



# TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

November 1, 2022

Present – President Chuck Callahan, Vice President Pete Leshner, Frank Divilio, Corey W. Pack, Laura Everngam Price, 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, November 1, 2022.
- II. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, November 1, 2022.
- III. Proclamation: American Education Week – November 14 – 16, 2022- The Clerk read a proclamation into the record in recognition of American Education Week. The proclamation spoke of the emphasis on the education of the individual and the importance of public schools as one of the foundations of our democracy, with the belief that knowledge and freedom go hand in hand. Dr. Sharon Pepukayi, Superintendent, Talbot County Public Schools, spoke about schools teaching the “whole child,” not just teaching academics, so that they learn the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills of collaboration, critical thinking and communication. She stated that each school in the county will host activities during the week which highlights what is happening in their particular school. Council members expressed their appreciation to Dr. Pepukayi for all her work with the students of Talbot County Public Schools. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the proclamation by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Divilio – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Pack – Aye

Mr. Pack presented the Proclamation to Dr. Pepukayi who accepted on behalf of Talbot County Public Schools.

- IV. Update by Easton Airport – Micah Risher, Manager, Easton Airport; Members, Talbot County Airport Board – Mr. Risher expressed his appreciation to the Council for their support over the last four years. He then utilized a PowerPoint presentation to provide a synopsis of activities at Easton Airport, stating that businesses located at the Airport are growing and expanding, aircraft operations have returned to pre-pandemic levels, and fuel sales are at their highest levels ever. He stated that he will be requesting the next Council’s consideration in the FY24 Budget to increase the fuel farm capacity. He stated that the runway improvement project is now in the design phase following receipt of grant funding earlier this year. Mr. Risher then briefed the Council on the various ways Easton Airport engages with the community including, Easton Airport Day, which this year included the participation of approximately 60 aircraft and had an attendance 5,000 people, and the ACE (Aviation Career Education) program which provides students an opportunity to explore possible careers in the aviation industry; Easton Airport’s celebration of its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023. Mr. Risher then outlined specific accomplishments at Easton Airport over the past four years including, resilience of the Airport through the COVID-19 pandemic; transition of ownership of the Talbot County Business Center from Talbot County to the Airport and completion of aviation easements and obstruction removal projects related to both the current and future configuration of the runway; creation of 10.79 acres of wetland mitigation; enhanced security measures;

renovated terminal building; improvement of internal processes and move to digital advertising; initiation of the ACE program; and development of the Airport's workforce from within. Mr. Risher outlined various business development changes since 2019 including the addition of AT&T to the cell tower on Airport property; expansion of the Bay Runner Shuttle service; provision of medical exams for aviators conducted on-site; and businesses which are new to Easton Airport or current businesses which have expanded or are expanding their operations at the Airport. He stated that business development activities at the Airport have increased annual revenue for the Airport by \$149,240. Mr. Risher concluded his update by stating that as of June 30, 2022, Easton Airport had sold \$1,067,598 gallons of fuel, an increase of 30 percent over the previous year. Jack Pettit, President, Airport Board, encouraged everyone to look at the Easton Airport website for up-to-date useful information about the Airport, including information regarding the runway improvement program. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Risher and Mr. Pettit as various items were brought forward. Mr. Risher will continue to update the Council on a regular or as-needed basis.

- V. Request from Easton Airport – Mr. Risher requested Council approval to submit a letter to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) advising that Easton Airport will participate in the State's Deer Cooperator Permit Program and will be submitting an application for same; the purpose of the Permit is for removal of deer which are hazardous to the Airport's runway operations. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved forwarding the letter by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Divilio – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Pack - Aye

- VI. County Manager's Report: There was no County Manager's Report.
- VII. Public Comments: No comments.
- VIII. Council Comments:

Ms. Price – Ms. Price stated that she was looking forward to the Maryland You Are Beautiful ceremony this evening. Following Mr. Divilio's comments, Ms. Price stated that notices had been published regarding the ballot questions relating to Council's compensation. She stated that although she, Mr. Pack, and Mr. Divilio will not be returning, we were supportive of placing the matter on the ballot. She stated that she concurred with Mr. Callahan's statement that the job is hard and we sacrifice a lot to do the job. She stated that the Council is currently earning approximately \$15 an hour; approval of the ballot question would raise it to a little over \$20 an hour. Ms. Price encouraged voters to give strong consideration to both Question A which would raise the salary for the next Council, and Question B, which requires a supermajority (4 of 5 members) to increase Council's salary after that, stating that it has been 20 years since an increase.

