
169:16,16 170:1	156:12 168:16	offering 37:4,7,9	115:10,11
170:3,5,8,11,16	176:7 182:17,19	45:13,17	119:21 120:1,3
174:13	182:21 187:17	offers 36:18	130:4,5 137:21
nonprofit	188:11 191:20	107:16 109:21	138:2,6 140:10
241:20	219:4 246:16	112:13	147:4,14 152:10
nope 167:21	numbered 57:17	office 8:17 10:15	154:11,13 159:7
normal 38:3	numbers 191:6	34:3 39:2 213:8	159:13,18
242:21	numerous 64:9	officer 239:7	164:19 165:20
normally 30:1	nurse 38:21	offices 44:18	166:7 167:18
246:15	nurses 38:13	official 52:12	168:1,2,10,15
north 110:17	40:3	75:14	169:1,5,8,13
156:19	nutrients 131:8	officially 42:18	171:21 172:5,13
notary 250:2,17	o	offset 106:20	172:15,19
note 111:11	o'clock 19:6	109:4,8	176:14 177:7
133:9 158:11	oak 66:20 67:11	oh 138:8 143:16	178:4 179:4,16
175:13 244:4	67:17,18 73:2	185:14 192:8	182:4 184:4
noted 248:16	74:1 85:4	206:20 210:6	185:18 190:18
notes 204:13	obligation 51:6	211:9,14 220:5	191:11,12
250:6	obtain 44:7	okay 2:4 3:12,14	193:11,12,20
notice 52:6	obviously 54:5	3:18,20 4:3,10	194:9 196:6,17
175:16 186:12	70:14 90:17	4:12 16:3 23:16	196:20 209:20
190:5,11	149:11,17	24:2 26:12	210:15 212:16
notion 117:15	156:16 186:11	27:16 46:5	213:1,21 214:15
notorial 250:13	208:2	50:20 53:4	217:3,7,20
november 43:19	occupy 219:14	54:16,16 56:6	218:6 219:16
45:16 74:7,17	occurred 32:9	56:11,20 57:16	220:2,10 224:12
129:13	158:7 201:21	59:3,11,16 60:3	227:9 235:4,21
number 51:8	occurring 32:18	61:7,9,15,16	236:19 237:20
59:21 61:11,12	october 44:17	62:2,18 64:15	238:1 241:6,13
65:5 66:14,15	60:1 61:14	64:18 66:1,6	241:16
92:13 105:15	159:12 162:21	67:4 68:20	

<p>old 9:11 36:4,5 96:6 97:1,12 115:18</p> <p>older 17:13 24:7 24:13,17 25:4 25:13 26:5 36:10</p> <p>oldest 20:8 96:2 96:4</p> <p>once 5:14 7:15 8:13,19 9:21 81:2 108:6 230:19,21</p> <p>ones 37:8 73:18 76:11 166:12 201:18,18</p> <p>ongoing 34:21</p> <p>online 64:21</p> <p>onset 63:19</p> <p>open 2:8,15,18 18:5 43:19,21 43:21 57:14 62:20 66:7,9,9 66:11 70:12 72:1 73:14 92:10 95:12 101:3 105:12 110:9 138:3 160:1 172:17 178:5,7,18 179:6 248:10</p> <p>opened 208:11</p> <p>opening 83:7 242:21</p> <p>opens 208:18</p> <p>opinion 158:10 215:21</p> <p>opportunities 19:1</p>	<p>opportunity 17:10 223:9,12 245:12</p> <p>oppose 73:6 111:8 120:12 122:15</p> <p>opposed 157:2</p> <p>opposing 115:5</p> <p>opposition 77:10 85:1</p> <p>optimal 155:16</p> <p>option 86:9,20 119:7 142:11</p> <p>options 88:19,19 122:14</p> <p>orange 29:21</p> <p>order 53:13 76:4 79:20 82:13,18 126:18 134:9 155:18 192:8 199:14,16 215:6</p> <p>ordinance 97:7 98:5 99:17 100:14 153:18 192:7</p> <p>original 76:2 106:1 171:12 176:18</p> <p>originally 72:14 94:10 106:17 171:10</p> <p>originates 112:5</p> <p>ounce 237:14</p> <p>ounces 237:21</p> <p>outbreak 31:18</p> <p>outcome 250:12</p> <p>outlined 54:3 162:11</p> <p>output 247:4</p>	<p>outreach 201:1 204:1,6</p> <p>outright 151:6</p> <p>outset 79:15</p> <p>outside 14:15 91:18,20 132:17</p> <p>outstanding 26:2</p> <p>outweighing 240:6</p> <p>overarching 204:5 214:19</p> <p>overlay 166:13</p> <p>overly 140:8,18 140:18</p> <p>oversight 97:8</p> <p>overturned 151:1</p> <p>overview 29:7 45:20 58:10 200:2</p> <p>owe 230:9</p> <p>owned 67:14 68:1,6 71:6 96:14</p> <p>owners 213:4,8</p> <p>ownership 119:12</p> <p>oxford 58:3,6,14 60:12</p> <p>oyster 176:19</p>	<p>26:10,15,16 27:2,3 43:10 46:7,8 54:19 55:17 56:2,4,12 56:14 57:7,8 59:13,15 64:17 81:16 91:14 95:7,21 109:4 110:2,3,4 127:18,20 129:4 129:6,12 130:4 137:18,20 143:20 144:2 146:6 156:9,13 159:10 160:2,3 160:4,18 161:10 163:2 164:15,18 166:2,6 181:2,8 181:14 183:6,9 183:11,16,19 184:12,15,18 185:4,9 190:14 190:21 191:3,11 191:13,21 192:8 192:18 193:11 193:15,18 195:17 196:15 196:16 205:5,6 206:13 207:18 210:16,19 211:7 211:12,17,21 212:14,15 214:16 217:8,20 218:2,5,16,17 219:18 220:4,6 220:11 221:3,8 221:9,20,21 222:4,12 224:11 225:1,2 227:19 227:20 235:2,3</p>
		p	
		<p>p.m. 1:7 18:4 60:2 61:14 248:7,11 249:9</p> <p>pack 1:17 8:20 9:3 11:7,10 12:4 14:5,6,7,9 15:4 20:4,5 21:2,5,19 23:21 24:1</p>	

<p>237:20 244:2,3 246:19 249:7,8 packet 195:10 195:21 packets 131:19 page 41:20 72:18,20 118:10 134:21 pages 7:13 paid 53:19 229:9 229:12 230:4 232:2 painful 31:3 painting 22:18 palm 228:18 pandemic 18:3 25:9 42:10 49:4 63:20 panel 18:2,7 panels 118:14,18 125:4,15 parade 244:13 paragraph 53:11 paralysis 40:21 parcel 58:4,14 80:12,17 100:17 114:19 125:12 126:13 144:16 182:3 183:1,2,3 189:4 219:12 parcel's 219:15 parcels 67:13,15 67:20 80:20 81:7 84:7 123:17 133:1,2 135:16,17 136:7 136:12,15 158:8 158:14 166:16 187:3,12 188:14</p>	<p>191:7 193:8 195:19 pardon 180:13 parents 13:7 park 14:13 71:12 parker 95:15,17 95:17 99:8 101:15 102:2 103:9,12 104:13 105:3 parking 17:3 21:15,17 parks 11:2 part 20:13 59:5 59:10 69:19 74:20 77:8 104:3 144:17 147:17 199:12 204:2 216:14,16 245:1 247:12 partially 114:17 114:18 participate 18:21 107:2 109:15 122:17 155:12 participated 110:21 121:9 232:17 242:11 participating 46:14 232:20 particular 79:5 particularly 106:19 parties 214:5 250:11,11 partly 42:6 103:20</p>	<p>partner 17:19 partnered 238:15 partnering 41:5 49:21 partners 17:16 25:11 203:15 207:11 225:9 226:14 pass 84:2 161:2 passage 84:3 passed 3:1 74:16 99:15 138:20 148:14 160:15 229:2,18 passes 80:12 passing 73:10 passive 70:13 passport 7:9,13 7:15 8:13,16 10:18 patently 117:16 patience 168:8 177:12 patient 230:1 patiently 121:8 patients 42:21 43:6 228:3,13 230:7,8,9 patrick 186:2 194:2 pause 139:2 paves 97:19 pay 151:7 229:13 231:19 payment 52:15 52:19 53:2 109:8 228:9 payments 106:21 109:5</p>	<p>123:16 payroll 96:12 pays 229:7 pcg 228:14,20 234:7 pemberton 37:8 pen 6:20 penalizes 116:21 pending 129:7 161:5 peninsula 96:3 pension 119:17 people 3:6 5:10 6:8,21 7:10 8:1 8:12 9:14 10:19 20:10 21:16,21 22:1,17 25:13 30:8,13,16,17 32:20 33:1,11 33:13 34:4,13 34:19 37:16,19 38:15 42:14 43:12 44:1,3,6 47:4,21 48:4 49:6,16 50:14 50:15 57:12 75:10 86:2 91:19,21 115:2 139:5 142:14 150:19,21 187:15 191:5 204:18 205:19 206:19 233:14 242:17 247:2 people's 35:13 103:4 perceived 240:6 percent 30:17 32:18,20 39:21 40:2 49:3</p>
---	---	---	---

