



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

February 14, 2023

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

- I. Agenda – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda of Tuesday, February 14, 2023.
- II. Minutes – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, January 24, 2023.
- III. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, January 31, 2023, Tuesday, February 7, 2023 and Tuesday, February 14, 2023.
- IV. Updated to Board of Health – Maria Maguire, M.D., Talbot County Health Officer - Dr. Maguire provided statistical information on the demographics of Talbot County citizens compared with other citizens in the state of Maryland by age, ethnicity, average household income, disability, etc., health behaviors of both groups by life expectancy, teen birth rate, smoking, obesity, excessive drinking and Emergency Room visits for diabetes. She stated that the leading causes of death for Talbot County residents are heart issues, cancer and accidents. Dr. Maguire then briefed the Council on the following: (1) Opioid Epidemic – fatal overdoses declined 15% in Talbot County between September 2021 and September 2022; non-fatal overdoses declined by 65% during the same period. She stated that initial funding in the sum of \$60 million from the Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF) began to be distributed in 2022; the ORF was created in 2019 to receive funds awarded to the State of Maryland from legal settlements with prescription opioid manufacturers and distributors; a total of \$400 million is anticipated over the next 18 years; and (2) Behavioral Health Services – she stated that new providers for substance abuse and mental health care to both adults and children, and crisis bed services, are coming to Talbot County to replace services lost when Eastern Shore Psychological Services closed their offices in fall 2022. Dr. Maguire provided updates on on-going and recent public health emergencies including Monkeypox (Mpox); the downward trend of COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths; and the respiratory illnesses of influenza and RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus). Free Flu shots are available Monday through Friday from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Talbot County Covid/Vaccine Center, 102 Marlboro Ave., Easton; walk-ins are welcome. She noted that February is American Heart Month, stating that 80% of heart disease and stroke can be prevented by choosing foods that are heart-healthy, participating in regular physical activity, getting enough sleep, and managing stress. Resources for managing heart health may be found at <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/education/american-heart-month> and <https://www.livetothebeat.org/>.
- V. Update by Talbot County Department of Economic Development & Tourism – Ken Kozel, Chair, Talbot County Economic Development Commission; Judy Bixler, Chair, Talbot County Tourism Board; Cassandra Vanhooser, Director, Talbot County Department of Economic Development & Tourism - Ms. Vanhooser outlined the Vision, Mission and Value of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism to Talbot County and briefed the Council on additional resources provided to the department during the Pandemic, including funding from the Maryland Rural Economic Development Fund; the EDA (Economic Development Administration) Grant for the Eastern Shore Recovery Project; and ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) funding for Broadband. She also presented a summary of the number of clients from Talbot County referred to the Small Business Development Center, a State program that Talbot County partially funds. She outlined the distribution of \$10 million in funding provided to the

Mid-Shore Regional Council as part the \$50 million included in Governor Hogan’s 2022 Budget for the five regional councils throughout the state. Talbot County received \$3.233 million which funded 14 projects, 5 of which were County projects. Ms. Vanhooser also reviewed results of the initial Eastern Shore Business Sentiment Survey, a twice yearly survey of Eastern Shore businesses conducted by economic development organizations in all nine counties on the Eastern Shore. Results from the December 2022 survey cited respondents’ top three concerns as payroll/benefits; fuel/transportation; and utilities costs; respondents also expressed optimism toward the continued success or expansion of their businesses over the next five years. Ms. Vanhooser highlighted the success of the recent Business Resource Fair held on January 21, 2023 and the first of three “Let’s Talk Business” speaker series events; the March 6 speaker for the series is Ken Kozel, President & CEO, University of Maryland Medical System Shore Regional Health; the speaker for the April 3 event is Dick Willey, former president, Perdue AgriBusiness, LLC – Perdue Farms, Inc. Ms. Vanhooser concluded her presentation by stating that her office has relaunched the *TourTalbot.org* website and is relaunching the Frederick Douglass website in February; flag raising ceremony and ribbon cutting at the Frederick Douglass Mural on the Easton Rail Trail will take place on Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Kozel, Ms. Bixler and Ms. Vanhooser as various topics were brought forward. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism will continue to update the Council on a regular or as-needed basis.

