



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

July 14, 2026

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

- I. Agenda – The Agenda for Tuesday, July 14, 2026, was brought forward for approval. Mr. Stepp made a motion to amend the Agenda to add an item to the County Manager’s Report for consideration to approve the purchase of pumps for the Talbot County Sanitary District, and to remove *Item E, Request to Forward a Letter to the Maryland State Highway Administration for Evaluation of Pedestrian Safety Improvements at MD Rt. 322 (Easton Parkway) and MD Rt. 333 (Oxford Road) Intersection*; Mr. Leshner seconded the motion and the Council approved the Agenda, as amended, by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- II. Minutes – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, June 30, 2026.
- III. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, July 7, 2026, and Tuesday, July 14, 2026.
- IV. Update and Request by Mid-Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. – Kathryn “Katie” Dilley, LCSW-C, Chief Executive Officer, Mid-Shore Behavioral Health, Inc.; Shannon Joyce, MPH, CHES, Behavioral Health Coordinator, Aging Population, Mid-Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. – Ms. Dilley and Ms. Joyce utilized a PowerPoint presentation to outline the mission, vision and organizational values of Mid-Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. (MSBH) which serves as the regional core service agency for the five Mid-Shore counties: Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s and Talbot. Ms. Dilley stated that MSBH is not a direct service provider, it serves as a local behavioral health systems manager that serves at the pleasure of the counties and the Maryland Department of Health Behavioral Health Administration at a systems level role to support the community and behavioral health providers in the region. She stated that MSBH partners with the five health departments in the region for planning and needs assessment purposes. Ms. Dilley stated that there had been a \$16 million increase in funding received over the past six years for behavioral health services for the Mid-Shore Region; MSBH now manages approximately \$25 million in federal and State funding which provides programming and behavioral health services to residents of the Mid-Shore. She updated the Council on the programming and behavioral health services offered through collaborative efforts with various partners and agencies in the following areas: Crisis, Wellness &

Recovery (988, the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, Mobile Crisis Teams/Crisis Response, Good Samaritan Training, Safe Stations, Wellness and Recovery, among others); Adults and Aging Adults (Behavioral Health Assisted Living Initiative, Residential Rehabilitation Program, State Hospital Discharge Initiative, and Main Street Housing, among others); Specialty Populations (Deaf, Deaf/Blind, Hard of Hearing, Gun Safety, Homeless ID, Veterans Warm Line, among others); Child, Adolescent and Young Adult (Caroline County School-Based Mental Health Program, Mobile Response Stabilization Services and Transition Age Youth Services, among others); Continuum of Care (Assistance in Transition from Homelessness, Homelessness Solutions Program; and Housing Rental Programs); and Forensic Mental Health (Forensic Mental Health Program Evaluations and Case Management, and Maryland Community Criminal Justice Treatment Program). Ms. Dilley provided information on Mid-Shore Behavioral Health Workgroups which welcome participation from the public and encouraged those who are interested to join one or more of the workgroups. She stated that over the past year the Mid-Shore Suicide Coalition Workgroup has been added and a Veterans Workgroup will begin in the near future. Ms. Joyce outlined regional highlights on the following topics: Crisis Response, Community Support Partnership, Needs Assessments, Suicide Prevention, **Going Purple** Together, and Rural Advancement of Maryland Peers, and provided information and statistics for each. She stated that in the first six (6) months of FY26, the Eastern Shore Operations Center received 3,671 calls, 30 individuals received Crisis Intervention training, and handled 96 mobile crisis dispatches; the Mobile Response and Stabilization Services provides intensive services to children and adolescents in six Eastern Shore counties for eight weeks. Ms. Dilley stated that MSBH has requested a Mobile Response and Stabilization Service Team to serve Talbot County specifically through funding made available to Maryland's rural jurisdictions. She also noted that funding through the Maryland Blueprint for Education has been set aside for expansion of behavioral health services in the public schools and stated that MSBH will work with the school systems in the five Mid-Shore counties to identify priority behavioral health needs and to bring additional behavioral health providers into the school system; 3,963 students were served in the first six months of the year. Ms. Dilley updated the Council on a recent Needs Assessment conducted in partnership with the organization, Due East, to ascertain what community members and constituents considered primary concerns; counties identified their primary concerns as the amount of alcohol consumption, school mental health and the stigma which often accompanies it, and housing and transportation challenges. The Talbot County community expressed concerns about alcohol consumption, depression, lack of access to healthcare, and the higher incidence of suicide and suicidal behaviors in young adults. Ms. Joyce stated that the Mid-Shore Suicide Coalition is working with Channel Marker to expand education and awareness, stating that on September 26, 2026, Mid-Shore Behavioral Health will be in Moton Park for the **Going Purple** event, a regional event for all five counties which rotates to a different county each year. She stated that the first cohort of the Rural Advancement of Maryland Peers will begin on July 15th – the goal is to train 15 individuals over the next two years to become part of a certified peer support network for the behavioral health workforce while also gaining employment. Ms. Dilley concluded her presentation by outlining various presentations, events and community outreach efforts throughout the five-county region. Council members expressed their appreciation to Ms. Dilley and Ms. Joyce for the job they do to provide mental health services to the Mid-Shore counties. Ms. Dilley then requested the Council's consideration for a Letter of Agreement to have Mid-Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. continue to serve as the County's core service agency for management of the public health system for FY27. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council unanimously approved the Letter of Agreement by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Mielke – Aye