107:11 125:21 126:2 142:9 145:8,9,11,11 147:15 154:4,6 154:6 167:6 170:6,7,10,13 170:17 171:11 174:2,3,6,11 175:4 181:21 182:19,20,20 187:1,4,14,15 188:15,19,20 191:8 193:10 219:14 228:15 232:13 percentage 145:6 147:13 151:8 166:15 181:19 182:2,16 186:19 perennial 104:17 perfect 15:12 16:2 23:16 48:21 212:18 perfectly 76:1 performances 19:10 performers 19:11 period 117:11 190:10 periods 205:12 perk 86:18 89:15 permanent 113:6 114:15 permanently 239:14	permission 97:21 104:19 permit 165:8 permits 122:7 permitted 97:5 100:21 101:19 102:8 103:15 117:18 173:18 174:1 perpetuity 107:17 person 11:19 31:8,8 35:8 personal 31:4 personalized 7:21 12:2 personally 141:21 143:3 145:13 148:16 250:3 personnel 248:13 perspective 121:17 pets 44:20 pfizer 36:2 pharmacies 37:6 phase 201:2 203:6 phenomenal 223:17 philanthropists 238:16 phone 15:19 48:1 245:14 pick 8:1,12,14 8:16 178:9 picked 70:10 pickle 103:6,7 103:16	picture 6:13 11:18 15:7,8 piece 8:1 11:20 53:12 68:5 75:18 119:1 152:19 piggyback 14:9 pillars 200:4,6,6 200:8 pimples 30:19 pin 67:21 71:4 83:11 pipe 73:20 83:8 83:19 pipeline 163:4 163:21 place 11:3 16:4 18:19 19:21 20:11 22:1 25:3 25:10 35:17 37:9 46:16 47:20 79:9 80:5 108:21 120:20 122:1 129:7,19 139:10 166:3 205:17 206:19 207:1 215:5 216:2 231:6 244:6,12,21 246:14 247:5 250:4 placed 75:10 139:16 places 7:12 35:12 101:5 149:11,12 placing 9:12 plan 28:20 46:4 46:16 54:13 58:1 59:7 60:8	61:1,3 73:11 76:6 77:19 81:5 81:12 82:1,5,18 83:2 91:5 94:5 99:15,20 100:17 100:18 103:13 121:6 129:1 137:7 162:9,14 165:15 170:20 171:1 197:6 198:9,10,15,20 199:9,14,16,18 200:3,5,7,16,17 201:10 202:13 202:13 204:6 208:9,17,18 210:3,3,13,16 210:21 212:7,17 214:19 216:14 216:17 planned 44:16 206:3 244:21 planner 169:12 194:13 planning 14:16 51:20 58:17 64:8 72:10,12 72:15 74:8 75:3 75:14,15 76:9 78:1 93:9 94:14 98:18 99:13,14 99:16 106:7 111:1,5,13,17 116:7 121:2,9 145:20 146:20 147:21 148:9,12 148:14,17 151:11,17,20 152:6,13 153:17 159:1 162:2,6
--	---	---	--

162:14,19 164:5 171:7,17 175:2 175:4 179:11,21 180:2,12,15,17 180:20 181:4 182:12,17 183:8 183:12,20 184:6 185:1 186:4,13 187:5,19 190:1 194:14,20 198:10,11,12 199:11,12 200:11,12,13,14 201:3 203:12 204:19 219:21 221:7 246:14 plans 119:15 200:7 205:17 206:17 208:15 plant 73:12 141:12 213:19 plants 70:5 plate 48:10 platted 88:12 play 98:6 136:6 245:8 played 238:12 playing 20:17 22:18,19 plea 84:2 plead 177:3 please 3:10 24:3 26:14 57:19 62:3 75:15 92:12 93:4 102:1 121:19 173:6,10 184:7 234:16 236:18 240:11	pleased 238:7 pleases 15:5 pleasure 16:17 22:10 pledge 3:11 pledged 52:18 plug 182:16 pocket 141:2 point 27:12 35:20 53:21 54:5 58:3,14 61:2 71:11 91:7 119:5 141:19 142:19 143:9 157:8,18 165:16 165:19 198:15 203:17 207:2 208:3 213:14 240:3 241:12 246:17 points 85:2,8 112:2,21 113:2 113:10,13,17,18 114:12 133:11 134:5,13 polarizing 242:19 policies 66:17 158:13 policy 85:5,7,13 133:11 135:4 polio 40:18,20 politics 73:10 242:7 243:1 ponds 69:21 pool 96:19 103:8 poorly 216:1 population 20:9 34:14	populations 20:8 portion 98:11 230:11,13 portrait 7:3 9:19 pos 70:10,11,16 position 106:5 130:11 positive 17:11 242:6 positivity 242:11 possession 215:13 possible 17:7 78:14 97:11 98:1 162:20 189:18 226:10 possibly 10:2 89:20 215:17 potential 70:1 71:8 74:15 139:13 166:14 239:16 potentially 34:17 109:21 124:7 126:11 128:18 power 52:17 125:2 126:16,16 126:20 127:3 141:1 142:17,18 powerpoint 132:3 pox 40:18 practice 62:13 practices 112:15 133:18,20,21 134:2,9 pray 206:6	prayer 2:20 3:8 3:10,11,13 245:18 precedent 79:8 preclude 144:21 predominantly 32:15 preemption 157:6 preferable 131:6 preference 66:6 112:19 preferences 158:13 preferred 131:10 preliminary 52:11 premature 79:6 83:3 115:6 preparation 52:11 prepared 38:18 204:3 preparedness 28:11 198:4 prephased 127:3 preregister 35:4 prescribing 52:2 52:6 presence 250:9 present 8:12 17:2 200:18 presentation 4:14 11:8 16:4 18:17 20:9 27:5 46:9 48:17 132:3 177:16 194:11 205:2
---	---	--	---

<p>presentations 14:12 190:16</p> <p>presented 75:13 171:6 217:14 218:8</p> <p>presently 80:5</p> <p>preservation 79:3 108:1 112:12,13 123:17 132:20 133:14 134:7 194:12,21</p> <p>preserve 113:2 137:6 213:9,12</p> <p>preserved 113:1 113:4 136:11</p> <p>preserves 213:3 216:15</p> <p>preserving 107:18 133:12 145:2 147:16 148:6,20</p> <p>president 2:10 84:20 95:15 110:15 115:13 119:20 166:9 235:19</p> <p>presidents 152:6</p> <p>pressure 41:16 66:19 83:8,14 240:16</p> <p>presumably 136:10</p> <p>presumptions 117:5</p> <p>pretend 182:3</p> <p>pretending 101:5</p> <p>prettier 191:10</p>	<p>pretty 54:7 80:3 126:17 146:9 165:13 183:1 219:17 237:15</p> <p>prevent 33:12 36:9 131:8</p> <p>prevented 242:3</p> <p>prevention 18:14 33:4</p> <p>preventive 39:15</p> <p>previous 38:1 85:6 134:16 135:12 202:13 203:1</p> <p>previously 169:17 217:1 239:7</p> <p>price 1:18 12:7,8 14:10 15:17 21:3,4,20 26:11 26:21 27:1 47:7 47:8 48:14 55:21 56:3,8,13 56:19 57:5,6 59:5,11 64:19 66:2,10 69:1,3,6 69:11 70:4,9 71:7,14,17 76:19 78:17 81:18 84:18 86:15 89:15 91:21 92:7 101:21 102:15 102:16 103:10 104:9 105:1,4 110:5 124:12,14 125:4,11,16,19 126:14 127:9 129:14,17,21</p>	<p>138:4 144:3,5 144:13 146:4,8 146:15,17 147:4 150:15 152:17 153:2,8,11 154:3,8,14 159:8,13 160:20 161:8,11 163:20 164:13 166:14 172:1,5,13 174:19 177:14 177:19 178:16 179:4,8,17 181:15 183:10 184:3 185:12,21 186:11,21 188:3 188:14,20 189:10,14,19 190:12,14,18 191:1,4,17 193:14 196:13 196:14 206:14 206:15 207:5,16 211:5,9 212:12 212:13 217:5,6 218:14,15 219:17 220:5,7 220:10,13 221:5 221:9,18,19 222:5,13 223:20 224:20,21 227:8 227:17,18 230:14,18 231:5 231:8,13,16,19 232:4,10 233:7 233:13,18 234:2 234:9,12,21 235:1,15 236:3 236:14,15,16 237:20 241:8,14</p>	<p>243:11,12,17 247:13 248:17 249:5,6</p> <p>price's 157:4 192:16</p> <p>primary 36:11</p> <p>prime 109:1 118:20 137:6,16 138:21 139:9 140:6 148:6,20 152:4</p> <p>principal 51:7 52:15,19</p> <p>principles 77:19</p> <p>printed 250:6</p> <p>prior 162:20</p> <p>prioritization 203:4</p> <p>priority 58:5,19 137:5,9 165:9</p> <p>private 11:2 18:8 52:5 83:16</p> <p>probably 13:17 102:20 112:18 141:12 185:10 187:11 215:20</p> <p>problem 16:10 47:6 49:20 69:19 179:18 185:20 186:12 190:9 197:4,4 238:11</p> <p>problems 39:9 69:18 149:21</p> <p>procedural 111:12</p> <p>procedure 61:21 62:7 63:14 64:1 64:14 143:10 183:11</p>
--	---	---	--