VI. Introduction of Administrative Resolution:

AN ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION REPEALING ENFORCEMENT RESOLUTION – COVID-19 – ADOPTED AUGUST 25, 2020 was read into the record by the Clerk. County Attorney, Patrick, Thomas, stated that the purpose of the administrative resolution is to formally repeal, in its entirety, the Administrative Resolution approved by the Council on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 entitled “Enforcement Resolution COVID-19” as it is no longer in force and effect now that the State of Maryland’s Executive Order No. 21-05-14-01 is no longer in effect. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the Administrative Resolution by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

VII. County Manager’s Report:

A. Talbot County Board of Appeals – Mr. Stamp requested Council approval of the reappointment of Zakary Krebeck and Greg Gannon (alternate) to three-year terms on the Talbot County Board of Appeals; said terms will expire on February 11, 2026. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the reappointments by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

B. Talbot County Emergency Services Advisory Board – Requested Council approval of the reappointment of Terry Satchell (Easton District) and Ruth Sullivan (Trappe District) to three-

year terms on the Talbot County Emergency Services Advisory Board; said terms will expire on February 1, 2026. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the reappointments by voting 5 - 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- C. Talbot County Local Emergency Planning Committee – Requested Council approval to forward the name of the following individual to the Governor for consideration of appointment to a three-year term on the Talbot County Local Emergency Planning Committee: Michael Sullivan (Commissioner – Town of Trappe); if appointed, said term will expire on August 1, 2026. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved forwarding Mr. Sullivan’s name to the Governor by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- D. Talbot County Police Accountability Board – Requested Council approval of the appointment of G.A. “Gugy” Irving, III to a three-year term on the Talbot County Police Accountability Board as a representative of the Oxford District; said term will expire on August 1, 2025. Upon motion by Ms. Leshner seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the appointment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- E. Talbot County Ethics Commission – Requested Council approval of the reappointment of James Bell to a three-year term on the Talbot County Ethics Commission; said term will expire on July 1, 2025. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the reappointment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- F. Request from Department of Corrections – Requested Council approval to utilize FY23 Contingency Funds in the sum of \$31,804 for unanticipated repair of three (3) condenser coils in the HVAC system at the Talbot County Detention Center; the Finance Director certified that the Contingency Funding is available. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr.

Stepp, the Council approved use of the Contingency Funding as outlined by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- G. Request from Hog Neck Golf Course – Requested Council approval to increase Daily Fee Golf Rates and Annual Rates for the 2023 season as recommended by the Talbot County Golf Board. Council discussion ensued with Rich Setter, Head Golf Professional/General Manager, Hog Neck Golf Course. Upon motion by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the increases as outlined by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- H. Request from Hog Neck Golf Course – Requested Council approval to have Hog Neck Golf Course enter into a lease agreement with Finch Turf Equipment as recommended by the Talbot County Golf Board; said lease is for a term of 60 months in the sum of \$369,859.40 beginning in November 2023. Rich Setter, Head Golf Professional/General Manager, Hog Neck Golf Course, stated that the lead time to obtain the equipment is approximately one (1) year; funding for the Finch equipment lease will be included in the FY24 budget. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Setter. Upon motion by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved having Hog Neck Golf Course enter into the lease by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- I. Request from Hog Neck Golf Course – Requested Council approval to enter into a contract with Musco Sports Lighting, LLC in the sum of \$83,707 for the installation of lights in the parking lot at Hog Neck Golf Course by repurposing nine (9) 30' light poles from the parking lot of the Talbot County Business Center once they have been decommissioned. Rich Setter, Head Golf Professional/General Manager, Hog Neck Golf Course, stated the funding in the sum of \$75,000 for the project was included in the FY23 budget, and, in his opinion, the overage can be reduced by utilizing in-house staff to perform trenching for the electrical lines. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Setter. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the request by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- J. Bid No. 22-03, REROOFING OF SECTIONS OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE ROOF, 11 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET, EASTON – TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND – Requested Council approval to award the Base Bid, Add Alternate #1, and Add Alternate #2 for Bid No. 22-03 to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, A.K.J., Inc. of Stevensville, Maryland, in the sums of \$232,500 and \$14,750, respectively; funding for the project is included in the FY23 budget. Award of the Base Bid and Add Alternate # 1 are contingent upon permit approval from the Town of Easton Historic District Commission. Council discussion ensued with Brian Moore, Superintendent, Roads and County Facilities. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the award by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- K. Bid No. 22-17, TALBOT COUNTY FREE LIBRARY – EASTON BRANCH - AUDIO/VISUAL EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION (AUDITORIUM MAIN MEETING ROOM/FREDERICK DOUGLASS ROOM) - EASTON - TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND – Requested Council approval to award Bid No. 22-17 to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Daly Computers, in the sum of \$85,048; funding for the project is included in the FY23 budget. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the award by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