Mr. Pack – No comments.

Mr. Leshner – Mr. Leshner stated that we are in the midst of an election; early voting has started and mail-in ballots have been coming in for several weeks. He stated that the turnout of voters in Talbot County is traditionally high and that, in his opinion, we

need to continue to “do ourselves proud” with the high rate of citizen participation in our democratic processes and that whether you vote by mail-in ballot, early voting, or in person on Election Day, the important thing is to vote. Mr. Leshner concluded his comments by stating that he and his wife had voted earlier this morning and that it was, in his opinion, quick and easy.

Mr. Divilio - Mr. Divilio expressed his appreciation to the Easton Police Department for, in his opinion, doing a wonderful job of keeping the neighborhoods safe last night (Halloween). He stated that they were out in full numbers to make sure that the children were able to trick or treat happily and safely. Mr. Divilio concluded his comments by encouraging individuals to exercise their privilege to vote.

Mr. Callahan – No comments.

- IX. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio seconded by Ms. Price, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, 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. Divilio - Aye  
Mr. Leshner - Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Pack - Aye

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

The transcript of the November 1, 2022 County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

- X. Summary of Closed Session Held on November 1, 2022:

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

Time of closed session: 3:35 p.m. to 5:05 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, Divilio, Leshner, Pack, Price  
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:

<b>Topic Description</b>	<b>Statutory Authority</b>	<b>Reason for Closed Session Discussion</b>	<b>Persons Present</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
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, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Laura Price, Jessica Morris	No action
For legal update on litigation involving Talbot Integrity Project	GP § 3-305(b)(7)(8)	Attorney-client privilege regarding status of litigation	Chuck Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Laura Price, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	Council concurred with legal counsel's recommendation
For legal update on litigation involving Gibson complaint	GP § 3-305(b)(7)(8)	Attorney-client privilege regarding status of litigation	Chuck Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Laura Price, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	Council concurred with legal counsel's recommendation
For update on legal matter involving Department of Corrections	GP § 3-305(b)(7)(8)	Attorney-client privilege regarding legal matter	Chuck Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Laura Price, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action

**CASH STATEMENT 11/1/2022**

BALANCE 10/25/2022	85,863,521.63
ADP PAYROLL PPE 10/14/2022	(745,961.77)
ADP MONTHLY PAYROLL PPE 10/31/2022	(13,594.25)
DEFERRED COMP PPE 10/14/2022 PLAN 401(A)	(8,329.18)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 10/14/2022	(20,255.58)
PENSION DED PPE 10/14/2022	(45,764.96)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 10/31/2022	(1,006.28)

PENSION DED PPE 10/31/2022	(803.95)
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 10/24/2022	(100,255.56)
RETURNED CHECK(S) #10675, 6995	(3,126.32)
COUNTY OWNED PROPERTIES/SANITARY CHARGES 7/2022	(947.88)
COUNTY OWNED PROPERTIES/SANITARY CHARGES 10/2022	(947.88)
GOLF COURSE SALES & USE DUE 10/20/2022	(2,921.33)
COMMUNITY CENTER SALES & USE DUE 10/20/2022	(11.18)
ROADS SALES & USE DUE 10/20/2022	(976.10)
ENTERPRISE LEASE PAYMENT 10/2022	(15,410.88)
USDA/RD QTRLY BOND PYMT #92-12 10/2022	(16,408.00)
DEPOSITS	1,414,638.47
CHECKS	(586,409.57)
ACH DISBURSEMENT(S)	(20,996.94)
WIRE TRANSFERS	(253,279.03)
VOIDED CHECK(S) # 362851	15,207.50
<b>BALANCE 11/1/2022</b>	<b><u>85,455,960.96</u></b>

**INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT**

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		3.13%	20,500,000.00
BAYVANGUARD BANK			10,251,321.19
<b>TOTAL INVESTED</b>			<b><u>30,751,321.19</u></b>
<b>PETTY CASH BALANCE</b>			<b><u>18,105.00</u></b>
<b><u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u></b>			<b><u>116,225,387.15</u></b>