<p>procedures 62:9 63:17 64:3 65:2</p> <p>proceed 61:5 121:14 160:8</p> <p>proceedings 2:1</p> <p>proceeds 51:17 52:10</p> <p>process 63:18 64:7,20 88:16 89:1,13 121:1,6 122:16 123:4 124:2 139:4,6 161:16,16 162:10 163:15 163:21 174:15 175:12,14,15 176:7,10,15 198:11,12 199:11,12 200:11 201:3 203:4 204:11,20 205:1 208:4 213:16</p> <p>proclamation 24:1,3,4 27:6</p> <p>procure 225:13 228:5</p> <p>product 111:4</p> <p>production 143:6</p> <p>productivity 133:15</p> <p>professional 192:19</p> <p>professionalism 209:9</p> <p>professionals 240:14</p> <p>profile 201:7</p>	<p>profit 229:20</p> <p>program 12:13 19:4,5 20:17 21:16 23:8 38:11,20 106:21 107:6,10 109:13 109:16,18 134:7 139:21 142:21 146:12 155:13 194:17 195:4,5 228:9,11 229:1 230:21 232:15 232:20 233:5,13</p> <p>programs 19:18 24:15 25:2 85:14</p> <p>prohibit 80:6 122:10</p> <p>prohibited 133:3 137:1 192:14 219:9</p> <p>prohibition 69:21 122:12</p> <p>project 4:15,20 5:4,15,16,21 6:1 6:10 7:21 8:4,12 10:9,14 12:16 16:15 17:4 55:14 60:9,10 60:16 61:4 71:19 79:11,12 83:1,4 84:4,8,9 117:18 120:16 121:15 122:2,19 124:16 125:1 126:21 128:13 128:14,20 141:8 142:1,10,13,14 142:18 153:6 155:14,18 157:9</p>	<p>162:20 163:11 165:16 197:12 197:16 204:10</p> <p>projects 14:13 14:21 21:9 54:21 118:1,2 121:20 122:6 123:17 127:6 141:3 152:9 155:12,12 157:13 160:7 163:3 203:1,5,7 203:13,18</p> <p>promote 17:11 19:12</p> <p>promoting 208:7</p> <p>prompt 52:15</p> <p>properties 68:4 68:5,13 70:4,21 80:17 97:1 108:2,11,15 123:12 154:21 155:2,8 172:9 196:1,8</p> <p>property 11:4 58:2 68:6 69:4 70:9,15,19 71:2 71:6 80:10,11 80:13,16 82:5 82:14 96:14,18 96:20,20 102:7 113:13,21 114:14 126:1,2 128:20 140:20 145:1 181:19 189:8 193:10 213:4,8 215:13 219:13</p> <p>proposal 79:16 79:19 81:2,13</p>	<p>131:14 176:2 225:10</p> <p>propose 89:14 122:3,5 173:20 174:2,14 175:10 187:12 191:1</p> <p>proposed 68:11 80:12 81:4,21 82:5 106:2 108:10,13 109:10 113:8 121:21 124:3 163:9 165:15 173:7 174:9 175:1 178:18 189:2 191:16 192:10 193:7 219:12</p> <p>proposing 68:18 108:16 237:3</p> <p>proposition 77:17</p> <p>props 236:13 241:12</p> <p>pros 84:9</p> <p>prospective 17:15</p> <p>protect 104:16 134:3 137:10 138:21 140:15</p> <p>protecting 140:5 141:16 152:4 209:12</p> <p>protection 36:19 81:9 82:1 113:6 114:2</p> <p>protective 107:17</p> <p>proud 13:7 208:1 209:3</p>
--	---	--	---

<p>247:11,11 prove 175:17 provide 18:16 82:13 92:16 119:6 171:7 187:8 231:17 provided 94:14 190:6 239:16 provider 33:20 42:16 providers 33:3 42:12 provides 17:10 112:21 193:8 providing 52:9 52:13,16 provision 189:21 provisions 67:1 74:18 proximity 157:19,21 166:12 psc 151:1,4 psychological 42:19 public 2:14 29:13,16 33:5,7 38:17 45:14,17 51:10,16,19 52:1,5 55:3 57:13,14 59:17 59:21 60:19 61:13,17 62:20 72:1 73:10,16 74:2 85:11,13 86:7 87:8,20 88:6,18 90:20 92:10 95:12 109:3 110:10</p>	<p>127:20 130:21 131:12 133:8 139:13 142:12 145:7 146:6 147:2 148:8,21 149:16 150:17 152:8,15 157:5 157:12,15 158:4 160:19 161:20 162:13 165:2 169:6 175:15 181:4 183:21 184:6 190:5,10 200:13,20,21 202:1,19 204:12 208:20 210:17 211:1 213:2 214:14,18 216:8 216:18 217:12 217:18 218:7 219:21 228:5 236:7 238:15 240:19 243:15 246:12 247:14 247:16 248:2 250:2,17 publicity 15:9 publicly 132:4 published 75:18 pull 121:13 206:9 pullen 75:13,16 pulling 188:6 pulls 134:21 pump 66:20 67:11,16,17 73:21 purchase 53:18 222:19 223:4 224:13 225:18</p>	<p>235:14 purchased 40:12 purchasing 223:2 225:13 purports 82:18 117:7 purpose 51:19 58:1 60:8 66:20 76:2 102:18 115:1 201:10 219:5 purposes 127:10 216:3 pursuant 51:8 pursue 88:14 91:7 122:19 pursued 86:9 push 88:8 put 7:6,11 10:19 12:3 28:19 39:18 46:15,15 55:9 69:15 71:12 76:16 78:8 83:7 90:7 103:18 108:21 128:20 132:2 145:14 146:2,4 148:21 150:19 206:5 244:19 puts 84:13 175:16 putting 83:5 245:5</p>	<p>quarterly 59:6 59:10 question 12:9 71:10 86:21 87:5 92:4 103:17 111:21 127:18,21 133:5 138:4 144:3,10 144:14 145:21 146:9 150:11 189:16 217:8 237:18 questions 11:6 35:13 64:16 69:1 91:12 95:6 98:21 99:3 105:5 109:3 111:19 157:5 quick 35:9 85:2 125:10 199:4 200:2 quickly 30:12 67:8 quite 14:20 33:8 117:17 149:5 190:17 205:11 quote 7:2 74:10</p>
			r
			<p>rabies 44:15,21 44:21 45:9 raccoon 45:6 raccoons 45:4,9 racket 103:12 104:7 radius 114:13,13 114:18 rails 9:10 rain 205:14 raise 10:6 27:11 56:3 59:13</p>

<p>211:19 230:14 230:17 raised 90:14 115:17 174:19 229:8 233:2 ran 247:7 range 103:13 206:17 239:10 rank 108:18 133:1 ranked 107:13 ranking 108:11 112:12 ranks 223:15 rare 29:14 rash 30:18 31:1 33:14,18,21 rated 201:19,20 202:18 203:11 rates 39:20 40:17 rattle 143:10 ray 85:12 rc 92:19 93:18 96:19 97:17 100:1,1 101:20 102:4,8 103:19 104:15 169:18 192:14 219:9 reach 208:14 reaching 34:15 read 24:1,3 39:19 61:19 66:13 75:15 82:11 105:14 113:3 118:13 141:13,18 210:5 210:5,7,8 219:11 222:15</p>	<p>reading 59:15 136:19 189:14 211:3 ready 66:7 169:6 184:1 196:21,21 ready.gov 29:2 real 12:4 58:2 123:12 125:10 141:9 219:13 248:12 realities 240:5 reality 206:8 238:13 realize 243:4 really 3:8,13 12:10,14,16 13:21 19:14 22:1 23:3,13 30:18 31:7,9 33:1 34:9 35:10 36:8 37:10 38:5 42:8,13 43:11 48:5,11 68:9 73:13 79:17 81:20 85:10 90:6 95:3 98:8 100:20 110:19 123:10,19,20,21 124:2 128:14 134:2 135:4 136:1 138:19 139:6 140:8 141:19 142:17 146:11 147:5 151:4 159:19 168:6 176:6 182:9 189:10 204:1 207:9 208:10 209:10 209:12,16 231:6</p>	<p>241:8 247:9,11 247:11 reason 29:16 86:14,14 139:9 reasonable 174:16 reasons 76:10 79:10 227:2 reassuring 47:21 rebuild 215:21 recall 72:10 87:12 173:6,10 recap 120:15 receivable 233:3 receive 43:13 58:21 110:1 162:4 163:15 199:17 228:15 239:11 received 37:3 58:13 60:15 90:21 111:5 152:13 195:7 245:13,14 receiving 111:16 165:8 recess 169:4 recipients 44:12 reclaim 25:17 reclassified 173:15 reclassifying 58:1 recognize 25:19 recognizing 26:2 recommend 195:9 recommendati... 94:15 111:17</p>	<p>121:2 148:13 162:5 171:8 179:13 194:18 194:19,20 195:1 195:12 recommended 72:14 98:17,19 111:14 158:21 reconvene 248:16 record 75:17 76:16 77:4 101:13 156:19 160:4 165:6 173:3 190:13 210:19 222:6 recorded 250:6 records 48:21 recoup 234:4 recreation 11:2 rectify 138:14 red 134:20 redeem 53:20 redeemed 53:19 redman 4:17,19 4:19 5:14 9:2,6 11:9,12 12:5,20 13:3,15,19 15:3 15:10,19 244:8 reduce 18:16 113:20 198:16 208:19 reengage 18:3 refer 39:7 41:10 180:21 181:18 182:14 reference 28:8 81:7 114:11 132:21</p>
--	---	---	--