VIII. Public Comments: Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on matters of interest to them.

IX. Council Comments:

Mr. Stepp – Mr. Stepp stated that since the Council’s last meeting on January 24th he had attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting which featured a speaker from the National Weather Service. He stated that the Council had met with County Engineer, Ray Clarke and the Public Works Advisory Board for a presentation on the *Draft 2023 Report of the Review*; the Council had also met on Tuesday, February 7th with elected officials of the local municipalities to learn about what they are doing.

Mr. Lesher – Mr. Lesher stated that in two weeks he will be on Capitol Hill for Museums Advocacy Day and although he has not received the final meeting schedule for the day, he had requested an early time so that he could be back in Easton in time for the work session with Easton Utilities. He concurred with Mr. Stepp’s statement that the beginning of a Council term is full of opportunities to once again learn about the good work accomplished by County departments and agencies, and the past three weeks have been no exception, including his first look at the County’s Repurposing Center on St. Michaels Road, an orientation regarding the services provided by the University of Maryland Agricultural Extension, and a tour of the Talbot County Detention Center. He stated that, in his opinion, perhaps the most impactful was a meeting last week with the Talbot Fire and Rescue Association with representatives of our seven volunteer fire companies. He stated that several of the fire companies are facing serious challenges in recruitment and retention of volunteers; however, they brought forward several concrete proposals including first-time homebuyers’ assistance for qualified active volunteers and income tax assistance, similar to a program that is offered by the State. Mr. Lesher stated that should these or other proposals be implemented, they will come at a cost to Talbot County taxpayers but, in his opinion, we will have to weigh whether that cost would be less than the cost of not taking one or more of those actions. Mr. Lesher concluded his comments by stating that he is ready to hear more from them and to give them serious consideration.

Ms. Mielke – Ms. Mielke wished everyone a Happy Valentine’s Day.

Ms. Haythe - Ms. Haythe concurred with Ms. Mielke’s comments.

Mr. Callahan - Mr. Callahan stated that, in his opinion, the Council had received a lot of information from department heads during the meeting and commended staff for all their hard work.

X. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room for a work session with Easton Utilities for an update on the *Easton Connect* project and at 4:30 p.m. in Open Session and immediately adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of legal, personnel and real estate matters as listed on the statement for closing the meeting, and at 6:00 p.m. for the regularly scheduled meeting by voting 5 - 0 as follows:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

The transcript of the February 14, 2023 County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

XI, Summary of Closed Session Held on February 14, 2023:

1. Statement of the time, place, and purpose of the closed session:

Time of closed session: 4:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 Place of closed session: County Council Office
 Purpose of the closed session: To consider various matters as set forth in the statement for closing the meeting

