



# TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

April 21, 2026

Present – President, Chuck Callahan, Keasha N. Haythe, Lynn L. Mielke, County Manager Clay Stamp, and County Attorney, Patrick Thomas. Vice President Pete Leshner and Councilman Dave Stepp were absent.

- I. Agenda – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda of Tuesday, April 21, 2026.
- II. Council Discussion of Maryland SB791, Correctional Services and Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement – Prohibitions (Community Trust Act) – SB791 was brought forward for discussion. At Mr. Callahan’s request, Joe Gamble, Talbot County Sheriff, briefed the Council on his concerns regarding the legislation from a law enforcement perspective which he had included in a letter to the Council. He prefaced his comments by stating that he is not in charge of the Talbot County Detention Center, but in his opinion, if the legislation becomes law, it will create more chaos not only in Easton and the Talbot County community but in the state of Maryland, stating that if individuals being released from the Department of Corrections cannot be safely picked up from that location by federal law enforcement once released, they will be picked up on the streets, which will cause more stress within the immigrant community. He cited the scenario of an individual who is released from the Department of Corrections and goes to his or her residence; when federal law enforcement shows up, anyone else is the residence who may be undocumented will be picked up as well. He stated that the legislation, if signed by the Governor into law, will also limit some of the contact that Sheriff’s deputies currently have with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials and would expose both Detention Center personnel and Sheriff’s deputies to possible civil litigation should they not follow the exact letter of the law. Sheriff Gamble requested Council’s consideration to forward a letter to the Governor asking that he veto the bill. County Manager, Clay Stamp, speaking on behalf of the Director of the Department of Corrections, stated that the signing of the legislation into law would change the current protocol between the Talbot County Department of Corrections and federal law enforcement which he outlined for Council. He stated that should the legislation become law, that protocol will not be allowed and he reiterated Sheriff Gamble’s statement that County law enforcement personnel could be held personally liable. He stated that the Council had forwarded a letter to the Maryland State Legislature in February 2026 citing their opposition to SB791. Mr. Stamp then requested Council’s consideration to forward a letter to the Governor reaffirming Council’s opposition to the legislation and asking that he veto the legislation. Mr. Stamp stated the legislation, if signed, would also not allow the Department of Corrections to notify federal law enforcement that an individual is being released on a certain day and time. Upon motion by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved forwarding a letter to the Governor, reaffirming their opposition to the SB791 and requesting that he veto the legislation by voting 3 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe - Aye

III. Council Comments:

Ms. Haythe - Ms. Haythe stated that, in her opinion, the bill (SB791) was a little confusing when Council began reviewing it, but based on the legal opinion Council received, and the research completed by Mr. Stamp, the Council is of the opinion that the bill will jeopardize not only the safety of the immigrants in the community but the safety of the entire community. She stated that she just wants the public to understand that is why the Council voted to send a letter to the Governor asking that he veto the bill.

Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene at 5:00 p.m. for a joint meeting with the Talbot County Board of Education in the Meeting Room of the Talbot County Free Library – Easton Branch, located at 100 W. Dover Street in Easton, by voting 3 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan - Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe - Aye

The meeting ended at 4:44 p.m.

The transcript of the Tuesday, April 21, 2026, County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.