referenced 75:13 145:17 references 139:20 referral 179:21 referred 35:5 180:16 refinancing 51:19 reflection 200:15 refusing 233:14 regarding 105:18 128:4 168:19 219:7 regardless 243:5 regards 108:4 regular 129:3 regulations 108:3 165:11 regulatory 115:1,9 reimbursement 228:2 reimbursements 228:15 reiterate 21:4 160:5 176:5 243:8 relate 85:8 related 250:11 relates 169:15 relating 53:1 relatively 122:8 173:20 174:4,12 relevance 5:19 6:18 remain 32:6 128:4	remaining 101:15 136:12 136:14,14 remapping 58:2 remaps 82:5 remember 20:19 135:19 144:19 remembering 246:10 remembrance 245:13 246:4 remind 40:15 45:11 75:9 reminder 57:12 242:16 reminders 43:18 45:19 removal 108:5 128:1,8,8 remove 79:20 134:8,12 removed 123:11 123:14 128:9 removing 128:11 renewable 131:1 131:3 renovation 51:20 rentals 101:6 repair 215:19 repeatedly 74:2 repeating 77:16 replace 70:10,16 225:6 replacement 51:12 224:6,8 replacing 226:9 report 47:14 207:9 222:10	235:20 reported 1:20 86:11 239:13 reports 239:12 represent 95:18 representing 63:1 72:3 110:12 138:10 repurposed 103:16 repurposing 68:9,16,19 70:17 76:5 77:12 78:7 79:21 80:7,19 81:3,14 83:20 85:9 86:10,18 89:4 90:3 91:6 request 74:8 183:7 186:9 224:4 225:3 227:21 228:12 requesting 124:5 222:18 228:4 require 88:11 127:7 162:10 179:21 required 83:1 100:3 199:9,9 199:13 216:18 216:21 requirement 109:15 124:1 198:21 requirements 39:13 104:2 163:12 172:12 189:3 192:11 199:11	requires 37:10 77:21 111:10 157:3 194:16 rescued 242:10 research 94:21 187:9 residences 11:3 resident 77:5 residential 68:4 70:21 96:17 122:8 residents 24:14 25:19 44:11 77:6 78:2 240:1 resilience 199:2 210:13 resiliency 198:9 198:20 204:2 resilient 197:6 resolution 51:1 51:4 53:14 54:4 54:12 55:18 56:17 57:18,20 58:11 59:21 60:6 61:12,19 61:20,20 64:11 66:13,14,15,15 66:16 72:4,13 73:6,7 74:17 75:4,21 79:5,9 81:4,11 83:21 84:3,12 85:2,6 87:2 129:8 131:18 138:17 138:20 160:16 164:10 181:3 210:2,11 211:4 211:11 212:1 216:13 217:15 217:16
--	---	---	--

resolve 166:19	157:16 159:1	97:20 101:1,10	river 73:13,14
resolved 163:3	162:9,12,15,21	102:20 104:12	road 37:5 58:3
resource 29:2	163:14 164:8	104:13 105:3,9	58:15 68:3 71:3
92:18 100:9,10	171:20 174:16	106:9,14 110:6	71:5 77:2,7 78:3
101:1	183:21 184:1	110:7,13 120:9	78:6,10,11 83:6
resources 44:12	193:12 196:1	126:14 129:14	83:10,13,20
134:4	210:20 213:14	129:21 130:8	96:6,7,9 97:2
respective 20:6	217:15 220:1	132:18 138:1	127:4 128:10,19
240:13	reviewed 4:8	144:5 154:20	roadway 203:20
respiratory 31:6	62:14 111:4,14	155:14,16,21	roane 194:13,13
respond 101:17	181:10 217:11	156:3,3 160:14	195:19 196:18
responders	reviewing 63:18	164:1 166:7,7	rob 99:1 103:10
245:20	88:10	167:11 168:2	roberts 245:4
response 91:1	revised 62:14	169:2 172:2,18	roll 169:6
154:20	64:2,14 167:1	172:20 176:3	rolling 169:5
responses 202:4	190:7	177:4 178:2,8	rooftop 22:13
rest 126:1	revising 63:18	179:11,17	room 9:19 20:15
149:16	revision 81:8	180:12,16	20:16 22:14
restriction 82:7	171:15	181:20 182:2,4	167:11 216:5
172:11	revisions 62:11	182:19 184:17	rough 47:9
restrictions	64:1	185:19 186:11	route 67:10 68:7
79:13 80:5,15	rewarded	186:21 188:12	68:7 74:14
84:13 136:9	237:14	189:10 190:12	150:6
restrictive 100:2	rewrite 99:16	191:17 192:9,12	royal 66:20
140:8,18,19	rezoning 102:7	194:3,4,8 197:1	67:11,17 73:2
result 100:7	rfp 225:5	207:1 217:3	74:1 85:4
148:5 167:8	rhetorical	230:19 232:4,10	rr 96:16 97:4
retail 117:14	237:17	234:13 236:20	103:15
retire 20:11	ribbon 17:3	237:16 238:3,13	rug 121:13
retirement	rich 247:6	239:7,19 240:12	rule 187:2
119:17	right 6:12 19:16	241:16 244:17	rules 61:21 62:6
retrospectively	21:19 32:11	rights 102:12	62:9 63:14 64:1
229:4	35:7 36:20 37:2	risk 31:2,15 33:7	64:2,12,14 65:2
return 199:6	38:20 39:18	33:11 34:5,12	65:11 115:3
revenue 235:7	50:17 63:4 66:9	35:3 40:16 48:5	120:19 161:2
revenues 231:17	68:20 70:9,20	198:16 201:6	run 21:15 35:9
reversed 113:16	71:2,9 78:9,20	208:19	69:18 70:6,14
review 4:1 63:21	80:18 82:19,20	risks 33:2	73:20 124:12
64:7 90:1 121:6	88:13 90:11,16	201:14 240:6	131:9,17 132:5
121:6 151:12	92:9 95:5 97:14		132:15 135:14

<p>136:17 190:10 214:8,9 215:2 running 20:6 74:21 83:13 90:2,8 215:4,4 223:16 244:18 runs 127:3 209:13 rural 96:16 97:2 ryan 110:16 156:18</p>	<p>163:2,8 168:3,4 176:5,18 178:6 179:11 183:9 192:6 246:21 says 7:19 80:15 82:2,9 192:12 192:17 193:4,6 scale 106:19 108:16,20 109:10 112:3 113:15 124:15 124:16 126:9 127:6,15 133:3 134:11 136:3 137:4,16 141:3 153:7 156:8 158:3 182:5 188:16 189:5 191:8 192:13 193:9 219:6,8 219:11 scenario 37:21 136:18 238:5,12 scenery 140:15 141:6 scenes 209:8 schaffle 197:12 197:20,21 206:12 207:4,6 209:19 212:20 scheduled 162:18 scheduling 162:16 164:7 school 9:11 14:2 38:9,11,13,20 40:3 45:15 50:5 118:15 244:14 schools 10:2 38:17 39:1,10</p>	<p>39:12 40:13 45:14 48:19 49:7 50:1 238:15 239:2 240:19 science 241:1 scope 94:12 109:9 score 113:12 133:2,10 134:10 134:13 135:9 136:15 182:13 scored 108:17 150:20 155:1 scores 132:19 133:16 scoring 132:20 133:13 139:17 144:21 147:9 scott 115:14 scout 4:20 5:15 7:20 12:16 14:12 scouting 12:13 scouts 12:12 screen 132:1 screening 39:6 41:6 screenings 39:4 39:5 scrutinized 76:6 sda 88:12 89:9 89:19 se 90:6 seal 26:7 250:13 season 28:14 45:11 46:10,12 seasonal 96:11 seat 144:9 146:3 146:5 246:6</p>	<p>seating 22:13 seats 92:7 second 26:11,13 56:19,21 85:8 93:4 114:4 115:18 116:13 132:13 161:13 175:10 183:6,10 184:3,5 188:9 188:13 192:21 193:3,4,17 195:17 196:4,7 211:5,6 212:5,7 214:16 216:8 218:7 220:11 221:5,6,10 224:11,13 225:3 227:8,10 234:9 234:12,14 236:17 248:18 248:19 seconded 186:8 193:18 secondly 2:19 117:15 seconds 72:19 75:20 secretary 24:2,4 26:12,15,17,19 26:21 27:2 51:1 51:4 53:5 56:9 56:21 57:1,3,5,7 57:17,20 58:8 59:17,20 60:4,6 61:10,12,18,20 66:12,14 67:3 92:11,13 105:13 105:15 130:6,8 159:11,16 160:14 168:11</p>
<p>s</p>			
<p>s 58:4,5,19 82:6 sacrifice 245:17 sacrifices 245:19 246:11 safe 25:15 28:18 28:21 29:5 205:19 237:12 safeguard 175:15,21 safety 52:1 55:3 200:8 208:21 sake 210:17 sale 51:6,18 52:4 52:5,6,8,13 53:2 54:2,3,9 sales 222:21 sanitary 67:16 sat 14:11 215:9 239:7 satellite 14:18 satisfied 121:10 168:10 saturday 44:16 save 113:12 saw 39:14 45:2 134:15 saying 144:20 147:14 151:9</p>			