2. Record of the vote of each member as to closing the session:

Names of members voting aye: Callahan, Haythe, Leshar, Mielke, Stepp
 Members opposed: None
 Abstaining: None
 Absent: None

3. Statutory authority to close session and listing of each topic actually discussed, persons present, and each action taken in the session:

Topic Description	Statutory Authority	Reason for Closed Session Discussion	Persons Present	Action Taken
To discuss appointment to various County boards and committees	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Public discussion would discourage individuals from volunteering to serve	Chuck Callahan, Keasha Haythe, Pete Leshar, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	No action
To discuss personnel matter involving Roads Department	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Public discussion involves specific individual	Chuck Callahan, Keasha Haythe, Pete Leshar, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	Council concurred partially with recommendation
For legal update on litigation involving Talbot Integrity Project	GP § 3-305(b)(7)(8)	Attorney-client privilege regarding status of litigation	Chuck Callahan, Keasha Haythe, Pete Leshar, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	No action
For legal update on litigation involving Lois	GP § 3-305(b)(7)(8)	Attorney-client privilege regarding status of litigation	Chuck Callahan, Keasha Haythe, Pete Leshar, Lynn Mielke, Dave	No action

Gibson et al v Talbot County			Stepp, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	
For legal update on litigation and legal costs	GP § 3-305(b)(7)(8)	Attorney-client privilege regarding status of litigation	Chuck Callahan, Keasha Haythe, Pete Leshner, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	No action
For update on legal matter involving Finance Office	GP § 3-305(b)(7)(8)	Attorney-client privilege regarding status of litigation	Chuck Callahan, Keasha Haythe, Pete Leshner, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	No action
For briefing on public security at Courthouse	GP § 3-305(b)(10)	For public security regarding implementation of emergency plans	Chuck Callahan, Keasha Haythe, Pete Leshner, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	No action

XI. Work Session with Public Works Advisory Board and Ray Clarke, County Engineer, for Review of Draft 2023 Report of the Review and Update on the County’s Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan – The Council met with the following members of the Public Works Advisory Board: Roger Bollman, Bill Anderson, and Ed Schlichter, and County Engineer, Ray Clarke on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room; Public Works Advisory Board members Cory Buxton and Dan Billingsley were absent. The purpose of the meeting was for an update on the Draft 2023 Report of the Review (“the Report”). Mr. Clarke stated that the Report includes resolutions adopted from 2002 to present and which have been approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment; an On-Site Sewage Disposal System (OSDS) Section and Marinas Section. He stated that the approved resolutions were used to develop maps and water/wastewater system descriptions and outlined the current classification categories for water and wastewater systems in Talbot County (W-1/S-1 – Immediate Priority Status; W-2/S-2 – Future water and/or sewer service in 3 to 5 years; and W-3/S-3 – Future water and/or sewer service in 6 to 10 years). He stated that the Report incorporates up-to-date data collected from the Towns, the County and privately owned water and wastewater systems; system specific information; the goals, organization and policies of the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan and reviews the goals, policies, procedures, and water and sewerage systems included in the 1992 Update Plan and 2002 Report of the Review. The Report also provides information on the process by which the County’s Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan can be amended. Mr. Clarke utilized a PowerPoint presentation to provide a timeline for completion of the Report (2023), anticipated date for initiation of the Update of the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan (late 2023 or 2024), and maps of Priority Funding Areas, Land Use, and Water and Sewer Service

Areas in the county. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Clarke and representatives of the Public Works Advisory Board as various facets of the presentation were brought forward. Mr. Clarke and the Public Works Advisory Board will continue to update the Council as work on the *Draft 2023 Report of the Review* continues.

