



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

October 13, 2026

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

- I. Agenda – The Agenda for Tuesday, October 13, 2026, was brought forward for approval. Mr. Stepp made a motion to amend the agenda to add a new *Item VII, Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (LDAAC) Grant Request*; the motion was seconded by Ms. Haythe and the Council approved the agenda, as amended, by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Leshner – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye
- II. Minutes – Mr. Leshner requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, September 22, 2026, and Monday, October 5, 2026 (Special Legislative Day).
- III. Disbursements – Mr. Leshner requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, October 6, 2026, and Tuesday, October 13, 2026.
- IV. Proclamation: Colonel Tench Tilghman Week – October 19 - 24, 2026 – The Clerk read a proclamation into the record which spoke of the role of Talbot County native son, Tench Tilghman, as Aide-de-camp and personal secretary to General George Washington during the American Revolution, including his selection by General Washington to carry news of Lord Cornwallis' surrender in Yorktown, VA on October 19, 1781 to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, PA, where he arrived on October 24, 1781. The proclamation spoke of Col. Tilghman's devotion to the American cause for freedom from 1776 to 1783, sacrificing his time, energy, fortune and family in support of the cause of American independence and freedom, and serving without compensation during that timeframe. Upon motion by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the proclamation by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Wes Hagood, President, Colonel Tench Tilghman Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), expressed his appreciation to the Council for recognizing the 3rd annual Tench Tilghman Week. Mr. Hagood stated that in honor of the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation, the following events are scheduled beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 24th: Parade from the

Talbot County Courthouse where Talbot Resolves were declared on May 24, 1774, to the Spring Hill Cemetery (Easton) where a wreath-laying ceremony will take place to honor Solomon Barrott, the last surviving member of the Maryland Line, Maryland's Revolutionary War Army, and a presentation at the Avalon Theatre by historian and author, Patrick K. O'Donnell on his book, *Washington's Immortals – The Maryland 400 and Maryland Line During the Revolutionary War*. Mr. Hagood gave a brief outline of the various duties of Colonel Tilghman during his service to General Washington, and Colonel Tilghman's uncle, Matthew Tilghman, known as the Father of the Revolution in Maryland and the Patriarch of Maryland, for his roles during and after the Revolutionary War. Dana Newman, Director, Talbot County Free Library, stated that libraries believe in the importance of preserving stories and the Talbot County Free Library is proud to support the celebration for Colonel Tench Tilghman Week. Council commended Mr. Hagood and Ms. Newman for their efforts to preserve history.

Mr. Lesher presented the Proclamation to Wes Hagood, President, Colonel Tench Tilghman Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and Member, Talbot250 Commission; Shawn O'Donnell, Colonel Tench Tilghman Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and Dana Newman, Director, Talbot County Free Library.

- V. Proclamation: Support Your Local Chamber of Commerce Day – October 21, 2026 – The Clerk read a proclamation into the record which spoke of the role of chambers of commerce throughout the country in strengthening connections between businesses and their communities by bringing together employers, community leaders, government, educators and the nonprofit sector to address challenges and to share opportunities. The proclamation also spoke of how for the past 60 years, the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce has been serving and strengthening the business community of Talbot County and the Mid-Shore region through advocacy, connection, collaboration, and workforce initiatives; the Talbot Chamber Foundation invests in apprenticeships, workforce development and entrepreneurship. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the proclamation by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Amy Kreiner, President & CEO, Talbot County Chamber of Commerce, expressed her appreciation to the Council for recognizing the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce. She stated that the role of the Chamber of Commerce is to help strengthen the local economy by supporting businesses, building relationships, and advocating for its members by creating opportunities for businesses in the community to thrive. Council members expressed their appreciation to Ms. Kreiner and Liz Connelly, Vice Chair, Talbot County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, for the work of the Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Haythe presented the Proclamation to Ms. Kreiner, Ms. Connelly, and Taylor Russell, Staff Member, Talbot County Chamber of Commerce who accepted on behalf of the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce.