168:14,16 178:6 178:9 180:6,11 180:14,19 181:7 184:4 185:13,16 194:10 196:6,9 196:11,13,15 209:21 210:1,8 210:11 211:15 211:20 212:6,8 212:10,12,14 218:8,10,12,14 218:16,21 220:21 221:12 221:14,16,18,20 224:14,16,18,20 225:1 227:12,13 227:15,17,19 234:15,17,19,21 235:2 248:20 249:1,3,5,7 section 51:10,14 52:21 80:9,14 82:2 106:18 112:20 145:17 169:17 170:4 201:11 219:5 sector 18:8 security 142:21 143:2,2 sediments 131:9 see 9:3,15 12:16 13:9 22:21 32:14 37:19 38:7,8 46:2 47:10 48:8,9 80:3 88:2 91:19 118:17 119:13 130:6,18 132:18 133:16 134:19 134:20 135:2,10	135:11,13,15 140:6 141:11 145:19 152:1 166:21 171:9 186:5 187:6,16 193:1 201:18 204:13 205:9 214:11 216:4 231:6 239:17 243:9 245:7 seeing 22:17 32:15 33:2 36:7 37:16,17 42:1 92:2 seek 45:6 97:14 97:20 102:4 seeking 49:11 104:4,13,15,18 130:20 195:12 seeks 101:19 seen 14:21 114:11 118:14 128:18 150:14 156:15,21 208:13 239:5,17 selection 89:13 self 24:16 sell 53:13 54:13 send 23:14 183:7 183:12 186:1 195:2 221:2,4,7 senior 16:5,20 17:9 18:20 19:4 20:20 22:2 24:4 24:11 25:3,4,10 25:18,20 26:4 27:10 36:16 46:3 49:9 sense 114:3 122:9 134:8	140:2 141:20 145:18 174:3 183:4 sent 88:17 107:14 109:12 120:11 219:20 separate 192:3 september 1:7 2:20 3:16 4:7,7 8:5 17:9 18:4,13 19:5 24:5 25:17 26:8 28:10 36:1 54:14 129:15 130:1 164:15 198:5 244:7,11 248:7 250:13,20 septic 74:14 75:7 88:19 89:4,17 series 36:11 51:17 serve 34:16 85:9 85:16 86:9 146:19 served 25:11 serves 96:12 service 4:20 5:15 42:20 58:6,18 66:16,18 67:19 74:12 82:6,13 84:6 139:13 142:12 148:8,21 149:16 150:17 152:8,15 157:5 157:12,15 158:4 227:6 228:1,8 228:20 237:2 services 18:9 24:15 25:1 38:14 41:3,18 44:7,12 49:4,12	66:21 82:15 86:3 197:11 198:2 222:18 225:4,14,20 228:5,6 229:3,3 session 19:5 195:11 248:11 248:12 set 28:17 52:20 160:6 162:8,17 176:6 186:19 236:17 250:4 setbacks 104:2 104:10 settle 54:14 settled 73:17 85:5 settlers 142:2 seven 38:21 severely 240:6 sewage 68:17 86:3,17 88:12 89:3,10 91:9 sewer 57:21 58:6 58:17 59:7 60:7 61:1,3 66:16,18 67:19 68:13 70:6,14 73:2,8 74:3,21 76:5 77:12 79:21 80:7 81:12 82:1 82:5,13,17 83:2 83:5,13 84:6,7 86:4,19 88:19 91:5,5 126:19 216:14,17 sex 32:16 shaking 31:14 share 11:10 31:9 214:21 235:18
--	--	--	--

<p>shared 217:17 239:8</p> <p>sheet 91:19</p> <p>sheets 31:10 239:16</p> <p>sheriff's 55:4</p> <p>shingles 34:1</p> <p>shining 197:16</p> <p>ship 50:9</p> <p>shore 18:11 31:21 42:19 87:18 130:12 138:10 143:6 167:8 225:16 226:19 238:17</p> <p>short 77:9 101:5</p> <p>shortage 42:11</p> <p>shortages 42:17</p> <p>shots 132:2</p> <p>shout 245:4</p> <p>shouting 198:4</p> <p>shovel 90:7</p> <p>show 17:13 27:9 59:14 61:8 131:17 154:21 155:1 211:18</p> <p>showalter 110:15,17 115:11 156:14 156:15,18,19 159:6 161:20 166:19</p> <p>showing 14:3 37:11</p> <p>shown 58:3</p> <p>shows 32:11 132:4,11 247:3</p> <p>shut 242:17</p> <p>sic 2:10</p>	<p>sick 34:13</p> <p>side 94:19 99:10 120:3 159:17</p> <p>sidekick 13:18</p> <p>sides 167:12</p> <p>sign 44:3 91:19</p> <p>signature 250:15</p> <p>signed 236:8</p> <p>significant 24:7 40:1 137:3 175:18</p> <p>significantly 109:19 111:4 157:4</p> <p>similar 73:6 122:12 144:6 239:10</p> <p>simple 127:2 146:9 188:16 219:17</p> <p>simplified 65:8</p> <p>sing 234:3</p> <p>sir 72:6,21 76:18 78:21 99:10 140:11 143:21 154:17 164:16 165:20 166:8 197:3 225:21</p> <p>sit 5:9 101:21 244:10</p> <p>site 29:2 68:17 79:16 86:3,17 86:19 89:3 91:9 94:5 108:5,6 121:6 128:4,12 162:9,13 165:15 170:20 171:1 172:8 175:10 231:3 233:15</p>	<p>sited 189:5,7 219:12</p> <p>siting 140:4</p> <p>sitting 177:15 246:5</p> <p>situated 124:21</p> <p>situation 49:20 90:4 214:6</p> <p>six 6:10,16 9:6 32:18 167:3 172:3 237:7 248:7</p> <p>size 135:2 147:14 153:4,20 172:6,8 174:21</p> <p>skills 12:15 24:19</p> <p>skin 31:5,5 33:13,13</p> <p>skip 28:7 41:19</p> <p>sleep 177:21 178:1</p> <p>sleeping 31:10</p> <p>slide 134:16</p> <p>slides 28:7 131:17 205:15</p> <p>slowest 205:2</p> <p>small 19:7 37:1 124:14 141:9 142:10 145:16 152:19 173:20 174:5,12 214:21</p> <p>smarter 187:16 191:5</p> <p>smestpp 234:8</p> <p>smith 120:6,7,10 124:10,18 127:14 143:12 161:19 162:3 173:1,3,3</p>	<p>177:10 198:10 204:18,19</p> <p>sneaked 116:10</p> <p>social 18:6,9</p> <p>socializing 20:12</p> <p>society 5:6 8:9 10:8,13 15:15 16:16 24:8 242:21 244:9</p> <p>soil 68:16 69:4 69:16 89:2 91:10 122:11 133:15,15 141:16</p> <p>solar 105:18 106:18,19 107:20 108:7,13 108:16,20 112:4 117:3,16 118:2 118:6,13,21 119:6,10 121:13 122:10 123:17 124:15,16 125:4 126:1,3,8,9,11 127:15 128:20 133:4 134:11 136:3,10,16 137:1,4,14 139:16 140:16 141:2 142:10 145:14 147:15 148:1 149:11 150:2,5,9,20 152:19 153:12 153:15,19 155:2 155:11 156:1 158:2,2,3,9,15 161:10 167:7,8 167:10 178:17 179:6 186:20</p>
--	--	--	--

<p>188:16,18 191:9 192:13 193:9 219:5,6,8,11 sold 53:17 54:7 solharvest 120:7 120:12,15 123:2 154:19 165:5 solution 167:13 solutions 208:19 solve 49:20 somebody 50:7 63:1 72:3,5 110:12 118:18 142:8 someplace 182:8 son 12:18 149:18 sorry 9:4 26:17 58:16 113:18 130:9 138:8 144:18 146:17 156:18 162:1 164:21 165:3,4 184:7,21 185:19 210:6 211:7 220:4 230:8 sort 35:16 36:9 38:4 54:1 132:14,14 138:14 139:3,4 140:3 sound 191:9 sounds 54:16 59:3 61:7,15 62:18 168:6 177:7 195:15 210:15 212:4 219:17 source 107:21 109:11</p>	<p>sources 240:4 spans 96:15 speak 65:13 91:16 95:13 106:1 115:15 126:18 148:12 172:19 195:20 speaker 16:1 speakers 85:6 147:7 speaking 8:21 13:16 144:19 184:11 speaks 118:12 special 18:17 37:4 94:2 104:5 121:4,20 122:2 162:4,5,6 165:8 174:14 175:11 175:14 specializes 226:11 species 45:5 specific 54:6 71:18 79:11,16 83:4 84:4,8 102:18 specifically 123:14 208:9 225:8 specify 75:4 139:8 spectacular 247:6 spend 23:5 116:15 spent 123:8,20 spirited 73:16 spoke 139:5</p>	<p>sport 103:12 sports 104:7 spot 100:11 spotlight 197:17 spray 213:20 spread 30:7 31:8 31:12 spreading 14:2 29:18 30:5 31:2 spreads 31:4 spreadsheet 112:10,10 114:8 spring 29:18 spurs 158:18 spy 75:19 square 170:12 170:21 171:13 172:2 174:6,12 174:20 175:11 181:21 st 21:12 78:5 83:5,10,20 stability 200:9 209:1 stabilization 134:1 staff 26:3 38:17 43:3 45:15 64:9 98:17 114:9 189:17 245:5,7 245:21 246:15 247:7 stage 150:10 stakeholder 200:21,21 stakeholders 43:4 111:6 116:2,6 166:18 226:3</p>	<p>stamp 5:12 7:12 15:12,21 16:2 27:15 92:4 180:9 184:8 194:1,6 207:20 207:21 211:10 211:14 212:17 212:21 218:19 220:3,14 222:1 222:3,3,7,14 224:1 225:3 227:21 234:10 235:5,10,17 stamps 7:1 stance 243:6 stand 2:7 85:7 standard 128:15 standards 85:20 131:2 204:7 standing 73:5 91:20 stands 75:21 156:7 192:2 199:18 star 197:16 start 5:2 7:10 38:8,8 45:17 63:2 89:12 109:3 110:13 149:14 150:16 185:8 237:3 242:1 started 2:3 3:15 29:18 32:14 41:7 51:2 96:1 198:12 starting 244:13 starts 30:19 232:8</p>
---	---	--	--