- XII. Meeting with Elected Officials from Easton, Oxford, Queen Anne, St. Michaels and Trappe - The Talbot County Council met with elected officials from the incorporated municipalities of Talbot County on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the St. Michaels Branch of the Talbot County Free Library. The following individuals were in attendance: Megan Cook, President, Easton Town Council; Rev. Elmer Davis, Jr., Ron Engle and Al Silverstein, Members, Easton Town Council; Don Richardson, Easton Town Manager; Robert Willey, Mayor, Town of Easton; Sharon Van Emburgh, Attorney, Town of Easton; Tom Costigan, Commissioner, Town of Oxford; Phil Starkey, Mayor, Town of Queen Anne; Dawn Starkey, Secretary/Clerk, Town of Queen Anne; David Breimhurst, President, Commissioners of St. Michaels (via Zoom); Tad DuPont, Member, Commissioners of St. Michaels; Joyce Harrod, Vice President, Commissioners of St. Michaels; Rob Straebel, Town Administrator, Town of St. Michaels; Tonya Pritchett (via Zoom), Brian Schmidt, Michael Sullivan, Members, Trappe Town Council; Chuck Callahan, President, Talbot County Council; Pete Leshner, Vice-President, Talbot County Council; Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Members, Talbot County Council; Clay Stamp, County Manager; Jessica Morris, Assistant County Manager; Martha Sparks, Talbot County Finance Director; and Cassandra Vanhooser, Director, Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism. The following items were brought forward: (1) Update on Police Accountability Board – Mr. Stamp stated that the County is in the process of completing State requirements for the Police Accountability Board, with one member remaining to be appointed by the Council. He stated that the Police Accountability Board is anticipated to appoint two members of the Administrative Charging Committee in the near future; two members of the four-person Committee were appointed by the County Council; the remaining two members are appointed by the Administrative Charging Committee. Mr. Stamp stated that Patrick Thomas, County Attorney, will serve as attorney for the Police Accountability Board and Vicki Bradley is the Secretary to the Police Accountability Board and Administrative Charging Committee; (2) Mr. Callahan briefed attendees on on-going work to update the County's Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan and stated that a compilation of data acquired will be used to develop the next County Comprehensive Plan in the next several years; the last County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2016 and is required by the State to be completed every 10 years. Mr. Callahan emphasized the need for the County and Towns to work together and asked the Towns' representatives to keep the County apprised of any planned growth allocation so the County can plan accordingly. Mr. Leshner stated that if there is a better mechanism to anticipate the County's capital needs, the County is open to suggestions; Ms. Haythe stated that if the County is aware of projects in the pipeline, it can better plan for the projects. Mr. Sullivan requested the representatives' consideration of having a specific individual in each town as a liaison to the County. Mr. Leshner noted the distinction between the County's Comprehensive Plan and the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan (CWSP). He stated that the CWSP is now in the hands of staff and the Public Works Advisory Board; Phase I, the *2023 Report of the Review* will note the changes in the CWSP since the 2002 Report of the Review. He stated that public hearings on the update to the CWSP are anticipated to take place in March or April 2023; once the draft has been completed it will be forwarded to the Maryland Department of the Environment for review and comment, after which conversations with the Towns will be held; (3) Mayor Willey provided an aerial photograph of the Town of Easton's plans to convert a 198 +/- acre parcel on the Oxford Road into a passive park; the parcel was recently purchased with \$4.9 million in State Program Open Space funds. He stated that representatives of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Town of Easton and the County have walked the site and the matter is scheduled to go before the Board of Public Works in March 2023 for consideration; the Town and County have committed to matching funding in the sum of \$100,000 each toward the purchase; the County portion of the funding is in local POS funding. Mayor Willey also briefed the group on the progress of