V. Introduction of Legislation:

A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 131 (ROAD NAMING AND PROPERTY NUMBERING) OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE FOR THE PURPOSES OF MODERNIZING TALBOT COUNTY'S ADDRESSING STANDARDS TO BE NEXT-GENERATION 911 COMPLIANT AND TO CLARIFY STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES IN ADMINISTERING THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 131 was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, Bryce Yelton, Assistant Planning Officer, stated that the responsibility for road naming and numbering has historically been the responsibility of the Department of Planning and Zoning which would assign an address to a property and forward the information to the property owner via U.S. Mail; however, the State and the County have changed addressing standards. Katie Stafford, CAD/GIS Specialist, Department of Emergency Management, stated that the information must now be reviewed through the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) and entered into the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) database which feeds into the 911 software in consultation with the Talbot County Department of Emergency Services. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke, and Mr. Stepp. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 N. Washington St., Easton, Maryland 21601.

VI. Public Hearings:

Bill No. 1628, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1607 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE REPLACEMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS AT COUNTY COMMUNITY POOLS AND ASSOCIATED PROPERTY; and

Bill No. 1629, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1600, 1368, AND 1343 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS AT FACILITIES AND PROPERTIES OWNED BY TALBOT COUNTY; and

Bill No. 1630, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1539 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AND IMPROVEMENTS TO A DRIVING RANGE COMPLEX AT THE TALBOT COUNTY HOG NECK GOLF COURSE; and

Bill No. 1631, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1594 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE GREENS AT THE TALBOT COUNTY HOG NECK GOLF COURSE; and

Bill No. 1632, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1595 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE CART PATHS AND PAVED AREAS AT THE TALBOT COUNTY HOG NECK GOLF COURSE; and

Bill No. 1633, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1531, 1480, 1452, AND 1393 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS PARK ON THE TUCKAHOE LOCATED AT 13213 LEWISTOWN ROAD, QUEEN ANNE, MARYLAND; and

Bill No. 1634, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1597, 1556, AND 1533 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TALBOT COUNTY DETENTION CENTER; and

Bill No. 1635, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ROOF AT EASTON MIDDLE SCHOOL; and

Bill No. 1636, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE EXTERIOR REPAIR, IMPROVEMENT, AND PAINTING OF THE TALBOT COUNTY EDUCATION CENTER FACILITY; and

Bill No. 1637, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1587, 1558, AND 1391 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF HVAC SYSTEMS AT FACILITIES OWNED BY TALBOT COUNTY; and

Bill No. 1638, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE ASSESSMENT OF AND DESIGN FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TALBOT COUNTY COURTHOUSE MUSIC HALL; and

Bill No. 1639, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1599, 1557, 1534, 1486, AND 1424 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION TO PURCHASE IMPROVED OR UNIMPROVED REAL PROPERTY FOR FUTURE COUNTY PURPOSES; and

Bill No. 1640, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1605, 1507, 1361, 1332, 1307, and 1267 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE MAPPING, EVALUATION, AND REHABILITATION OR REPLACEMENT OF COUNTY CULVERTS; and

Bill No. 1641, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE IMPROVEMENTS TO DEEP WATER POINT ROAD, ST. MICHAELS, MARYLAND; and

Bill No. 1642, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE IMPROVEMENTS TO COUNTY ROADS IN AND SURROUNDING THE TOWN OF TRAPPE; and

Bill No. 1643, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1613 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE SEWER SYSTEM EXTENSION TO THE MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (MEBA) ENGINEERING SCHOOL; and

Bill No. 1644, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1573 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VACUUM COLLECTION SYSTEM SERVING THE REGION II MARTINGHAM SEWER SERVICE AREA; and