- VI. Request from Talbot County Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (LDAAC) – Joe Gamble, Chair, Talbot County Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council and Talbot County Sheriff, stated that LDAAC had received and reviewed applications for grant funding from the Opioid Restitution Fund. He stated that the applications for funding totaled \$127,000 for the \$100,000 in funding

available. Sheriff Gamble presented LDAAC's recommendations for distribution of the available funding and provided a brief description of the purpose for which the funding will be used if the recommendations are approved by Council: Tilghman Area Youth Association - \$10,000; Talbot Goes Purple - \$18,000; Channel Marker - \$5,000; Grace Street - \$10,000; Not My Child, Inc. - \$18,000; Chesapeake College Foundation - \$18,500; Mariah's Mission - \$18,000; and St. Michaels Community Center - \$2,500. Sheriff Gamble stated that LDAAC prioritized funding gaps which aligned with the LDAAC Strategic Plan. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved distribution of the Opioid Restitution Funding as presented by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Sheriff Gamble stated that Sarah Cloxton, Addictions Program Director, Talbot County Health Department, and Tammy Stofa, Office of the Public Defender, will serve as Chair and Vice-Chair of LDAAC, respectively, beginning in January 2027. Council members expressed their appreciation to Sheriff Gamble for his ongoing work with LDAAC.

- VII. Presentation of Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Award for FY2025 to Talbot County Finance Office – Martha Sparks, Finance Director; Kaitlin Foster-Clark, Assistant Finance Director – Ms. Sparks stated that the Governors Finance Officers Association (GFOA) had awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Talbot County for its FY25 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. She stated that the County's Report was reviewed by an impartial panel and was determined to have met the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure which clearly communicates the County's financial story and encourages users to engage with the Report. Ms. Sparks stated that the Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for governmental accounting and financial reporting and represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. She stated that this is the 25th consecutive year Talbot County has won the award. Ms. Sparks stated that the award would not have been possible without the consistent dedication and professionalism of the entire staff of the Finance Office and stated that staff's commitment to excellence not only supports the residents and businesses of Talbot County, but also the County Council, the County Manager, and County departments. Council discussion ensued with Ms. Sparks. Council members and Mr. Stamp expressed their appreciation to Ms. Sparks and Ms. Foster-Clark, and the entire Finance Office staff for their hard work throughout the year.

VIII. Public Hearings:

Resolution No. 396, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 27414 FERRY BRIDGE ROAD, EASTON, MARYLAND, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 24 AS PARCEL 205, LOT 1, FROM "UNPROGRAMMED" TO "S-1" IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY CATHERINE G. W. MURPHY, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, Josh Elliott, County Engineer, provided Council with a description of the 25.718-acre property. He stated that the property is zoned Rural Conservation (RC) and a portion is within 100' of the shoreline in an area with high ground water where septic system components penetrate the groundwater as indicated by the Talbot County Office of

Environmental Health. He stated that if approved, the property would abandon its onsite septic system for connection to public sewer with an allocation of one (1) Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU); the property is not eligible for subdivision. The Public Works Advisory Board, at its meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2026, reviewed the resolution and voted 4 – 0 to recommend that the Council approve Resolution No. 396; the Planning Commission, at its meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, reviewed the resolution, found it consistent with the 2016 Talbot County Comprehensive Plan and voted 4 – 0 to recommend that the Council approve the resolution. Members of the public were provided an opportunity to comment on the legislation. The Council approved Resolution No. 396 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Resolution No. 396 is effective immediately.