development of a park at Easton Point, including the pedestrian bridge to Easton Village; the Town's purchase of the former Southern States property and relocation of the buildings to the Town's Public Works property for reuse; the installation of a living shoreline on the eastern side of Flood Avenue, the installation of a gate and fence on the road to the proposed site for the relocation of the boat ramp at Easton Point, and a parking lot for use by those traversing the expanded bike path on Port Street. He stated that the Town is also in talks with Vulcan Materials Company (a company located at Easton Point which sells, among other things, aggregate and crushed stone); development of Easton Point is not anticipated to be completed until 2030 at the earliest. Mayor Willey concluded his comments by stating that the signal light at Glenwood Ave. and the Easton Bypass is scheduled to be installed by Memorial Day 2023. Don Richardson outlined proposed renovations to the Town's building located at 11 S. Harrison Street in Easton, including providing an ADA accessible entrance and ADA compliant restrooms at the rear portion of the building; the project is anticipated to go out to bid in the next 30 days and will be completed within six (6) months. Mr. Costigan stated that the firm of Underwood & Associates would be making improvements to the shoreline of the Oxford Strand in the next several months as well as to the adjacent parking lots; information on the project is available online at [Oxford Shoreline Improvements | Town Of Oxford, Maryland \(oxfordmd.net\)](https://www.oxfordmd.net/oxford-shoreline-improvements). He stated that the Town of Oxford has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for upgrades to the Town's water system; Oxford Day will be held this year on Saturday, April 22, 2023; and requested the County's consideration to extend the walking trail from Oxford to the Oxford Conservation Park. County Manager Clay Stamp stated that the matter will be included in the FY24 Budget for Council's consideration. Mr. Starkey stated that the Town of Queen Anne had contacted the Maryland Transportation Administration (MTA) regarding the possible purchase of a parcel of land formerly owned by the railroad which the Town is interested in utilizing as a park and that MTA is interested in discussing. He stated that the Town had received grant funding from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to be used toward paving approximately one-half mile of trail of the Town Park. Mr. Starkey concluded his comments by stating that he would be contacting Preston Peper, Director, Talbot County Department of Parks & Recreation regarding POS funding for the waterfront. Mr. Breimhurst (via Zoom) stated that the Town of St. Michaels has plans to double the number of walking and bike paths and to install electronic water meters for users of the St. Michaels water system in order to provide more efficiency and to save money. He stated that the Town had received grant funding for planning and engineering to combat sea level rise. Mr. Straebel stated that a group in St. Michaels has proposed the establishment of a dog park within the town; a parcel owned by the Maryland State Highway Administration off Railroad Avenue is being considered as a possible location. He stated that a downtown improvement project is currently in progress involving the installation of curb and gutter and historic brick sidewalks; Mr. DuPont stated that the cost of the curb and gutter and brick sidewalk project is approximately \$430,000. He stated that the Town's Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Commission is in the process of conducting studies of the waterfronts at San Domingo Creek and West Chew Avenue to determine how best to mitigate the rise of sea level; reiterated Mr. Breimhurst's statement about the installation of 1300 "smart water meters"; and stated that the Town is in receipt of the conceptual design for a new \$6.5 million Town office building – the conceptual design will be presented to the community in the near future. Mr. DuPont stated that in response to the concerns expressed by citizens of St. Michaels, the Town has enacted a one-year moratorium related to the law passed by the Maryland State Legislature in 2022 regarding the recreational use of marijuana in order to provide the Town an opportunity to learn more about whether the State will provide local jurisdictions the opportunity to opt out of the sale or distribution of recreational marijuana within its boundaries. Mr. DuPont stated that, in his opinion, the Towns and the County need to all be "on the same page." Mr. Schmidt stated that the Town of Trappe had made changes in its zoning for properties located on Rt. 50 and advised that Dairy Queen is looking to locate on Rt. 50 in Trappe, a mechanic shop is proposing to locate on the property of the former Nelson's Auction Gallery and the Trappe Post Office is currently closed while it undergoes renovation; reopening of the Post Office is anticipated by the end of March. He stated that the Town is considering the creation of a meadow on one-half of the park property it purchased from the County, with the remaining portion used