<p>stat 239:6</p> <p>state 19:11 20:8 34:19 35:3 37:14 49:15 73:19 74:5,9 96:4 100:3,4 106:4 130:10 131:3 152:3 194:16 195:3,8 195:14 199:20 203:15 215:6,16 226:13,15 228:7 230:8 250:1,2</p> <p>stated 94:17</p> <p>statement 52:12 143:11 248:13</p> <p>statements 214:17</p> <p>station 66:20 67:11,17,18 73:21</p> <p>statistics 47:15</p> <p>statue 9:15</p> <p>status 58:5,19 86:16 160:9 202:21</p> <p>stay 25:15 28:21 28:21 29:5 32:5 45:21 46:11 70:12 204:13 212:21</p> <p>stenographic 250:6</p> <p>stenographically 250:6</p> <p>step 55:13 121:5 148:18 199:1 215:8,11</p> <p>stepp 236:10,12 236:13,15,17,20</p>	<p>236:21 241:11</p> <p>stepping 48:10</p> <p>steps 54:20</p> <p>steward 134:3</p> <p>stewards 116:17</p> <p>stewardship 112:14 133:18</p> <p>sticking 247:21</p> <p>stipulations 250:8</p> <p>stop 22:17 161:14 216:4 240:20</p> <p>stopped 242:3</p> <p>stops 7:16 9:7</p> <p>storage 10:17 173:11,17,17 176:20</p> <p>straight 61:18 151:1 160:19 168:12 181:6</p> <p>strategic 143:5</p> <p>strategies 201:11,12,14</p> <p>streams 104:17</p> <p>street 44:18 49:10 110:17 118:11 130:14 156:20 173:4</p> <p>strengthen 24:9 182:11</p> <p>strengthening 17:17 24:5 26:1</p> <p>stress 42:10</p> <p>strict 75:10</p> <p>strike 137:12</p> <p>strikes 130:18 149:8 214:10</p> <p>strive 17:18</p>	<p>struck 15:1 152:7</p> <p>structures 98:2 102:6 168:19 169:21 170:4</p> <p>student 5:6 39:12 40:4 142:20 244:8</p> <p>students 39:4,5 39:7 48:20 49:1 50:2,3 238:18</p> <p>studies 142:21 226:15</p> <p>study 159:3</p> <p>studying 143:1</p> <p>stuff 2:17 10:6 13:17 169:7 182:1 227:11 248:2</p> <p>subdivision 92:15 105:17 168:18</p> <p>subdivisions 214:21</p> <p>subject 52:20 62:7 67:1 75:8 94:5 157:15 168:20 170:1,20 174:15 176:1</p> <p>subjects 247:18</p> <p>submission 228:7</p> <p>submit 75:17 101:12 165:14 228:12</p> <p>submittal 162:21</p> <p>submitted 62:16 64:5 120:16</p>	<p>subsection 192:11 219:6,10 219:11</p> <p>subsequently 74:16</p> <p>substantial 65:14</p> <p>substantially 98:5</p> <p>substantive 111:13,16</p> <p>substation 127:7</p> <p>successful 21:16</p> <p>sudden 29:17 101:6</p> <p>sufficient 190:5 223:3 225:17</p> <p>sugar 236:16</p> <p>sugars 41:16</p> <p>suggest 86:11 111:9</p> <p>suggestion 158:20 171:18</p> <p>sum 223:2 225:10</p> <p>summer 32:12 118:16</p> <p>sums 116:16</p> <p>super 35:9 64:18</p> <p>supplemental 228:9,12</p> <p>supply 37:2 131:1,4</p> <p>support 5:3 16:20 17:1 19:1 20:2 116:4 124:7 130:15,16 138:11 173:9 197:18 229:11 229:11 246:1</p>
--	---	---	--

<p>supported 175:5 204:20</p> <p>supporting 76:16 201:16</p> <p>supportive 59:1</p> <p>supports 115:20 115:21</p> <p>supposed 79:16</p> <p>sure 9:2 13:14 15:10 29:4 33:1 39:11 40:4 41:1 43:12 44:20 46:8 48:8 50:16 62:4 67:6 70:21 93:1 117:17 118:14 120:10 127:19 129:5 131:5 137:5 138:5 143:16 146:18 147:2 158:12 160:18 172:1 181:17 185:6 222:4 246:10 248:5</p> <p>surface 90:9 104:12</p> <p>surfaces 104:14</p> <p>surge 36:9</p> <p>surprise 202:9</p> <p>surprised 238:6</p> <p>surrounding 175:19</p> <p>surroundings 55:11</p> <p>survey 202:2,10 202:19</p> <p>surveys 200:21 203:4 204:14</p> <p>survive 139:13</p>	<p>susan 173:5 175:9</p> <p>suspect 238:8</p> <p>swift 241:3</p> <p>swimming 96:19 103:8</p> <p>switch 38:6 120:4</p> <p>symptoms 30:15</p> <p>system 42:7 58:7 60:11,17 66:19 68:17 70:1 74:14,21 86:5 86:19 87:19 89:4,4 91:9 107:6,8,20 108:7,18 109:10 126:5 132:20 133:13 139:15 139:17,17,19 141:19 144:21 153:4 155:16 163:16 189:5 213:11 215:21 225:6 226:2,5,7 226:20</p> <p>systems 38:5 70:3 75:7 87:16 105:18 106:18 106:19 108:14 108:16,21 153:19 192:13 193:9 219:6,7,9 219:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">t</p> <hr/> <p>table 83:4 93:16 169:10</p> <p>tabled 203:2</p> <p>tac 164:4</p>	<p>tai 18:17</p> <p>take 2:16 7:7 8:20 95:21 116:16 117:5 118:4 119:18 125:9 134:18 141:4 142:7 145:13 152:16 163:21 176:16 193:9 199:1 207:21 215:13 217:16 223:9 237:19 238:9 244:5 246:14</p> <p>taken 21:14 58:19 87:21 169:4</p> <p>takes 3:4 30:21 82:16 117:18 164:6 230:21 244:12</p> <p>talbot 1:1 5:19 6:19 8:17 10:15 12:17 13:6 16:20 18:9,10 20:7 25:3,5,17 25:18 26:3,8 27:16 37:17 38:14,16 43:8 51:4,9,14,16,21 52:1,18,21 57:21 60:7,9 62:1 63:9 75:19 79:3 83:17 92:14 93:12 95:18 96:1,1,14 97:13,14,20,21 99:1 105:16 115:17 143:21 146:20 151:16</p>	<p>153:14 168:17 169:15 194:14 197:1,5,11 198:1,17,19 205:18 208:16 210:13 213:13 214:11 225:12 228:11,14,16 229:16 238:13 238:14,16 239:4 239:6,20,21 240:18 244:12 244:18 250:3</p> <p>talbothazardpl... 210:20</p> <p>talk 23:9 31:6 38:6 41:20 63:5 78:21 90:12 92:6 110:14 120:3 138:1 145:4 146:14 178:3 189:12 198:7 220:16,20 233:20</p> <p>talked 21:10 88:7 89:7 149:18 169:17</p> <p>talking 33:9 126:19 129:12 133:20 147:9,17 151:15 155:17 181:20 233:1 242:9,13</p> <p>tap 83:9 127:2,7</p> <p>tapping 24:19</p> <p>targeted 34:9 47:20</p> <p>tarleton 94:10 105:21 106:6,6 106:16 109:7</p>
--	---	--	--

161:18 162:1,1 163:7 164:2 171:5 172:4,7 180:13,18 184:21,21 185:6 185:14,18 190:4 tax 52:20 58:4 135:21 taxed 42:8 taxes 52:14 taxing 52:17 teach 38:15,16 teachers 38:17 242:15 team 87:21 200:12 208:2 209:7 tear 215:20 technical 14:17 162:12 226:12 technically 130:1 tell 115:20 116:3 116:13 130:16 237:10 telling 113:11 117:2 150:18 temporary 9:12 ten 19:3,6 37:19 72:11 75:20 124:21 141:10 141:10 147:15 153:3,6,8 154:6 157:14 183:1,2 187:1,2,4,13,14 188:15,19,20 191:8 193:10 219:14 tend 32:17	tennis 96:19 103:5,14,18 tenor 52:3 term 49:16 53:16 100:21 101:5 143:1,4 180:3 terms 52:3,6 54:8,11 65:18 123:3 124:5 126:7 128:11 133:1 155:11,21 terrorist 202:17 test 86:18 tested 34:2 41:8 testified 153:5 161:9 182:7 testifying 130:19 testing 39:8 41:15,15 68:17 69:17 89:3 91:10 tests 69:4 89:16 text 95:19 98:15 98:19 101:18 102:2,18 104:16 173:7 175:5 thank 3:12 4:17 5:12 10:12 11:5 11:9 12:5,19,20 13:3,6,11,15 15:3 16:19 17:2 20:2,3,5,21 21:1 21:2 22:6,7,9 23:6,19,20 27:7 27:15,21 28:1,9 46:8,13 47:5,6,8 48:3,6,9,13,14 48:16 50:10,11 50:12,18,19	53:4 55:15 57:9 57:10,10 58:8 60:3 61:15 63:13 64:11,14 64:15 66:2,3,4 67:3,7 68:20 71:19,20 73:1 76:13,18,19 78:15,16,17 84:15,17,18 87:3,4 91:11,15 92:20 95:8,10 95:15 99:7,8 101:12 105:4 110:8,15 115:9 115:10,13 119:20,21 124:10,11 127:17 129:4 130:4,9 135:6 135:12 137:19 137:20 138:9 140:10 144:2,11 144:12 154:11 154:14,18 156:13 159:5,6 160:19 164:19 165:20 166:9 167:18 169:1 172:13,16 176:3 177:9,10,11 179:17 181:8 185:5 193:13,14 196:18,18 197:3 197:14 198:3 204:20 206:11 206:12,13,15 207:3,4,6 209:4 209:5,11,18,19 212:19,20	213:21 214:3 217:3 219:2 221:8,9 223:6 223:21 225:21 235:20 236:1,3 236:5,20 237:1 238:4 241:2,4,5 241:12,14 243:10 244:3 246:18,19 thankful 202:3 thanking 5:2 thanks 23:10 76:14 154:13 204:17 thanksgiving 23:12 theme 17:17 themes 203:9 204:5 therapists 42:12 thereof 51:18 52:4 67:1 thin 139:15 thing 4:13 15:17 35:7 39:11 41:4 41:9 42:3 47:19 67:6 99:19 102:2 120:10 132:13 143:12 143:16 145:9,14 157:17 192:20 206:9 209:6 210:9 218:2 226:6 230:10 232:12 235:5 240:12 243:1 things 2:8 6:6 28:19 33:16 34:5 38:12
--	---	--	---