Bill No. 1645, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1616 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR REPLACEMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO PUMP STATIONS AND SURROUNDING PROPERTY IN THE ST. MICHAELS AREA IN REGION II OF THE TALBOT COUNTY SANITARY DISTRICT; and

Bill No. 1646, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1535 AND 1488 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE UPGRADE OR REPLACEMENT OF THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AT THE PRESERVE AT WYE MILLS; and

Bill No. 1647, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1612 AND 1431 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE REGION V (TILGHMAN) WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND ENHANCED NUTRIENT REMOVAL (ENR) TECHNOLOGY; and

Bill No. 1648, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE REPLACEMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE REGION II (ST. MICHAELS) WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND ENHANCED NUTRIENT REMOVAL (ENR) TECHNOLOGY; and

Bill No. 1649, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE SEWER SYSTEM EXTENSION TO, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN IMPROVED APPROACH TO PROVIDING SAFE DRINKING WATER IN, THE VILLAGE OF CLAIBORNE; and

Bill No. 1650, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE REHABILITATION OF, AND IMPROVEMENTS TO, THE REGION V (TILGHMAN) WASTEWATER TREATMENT COLLECTION SYSTEM AND ACCOMPANYING PUMP STATIONS, were read into the record by the Clerk, brought forward for public hearing, and members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. Bill Nos. 1628 through 1650 were then brought to third reader.

Bill No. 1628, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1607 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE REPLACEMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS AT COUNTY COMMUNITY POOLS AND ASSOCIATED PROPERTY, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1628 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1629, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1600, 1368, AND 1343 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS AT FACILITIES AND PROPERTIES OWNED BY TALBOT COUNTY, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1629 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1630, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1539 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AND IMPROVEMENTS TO A DRIVING RANGE COMPLEX AT THE TALBOT COUNTY HOG NECK GOLF COURSE, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1630 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1631, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1594 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE GREENS AT THE TALBOT COUNTY HOG NECK GOLF COURSE, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1631 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1632, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1595 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE CART PATHS AND PAVED AREAS AT THE TALBOT COUNTY HOG NECK GOLF COURSE, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1632 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1633, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1531, 1480, 1452, AND 1393 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS PARK ON THE TUCKAHOE LOCATED AT 13213 LEWISTOWN ROAD, QUEEN ANNE, MARYLAND, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1633 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1634, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1597, 1556, AND 1533 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TALBOT COUNTY DETENTION CENTER, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1634 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1635, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ROOF AT EASTON MIDDLE SCHOOL, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1635 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1636, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE EXTERIOR REPAIR, IMPROVEMENT, AND PAINTING OF THE TALBOT COUNTY EDUCATION CENTER FACILITY, was read into the

record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1636 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1637, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1587, 1558, AND 1391 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF HVAC SYSTEMS AT FACILITIES OWNED BY TALBOT COUNTY, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1637 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1638, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE ASSESSMENT OF AND DESIGN FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TALBOT COUNTY COURTHOUSE MUSIC HALL, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1638 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1639, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1599, 1557, 1534, 1486, AND 1424 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION TO PURCHASE IMPROVED OR UNIMPROVED REAL PROPERTY FOR FUTURE COUNTY PURPOSES, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1639 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1640, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1605, 1507, 1361, 1332, 1307, and 1267 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE MAPPING, EVALUATION, AND REHABILITATION OR REPLACEMENT OF COUNTY CULVERTS, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1640 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1641, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE IMPROVEMENTS TO DEEP WATER POINT ROAD, ST. MICHAELS, MARYLAND, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1641 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1642, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE IMPROVEMENTS TO COUNTY ROADS IN AND SURROUNDING THE TOWN OF TRAPPE, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1642 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1643, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1613 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE SEWER SYSTEM EXTENSION TO THE MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (MEBA) ENGINEERING SCHOOL, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1643 by voting 3 – 0 – 1 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1644, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1573 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VACUUM COLLECTION SYSTEM SERVING THE REGION II MARTINGHAM SEWER SERVICE AREA, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1644 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1645, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1616 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR REPLACEMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO PUMP STATIONS AND SURROUNDING PROPERTY IN THE ST. MICHAELS AREA IN REGION II OF THE TALBOT COUNTY SANITARY DISTRICT, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1645 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Mielke - Aye

Bill No. 1646, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1535 AND 1488 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE UPGRADE OR REPLACEMENT OF THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AT THE PRESERVE AT WYE MILLS, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1646 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Stepp – Aye

Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Mielke - Aye

Bill No. 1647, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1612 AND 1431 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE REGION V (TILGHMAN) WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND ENHANCED NUTRIENT REMOVAL (ENR) TECHNOLOGY, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1647 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Stepp – Aye

Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Mielke - Aye

Bill No. 1648, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE REPLACEMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE REGION II (ST. MICHAELS) WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND ENHANCED NUTRIENT REMOVAL (ENR) TECHNOLOGY, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1648 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Stepp – Aye

Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Mielke - Aye

Bill No. 1649, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE SEWER SYSTEM EXTENSION TO, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN IMPROVED APPROACH TO PROVIDING SAFE DRINKING WATER IN, THE VILLAGE OF CLAIBORNE, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1649 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Stepp – Aye

Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Mielke - Aye

Bill No. 1650, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE REHABILITATION OF, AND IMPROVEMENTS TO, THE REGION V (TILGHMAN) WASTEWATER TREATMENT COLLECTION SYSTEM AND ACCOMPANYING PUMP STATIONS, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1650 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye

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

Bill Nos. 1628 through 1650 will become effective as outlined in the legislation.

VII. Eligible for Vote:

Bill No. 1627, A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 190 (ZONING, SUBDIVISION, AND LAND DEVELOPMENT) OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FOR THE PARTIAL OR COMPLETE RELEASE OF A RESERVED LAND AGREEMENT OR A RESERVATION OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AGREEMENT IF THE PARCEL IS SUBJECT TO AN OPTION CONTRACT WITH THE STATE OF MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION (MALPF), SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. Prior to the vote, Council discussion ensued. The Council approved Bill No. 1627 by voting 3 – 2 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp - Aye
Mr. Leshner – Nay
Ms. Mielke – Nay
Ms. Haythe – Aye (via absentee ballot)

Bill No. 1627 will become effective as outlined in the legislation.

VIII. County Manager’s Report:

- A. Economic Development Commission – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Walter Chase, Sr. to a three-year term on the Economic Development Commission as a representative of the Town of Trappe; said term will expire on June 30, 2029. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the reappointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- B. Police Accountability Board – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Alfred “Al” Sikes to the Police Accountability Board as a representative of the Town of Oxford to complete the unexpired term of William Belding. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the appointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- C. Request for Letter of Support – Requested Council approval for a letter in support of the Bellevue Passage Museum’s application for FY27 Maryland Historical Trust African American Heritage Preservation Program funding in the sum of \$121,000; no County funding is required. If approved, the funding will be utilized to preserve and share the history of the village of Bellevue, one of Maryland’s oldest African American maritime communities; Council discussion ensued with Dr. Dennis De Shields, M.D., a representative of the Bellevue Passage Museum. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the letter of support by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- D. Request from Department of Public Works – Requested Council approval of the Assistant County Engineer’s recommendation to have the Department of Public Works piggyback on a State of Virginia contract with Mid-Atlantic Truck and Equipment for the purchase of a pump truck for the Talbot County Sanitary District in the sum of \$185,567.00; funding for the purchase is included in the FY27 Budget. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the purchase by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- E. Request for Letter of Opposition – Requested Council approval to forward a letter to the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) in opposition to an application by Coastal Seaplanes to establish a seaplane base on the Miles River. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved forwarding a letter in opposition to the seaplane base by voting 3 - 1 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye *
Mr. Stepp - Aye
Mr. Leshner – Nay
Ms. Mielke – Aye

*Mr. Callahan initially voted Nay but later changed his vote to Aye.

- F. Discussion of Annual Adjustment to Development Impact Fees – Martha Sparks, Finance Director, provided a brief history of the legislation approved by the Council which established development impact fees and stated that the impact fees are used to finance the capital costs of additional or expanded public works, improvements, and facilities required to accommodate new construction, including roads, bridges, parks, schools, libraries, and recreational amenities. She stated that § 64-13 (C) of the Talbot County Code outlines the annual review process and provides for an automatic annual adjustment of the impact fees, if necessary, on July 1st each year following review of data from the Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index. She stated that the

Council always has the prerogative to retain the existing fee rate or to waive the inflation adjustment for any fiscal year. Ms. Sparks outlined, in her opinion, the negative impacts of not implementing the annual inflation adjustment for the fees. She stated that, should the fees not be adjusted each year, the existing taxpayers would subsidize infrastructure required by new construction and stated that it was her recommendation that the annual increases as outlined in the legislation continue. Bryce Yelton, Assistant Planning Officer, stated that the Office of Planning and Zoning accepts the impact fees on behalf of the County and outlined the process by which residents and developers pay the fees. Council discussion ensued with Ms. Sparks and Mr. Yelton. Mr. Stepp made a motion to waive the annual increase for FY27 and Mr. Callahan seconded the motion. The Council did not approve the motion by voting 2 – 2 as follows:

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

- G. Request for Independent Contractor Agreement – Requested Council approval to have the County enter into an Independent Contractor Agreement with Victor Butanis to serve as a judge for an upcoming Sheriff's Office Trial Board case. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the request by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- H. Request from Department of Public Works – Requested Council approval of the Assistant County Engineer's recommendation to have the Department of Public Works purchase ten (10) E/One Grinder Pumps from Freemire & Associates, Inc. in the sum of \$41,618.56 to replenish the County's inventory. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the purchase by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- I. North EMS Station Ribbon-cutting Ceremony – Mr. Stamp stated that the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new North EMS Station in Cordova will take place on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. and invited the public to attend.

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

- X. Council Comments:

Mr. Stepp – No comments.

Mr. Leshner – Mr. Leshner stated that yesterday ICE agents “disappeared: another Talbot County resident.” He stated that this time it came closer to home because it was the mother of one of the Eagle Scouts in his troop. He stated that Mrs. Morales was neither a danger to our national security nor a threat to public safety or a “convicted criminal of undocumented aliens and gang members” as described in the website for enforcement and removal operations for ICE as their priority. He stated that, in his opinion, this is not making us safer or greater; it is simply terrorizing our community.

Ms. Mielke - Ms. Mielke stated that, in follow-up to a comment, one of the issues she will be exploring in the coming weeks is a moratorium on data centers in the county.

Mr. Callahan – Mr. Callahan stated that he hoped everyone had a Happy 4th of July and Talbot250 Celebration and that, in his opinion, it went well, and the whole nation came together for that weekend. He stated that it was good to see how positive it was for everyone to come together. He stated that he hoped everyone realizes how important our nation is - that everyone can express their thoughts and feelings.

Upon motion by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene on July 28, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in Open Session, then adjourn into Closed Session as listed on the statement for closing that meeting, and for the regularly scheduled meeting at 5:00 p.m. by voting 4– 0 as follows:

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

The meeting ended at 6:21 p.m.

The transcript of the Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 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 July 14, 2026:

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

Time of closed session: 3:45 p.m. End 5:00 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, Leshner, Mielke, Stepp
Members opposed: None
Abstaining: None

Absent: Haythe

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 appointments to various County boards and committees	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Public discussion would discourage individuals from volunteering to serve	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action
To consider the acquisition of real property in Bellevue for a public purpose	GP § 3-305(b)(3)	To protect the County's bargaining position regarding the possible acquisition of real property for a public purpose	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Emily Gilmer	No action

		TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT 7/7/2026	
OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK			
OPERATING FUNDS AT		6/30/2026	\$ 5,946,100.01
RES235 Loan Balance Reduction			(868.00)
Returned Paymentus Payments			(647.55)
Bank Charges 5/2026			(7,802.21)
Deposits			10,087,685.18
Checks			(233,341.75)
ACH Disbursements			(4,283,684.14)
EFT's			(415,798.99)
Wire Transfers			(14,505.63)
OPERATING FUNDS AT		7/7/2026	\$ 11,077,136.92
PETTY CASH FUNDS			\$ 18,455.00
INVESTMENT FUNDS			
		<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)		3.71%	\$ 24,275,490.88
Bayvanguard Bank		3.89%	\$ 11,666,348.29
Shore United Money Market Account		3.62%	\$ 65,287,547.92
INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL			\$ 101,247,842.09
<u>TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</u>			<u>\$ 112,324,979.01</u>



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND
WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT
7/14/2026

OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK

OPERATING FUNDS AT **7/7/2026** **\$ 11,077,136.92**

Total ADP Payroll PPE 7/03/2026 (1,166,645.89)

Deposits 3,530,493.87

Checks (245,073.01)

ACH Disbursements (3,212,979.49)

OPERATING FUNDS AT **7/14/2026** **\$ 9,982,932.40**

PETTY CASH FUNDS **\$ 18,455.00**

INVESTMENT FUNDS

Yield

Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP) 3.71% \$ 24,275,490.88

Bayvanguard Bank 3.89% \$ 11,666,348.29

Shore United Money Market Account 3.62% \$ 65,287,547.92

INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL **\$ 101,247,842.09**

TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS **\$ 111,230,774.49**