for a future town hall. He stated that the Town is using the \$500,000 in ARPA funding it received from the County to dredge its wastewater treatment ponds; bids for the dredging project are due on February 28th and award of the project is anticipated at the Town Council’s March 1st meeting. Mr. Schmidt concluded his presentation by stating that to date, 40 houses in the Lakeside development have been completed and are connected to the Town sewer system; an additional 20 houses are currently under construction. Mr. DuPont requested the group’s consideration to share law enforcement resources, specifically with the Sheriff’s Office, including a building, training rooms, etc., stating that the Town currently spends 43% of its total budget on police protection. Mr. Breimhurst stated that Mr. Leshner and Sheriff Joe Gamble had met to discuss the possibility of a Regional Bay Hundred jurisdiction. Mr. Stamp stated that the law enforcement steering group, comprised of the Sheriff, police chiefs, representatives of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Coast Guard, meets on a monthly basis, and suggested that the group might be a good place to begin the conversation; discussion ensued among those in attendance. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Talbot County Free Library – Easton Branch.

CASH STATEMENT 01/31/2023

BALANCE 1/24/2023	93,383,584.93
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 1/24/2023	(110,846.55)
TALBOT COUNTY OWNED PROPERTIES SANITARY PAYMENTS	(947.88)
COMMUNITY CENTER SALES & USE DUE 1/20/2023	(2.95)
GOLF COURSE SALES & USE DUE 1/20/2023	(458.89)
ROADS SALES & USE DUE 1/20/2023	(797.97)
USDA/RD QTRLY BOND PYMT #92-12	(16,408.00)
DEPOSITS	1,208,385.67
CHECKS	(458,164.84)
ACH DISBURSEMENT(S)	(176,720.29)
WIRE TRANSFERS	(2,439,917.71)
VOIDED CHECK(S) #363388, 364043	1,850.00
BALANCE 01/31/2023	91,389,555.52

INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		4.33%	20,612,957.20
BAYVANGUARD BANK			10,259,893.39

TOTAL INVESTED	<u>30,872,850.59</u>
PETTY CASH BALANCE	<u>18,105.00</u>
<u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>	<u>122,280,511.11</u>

CASH STATEMENT 02/07/2023

BALANCE 1/31/2023	91,389,555.52
TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 1/20/2023	(753,973.68)
TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 1/31/2023	(16,002.77)
PENSION DED PPE 1/20/2023	(45,500.16)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 1/20/2023 & 1/31/2023	(21,098.00)
DEFERRED COMP PPE PLAN 401(A)	(8,378.13)
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 1/30/2023	(148,821.53)
WELLS FARGO GOLF EQUIPMENT LEASE PYMT 1/2023	(128.00)
ENTERPRISE LEASE PAYMENT 1/2023	(24,578.55)
RETURNED CHECK #339	(259.75)
BANK CHARGES 12/2022	(2,214.66)
DEPOSITS	9,640,024.04
CHECKS	(650,152.81)
ACH DISBURSEMENT(S)	(51,712.30)
WIRE TRANSFERS	(3,910,627.50)
VOIDED CHECK(S) #	
BALANCE 02/07/2023	<u>95,396,131.72</u>

INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		4.35%	20,612,957.20
BAYVANGUARD BANK			10,259,893.39
TOTAL INVESTED			<u>30,872,850.59</u>

PETTY CASH BALANCE	<u>18,105.00</u>
<u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>	<u>126,287,087.31</u>

CASH STATEMENT 02/14/2023

BALANCE 2/07/2023	95,396,131.72
PENSION DED PPE 1/31/2023	(932.24)
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 2/7/2023	(84,179.17)
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 2/8/2023	(145,175.99)
DEPOSITS	443,875.29
CHECKS	(729,370.37)
ACH DISBURSEMENT(S)	(154,726.66)
WIRE TRANSFERS	
VOIDED CHECK(S) #	
BALANCE 02/14/2023	<u>94,725,622.58</u>

INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		4.48%	20,612,957.20
BAYVANGUARD BANK			10,268,610.91
TOTAL INVESTED			<u>30,881,568.11</u>
PETTY CASH BALANCE			<u>18,105.00</u>
<u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>			<u>125,625,295.69</u>