39:17 43:16	165:13 168:12	111:10 133:6	66:6 68:15,18
47:10 49:18,19	171:5,12 174:3	157:4 166:11	71:15 73:9
50:15 65:5,18	175:21 177:14	171:17 220:6	75:12,12 76:7
70:13 90:14,15	178:20 180:6	235:17	79:6,9 84:4
94:19 102:21	181:12 184:12	thoughtfully	85:19 91:3,7
104:7 138:14	187:6,11,21	159:4	95:11 96:10
141:14,15,17	188:4 189:17	threatening	101:15 118:5
144:13 153:16	190:9,12 191:21	239:14,18	120:19 122:3,20
153:19 159:21	192:1 196:3	threats 48:20	123:20 124:9
177:1,2 201:20	204:1 205:8	202:12,14	137:18 145:6,10
202:5 203:19,20	208:3 214:19	three 23:12	148:11 162:16
205:9 241:17	217:13,14 229:9	28:19 30:15	163:6,10 164:3
244:4 246:16	232:13,21 233:5	42:19 45:8	164:8 165:16
think 19:15	240:11 243:13	58:18 62:21	171:6 173:13
20:14 37:3	243:19	67:15 69:9 70:4	180:7 182:1
47:16,20 49:6	thinking 14:16	70:6 72:2,18	189:17 190:10
56:8 65:3,8,12	58:10 206:8	77:13 81:16	197:14 206:4
65:14,15,17	third 119:11	85:2 90:9 95:13	207:13 208:9
67:8 69:14 71:9	201:11	96:15 110:10	210:17 212:19
77:15,21 81:1	thomas 62:2,4	148:3,3 164:7	223:15 224:7
88:6 91:2,6 97:8	65:17 92:21	166:11 185:9	229:9 236:1
101:16 103:6,9	93:1 106:10,12	186:12 194:14	237:1 240:12
110:21 111:3,7	129:6,9,16,18	213:18 214:10	241:2 247:8
111:15,19 112:6	130:3 159:9,14	222:10 239:1	250:4
112:17 113:15	160:5,10,15	threshold 112:1	timely 46:10
114:1,21 115:6	161:3 164:9	112:2 159:2	209:2
115:7 119:2,5	179:14,19 180:8	170:21 171:13	times 11:14,18
121:16 123:4,9	183:14 184:14	thrive 20:1	29:4 44:15
123:19 126:10	184:16 187:21	thursday 54:13	102:14 104:21
127:14 128:16	188:6,10 189:1	tidewater 9:8	149:18 172:11
129:10 130:19	189:18 190:9	ties 204:2	timing 54:11
131:19 134:7	191:15,19 192:5	tim 10:21	167:2 186:12
138:13 139:3,5	192:9 193:6	time 3:2 7:7 10:1	246:13
139:7,12,18	194:3 214:4	21:6,14 23:4	tips 18:16
140:1,5,6 145:7	215:8,14 216:5	27:12 28:13,14	titled 6:1
148:3,3,5,18	216:9,11 218:21	28:17 36:15	today 3:8 17:2
149:6,8 152:1	219:1,3 220:8	40:10 44:4	32:9 76:1 95:2
152:21 153:14	221:1,10	47:12 48:11	110:1 139:6
157:3,6,17	thought 5:20	49:14 61:2,11	157:10 158:11
158:20 163:6,11	47:17 56:2	62:10,19 64:17	194:16 195:11

198:6 199:18 236:13 237:1 238:5 240:12 244:8 245:18 246:4 toilet 88:9,15 89:7 toilets 85:16 86:1 89:19,20 told 74:2,6 149:3 151:21 tom 72:8 79:3 99:11 tomorrow 178:1 tonight 2:5,6,11 2:14,15 4:13 28:6 50:13 55:20 56:18 57:14,16 84:1 115:14 177:13 180:12,16 181:1 182:19 187:8 190:13,20 192:20 212:3 216:6 222:4,9 243:14 247:14 247:14,21 tools 132:8 top 131:21 topic 90:18 190:3 topsoil 108:5 123:11 128:1,6 128:7,11 total 9:6 36:17 67:13 134:14,14 totally 33:8 touch 208:14 touched 94:12 123:15	touching 3:13 tough 151:14 247:18 tour 88:1,3 tourism 8:18 10:16 tournament 247:2 town 11:1 58:14 59:1,1 60:12,15 60:19 83:10,18 244:14 towns 201:7 tpa 81:18 tradition 246:7 traditional 203:18 traffic 78:5 trail 6:2 7:10,11 7:17,20 8:3 trails 9:10 10:19 transcribed 250:6 transcript 2:1 transcription 250:7 transfer 213:10 transition 43:1,6 transmission 127:7 132:16 157:20 158:1,19 166:12 transport 228:2 229:8 230:6,20 231:2,11 233:9 233:14 transported 228:13 transporter 228:9	transporting 232:11 transports 232:1 233:8,9 travel 6:8 treat 231:2 treating 233:15 treatment 33:3 34:4 41:11,12 90:6 213:11,19 215:1 216:20 tree 150:2 trees 141:12 tremendous 25:20 trend 143:1 tried 65:10 72:17 131:15 trinkets 7:5 trips 19:18 troubled 49:1 truck 207:18 222:12 true 81:20 118:8 250:7 trust 237:11 truth 118:8 try 38:15 43:5 88:8 95:21 139:16 166:18 167:15 168:4 169:7 186:1 213:6 trying 43:11 56:13 69:5 90:15 123:7 125:6 126:11 127:8,11 128:19 136:20 140:14 149:20 156:6	159:20 186:14 210:21 247:16 tuck 141:10 145:17 182:7 tuesday 60:1 61:14 248:6 tune 208:12 tunis 66:17 74:12 turn 101:7 147:5 197:15 225:19 turned 6:14 76:12 141:5 176:20 turnout 40:14 turtles 11:21 tv 5:10 tweak 191:5 193:1,11 twelve 203:11 twenty 174:3 181:7,8 two 12:12 23:11 30:21 36:14 45:9 54:14 69:9 74:13 90:9 95:1 119:3 122:14 124:20 125:2,7 126:12 130:21 131:12 150:2 154:15 155:15 155:18 156:4 157:13 164:7 169:12 179:4,9 181:14 186:18 188:11 190:16 191:20 198:7,12 205:1 213:18 219:4 241:20
---	--	---	--

<p>type 70:13 89:16 102:21 113:6 144:7 150:8 155:13 182:14 230:21 240:20</p> <p>types 133:9 205:17</p> <p>typical 30:14</p> <p>typically 126:14 172:8</p>	<p>undoubtedly 235:15</p> <p>unfair 121:16</p> <p>unfortunate 214:6</p> <p>unfortunately 42:15 89:9 154:1 245:11</p> <p>uninsured 40:8</p> <p>unionville 66:17 67:11,16 71:4 73:2,8,12,21 74:11,20 75:11 80:7,19 81:3,14 84:14 85:4</p> <p>unique 21:9 198:19 229:15</p> <p>unit 89:13 224:6</p> <p>unleashing 8:4</p> <p>unnecessary 79:6</p> <p>unusual 247:15</p> <p>upcoming 44:14 244:21</p> <p>update 28:4 46:4 47:17 48:3,7 59:10 198:9 203:1</p> <p>updated 63:14 199:10</p> <p>updates 203:20</p> <p>uphold 149:4</p> <p>upper 18:11 39:18</p> <p>urge 18:17 29:3 86:13 167:15</p> <p>urgency 167:3</p> <p>urgent 231:11</p> <p>use 6:5 21:21 35:21 53:16</p>	<p>83:8 88:8 93:15 94:1 97:16,16 98:11 100:8 102:6 108:18 113:14,21 117:11 122:9 131:10 132:5 134:3 140:2 170:8,11 171:15 173:21 174:13 187:1 206:7,10</p> <p>uses 66:21 82:14 94:1 97:5 98:3 101:19 102:11 102:13 104:20 112:2 122:12 131:6 139:18 168:20 169:16 169:16 170:1,3 170:5,16 173:17</p> <p>usual 237:2</p> <p>usually 11:16 164:6</p> <p>utility 127:15 152:11</p> <p>utilize 126:5 127:12 222:18</p> <p>utilized 70:2 107:12 108:13 109:9 168:19 169:21 170:4 188:15 191:8</p> <p>utilizing 222:21 228:17,19</p>	<p>vaccination 34:7 34:18 39:13,16 39:20 40:7,11 40:17 45:14</p> <p>vaccinations 36:11 40:5 46:11</p> <p>vaccine 36:5 37:5 45:12 239:9,13,16</p> <p>vaccines 34:8 35:1,20 36:17</p> <p>vacs 239:18</p> <p>value 119:18 137:9</p> <p>van 41:3</p> <p>vanhooser 5:3 15:18</p> <p>vans 40:11 41:5 41:13</p> <p>variant 36:6</p> <p>various 134:15</p> <p>vast 116:15 147:16</p> <p>vc 173:14</p> <p>venue 247:9</p> <p>verbalize 186:1</p> <p>verbiage 181:17</p> <p>version 160:10</p> <p>vetted 116:6 163:16</p> <p>vh 173:16</p> <p>viable 86:6 155:9</p> <p>vice 63:10</p> <p>victoria 5:4</p> <p>view 126:9 137:11 138:13 208:16</p>
u			
<p>ultimately 53:18 58:15 107:18</p> <p>unanimous 3:20 4:5,12</p> <p>unanimously 72:14,15 98:18</p> <p>underhanded 211:1</p> <p>underlying 25:13 85:10 117:12</p> <p>underneath 160:9</p> <p>understand 65:11,21 103:3 115:2 136:20 147:3 149:20 157:11,18 190:21 192:5</p> <p>understandably 48:2</p> <p>understanding 128:3</p> <p>understands 119:3</p> <p>understood 111:20 175:1</p> <p>undertook 99:16</p>			
		v	
		<p>vacation 2:12,12</p> <p>vaccinated 34:19 40:5 44:20 238:20</p>	

vigilant 46:11 47:12 village 173:11 173:16 villages 75:6 virtual 9:14 virus 30:6,14 34:11 vision 39:3,6,8 visit 7:7 visits 39:2 42:1 visual 125:6 133:7 vitality 24:13 vm 122:6,7 voice 77:6 78:2 volume 51:13 volunteer 23:7 volunteers 26:3 vote 26:14 55:19 55:20 56:18,21 163:13 179:5 184:7 212:2 218:9 221:11,11 221:13 224:15 227:12 234:16 235:6 248:21 voted 163:10 185:8 243:6 voting 57:15 vulnerabilities 201:9 vulnerable 25:12	211:9,17 waited 121:8 waiting 92:1 177:15 walgreen's 37:8 walk 45:17 156:6 walking 49:9 wall 118:10 want 3:5 4:15 11:7,10 15:13 20:12 22:4,9 28:5 33:1 41:1 46:13 47:8 53:8 57:16 58:9 59:4 59:12,17 62:2 63:4 66:7 67:5 78:1 84:5 92:21 93:3 94:8 104:19 105:7,19 105:21 110:13 110:14 119:6,17 131:4,16 132:9 132:13 133:17 135:3,14 137:10 142:5,15 146:2 150:12,13 153:6 159:21 160:5,18 167:20 178:9,17 178:21 179:14 180:19 185:6 186:18 188:5 198:3 204:17 207:21 210:5,8 212:21 220:5 223:18 225:8 227:3 245:3 246:12,20 wanted 5:2,18 10:12 28:3,11	28:16 29:6,10 35:13 38:6,9 41:19 43:15 44:13 45:10 65:20 71:12 87:15 136:17 138:11 175:13 180:15 185:2 203:17 243:8 244:4,19 246:17 wants 63:3 78:20 92:5 95:12 172:18 warming 205:7 wash 33:15 washing 31:14 washington 49:10 130:14 wastewater 58:7 73:11 213:11,19 215:1 216:15,20 watched 14:12 watching 5:10 water 57:21 58:6 58:6,17 59:6 60:7,11,16 61:1 61:3 76:5 81:12 82:1,4,17 83:2 90:4,5,8 91:4 104:10 119:9 134:3 216:14,17 241:11 waterfront 101:4 104:17 waterways 134:1 watkins 223:10 223:21 236:5 way 47:11 55:10 64:4 69:15	72:13 75:1 83:16 84:12 97:19 98:7 107:20 113:8 115:21 116:11 131:20 148:2,7 148:19 176:6 185:21 187:12 193:1 208:13 250:11 ways 33:12 we've 21:10 29:9 30:2 31:18 32:1 32:13,15 33:9 34:15,21 36:6 36:21 41:3,4,13 42:4 69:18 88:13 89:11 123:15 166:4 184:5 190:17 197:1,5 213:2 214:9 216:7 239:17 243:13 website 10:18 35:3 44:1 64:6 64:21 204:10 210:16 week 2:21 18:13 18:15 19:3 90:20 120:11 150:3 244:21 weekend 241:21 247:1 weekly 43:4 weeks 22:20 30:15,21 32:13 46:3 54:15 69:7 179:9 186:12 213:18 240:10
w			
w 1:17 58:4,5,20 wager 73:4 wait 37:12 87:1 163:4,6,8 185:12 186:15			

weighed 84:10 weight 20:15 weird 30:18 33:14,18 welcome 63:12 166:1 223:20 236:3,6 welfare 200:9 208:21 wellbeing 25:6,7 26:5 went 40:13 99:18 118:19 120:19,21 122:1 west 110:17 156:19 western 97:2 wet 69:19 wheels 22:16 23:8 wide 24:14 25:1 135:20 wife 173:10 wii 22:19 wild 45:1 willful 240:21 williams 115:13 115:14 willing 166:18 wills 77:1,1 willy 100:16 win 118:8,8 123:7,7 winded 246:8 window 161:5 wine 241:9 winter 36:9 wisdom 24:8 wise 165:15	wish 2:12 150:13 210:19 246:3 withdrawn 117:10 witness 250:13 witnessed 217:11 wonder 238:2 240:1 wonderful 11:7 12:11,16 13:5,8 20:11 48:11 204:19 205:6 234:2 243:4 wood 32:5 woodland 113:1 113:4 114:3 woods 113:5,7 113:12,17,19,20 word 15:9 35:15 words 7:3 65:13 153:14 work 11:8 22:10 23:17 26:4 43:8 48:11 77:14 86:2,2 90:15 111:3 116:15 117:1 119:3 151:3,4 165:9 165:17 166:18 166:21 167:13 167:16 168:5 178:14,19 182:18 189:17 189:18 192:19 206:16 209:3,16 214:9 223:17 240:18	workable 167:17 worked 21:5 working 3:7 16:17 21:6 22:10 38:14 89:1,2,11 123:5 131:4 144:17 203:7 213:7,17 214:4 216:6 works 62:10 85:11,13 86:7 87:8,19,21 88:7 88:18 90:20 107:8 181:4 183:21 184:6 200:13 203:2 213:3 214:14,18 216:8,18 217:12 217:18 218:8 219:21 workshop 148:2 148:5 workshops 201:1 203:3 204:14 world 6:8 116:20 205:11 worms 101:4 worried 33:5 100:20 worry 150:1 worse 49:6 worth 24:16 worthwhile 17:20 wrap 169:7 wrapped 241:17 wrc 97:3 103:19	write 6:21 written 75:16 77:7 115:21 wrong 184:18 wrongdoing 240:21 ww.talbothaza... 211:2 wye 213:4,9,12 216:9
			x
			x 147:14
			y
			yeah 9:16 14:6 59:8 72:6 87:6 92:5 102:16 120:4 126:21 127:11,19 129:16 130:8 144:4 154:9,10 159:16 160:3 161:11,18 166:6 172:21 177:17 178:10,15 179:3 179:18 180:4,19 188:10,20 211:14,16 213:6 219:1 220:17,17 221:3 244:3 year 12:1 26:9 38:9 39:3 40:5 44:5,16 45:2,9 48:18 50:5 87:12 107:13 195:5,6,6 198:12 202:10 205:1 223:16 229:2,6,18 230:15 232:12 232:14,16,19

[year - zoning]

Page 55

235:7,11,16	z
238:13 246:6	zack 120:5,6
year's 17:17	123:3 124:8
years 14:11,21	143:12 155:20
17:4 23:12	161:18 162:3
33:10 39:14	172:21 173:3
40:12 42:2,4,8	176:18
47:10 55:2	zack 124:4 176:5
58:18 60:9	zero 133:19
63:16 65:7	135:9 239:5
72:11 73:3 96:8	zone 90:6 100:1
97:12 99:18	100:1,2,10
115:18 117:11	101:1,20 102:4
117:18 118:2	102:9 103:15
199:10 206:1	104:15 122:6,7
246:5	173:14
yelton 93:6,8,8	zoned 96:19
93:11 95:10	97:17 103:19,19
169:11,11,14	173:16
yesterday 31:19	zones 93:19
119:16	zoning 64:8
ymca 21:11	92:15 93:9
york 40:20	96:16,17 97:4
young 10:21	98:15 99:17
13:13 23:1	100:12,14,16
40:20 43:12	105:17 106:7
244:7	117:12 124:1
younger 32:17	154:2 162:2,11
youth 21:13	168:18 173:14
239:4,10	173:16 176:9
yup 14:8 69:2	192:14 194:14
92:2 105:20	200:13 219:9
115:12 124:13	
153:10,13 194:5	
211:20 213:1,1	
220:19,21 236:9	
244:1,1	