Resolution No. 397, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5586 LEEWARD LANE, TILGHMAN, MARYLAND, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 44 AS PARCEL 35, LOT 7, FROM “UNPROGRAMMED” TO “S-1” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY STEPHANIE ALLEN, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, Josh Elliott, County Engineer, provided the Council with a description of the 2.39-acre property, zoned Village Mixed (VM) in the Region V (Tilghman) Sanitary District which is one of only six properties of the 28 properties on Leeward Lane which are currently not served by public sewer. He stated that the property meets the more stringent criteria outlined in Resolution No. 394 and connection to public sewer is supported by a letter from the Talbot County Office of Environmental Health. The Public Works Advisory Board, at its meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2026, reviewed Resolution No. 397 and voted 4 – 0 to recommend that the Council approve the resolution; the Planning Commission, at its meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, reviewed Resolution No. 397, found it consistent with the 2016 Talbot County Comprehensive Plan and voted 4 – 0 to recommend that the Council approve the resolution. Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. The Council approved Resolution No. 397 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Resolution No. 397 is effective immediately.

Resolution No. 398, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP TWENTY-ONE PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY, ALL OF WHICH ARE LOCATED ON GOOSE NECK ROAD, ROYAL OAK, MARYLAND, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: 1) 25869 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 46 AS PARCEL 84; 2)

25883 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 46 AS PARCEL 23; 3) 25911 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 67; 4) 25927 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 92; 5) 25977 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 4; 6) 25989 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 8; 7) 26009 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 74; 8) 26041 GOOSE NECK ROAD AND 26043 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 61; 9) 26079 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 9; 10) 25882 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 65, LOT 2; 11) 25900 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 65; 12) 25910 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 79; 13) 25932 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 66; 14) 25934 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 120, LOT 1; 15) 25968 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 54, LOT 2; 16) 25972 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 63; 17) 26020 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 7; 18) 26040 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 59; 19) 26048 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 1; 20) 26107 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 10; AND 21) 26090 GOOSE NECK ROAD, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 47 AS PARCEL 57, FROM UNPROGRAMMED TO “S-1”

IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, Josh Elliott, County Engineer, stated that the resolution proposes to have 21 parcels on Goose Neck Road in Royal Oak, abandon their sewer systems and connect to public sewer. He stated that the properties, ranging in size from 2.0 acres to 6.3 acres, are zoned Rural Residential (RR) and satisfy the more stringent connection criteria outlined in Resolution No. 394 and stated that connection is supported by letters from the Talbot County Office of Environmental Health. Mr. Elliott stated that the Public Works Advisory Board, at its meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2026, reviewed Resolution No. 398 and recommended by a vote of 4 – 0 that Council approve the resolution with the following revisions: (1) incorporate 26040, 26048, and 26090 Goose Neck Road into the text of the resolution along with all relevant parcel information – they were included in the title of the resolution but were inadvertently omitted from the text; and (2) update the text of the resolution to grant two EDUs to Tax Map 47, Parcel 61 which contains two single family dwelling units. Mr. Elliott stated that the Planning Commission, at its meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, reviewed Resolution No. 398 and found the resolution, with the proposed revisions, to be consistent with the 2016 Talbot County Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Elliott stated that it had just come to staff’s attention that Tax Map 47, Parcel 9 contains two distinct residences with two separate addresses – 26079 and 26080 Goose Neck Road; therefore the parcel will need to be assigned two EDUs, not one. He stated that staff had originally evaluated the property as a single residence with an accessory dwelling since the County mapping system showed one address; as such, neither the Public Works Advisory Board nor the Planning Commission has reviewed. Patrick Thomas, County Attorney stated that, in his opinion, the properties which were inadvertently omitted from the text do not require an amendment; however, an amendment is required for the property requiring an additional EDU. Mr. Thomas stated that it was his recommendation to hold the public hearing on the resolution and that the matter be held over until the Tuesday, October 27, 2026, Council meeting. Members of the public were then afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. Resolution No. 398 will be eligible for vote on Tuesday, October 27, 2026.

Bill No. 1653, A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 190 (ZONING, SUBDIVISION, AND LAND DEVELOPMENT) OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING THAT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON NEW AND RENEWAL SHORT-TERM RENTAL LICENSES SHALL BE PROVIDED TO OWNERS OF ALL PROPERTIES WITH A PROPERTY LINE WITHIN

1,000 FEET, INCLUDING IN LINE OF SIGHT WITHIN 1,000 FEET ACROSS WATERWAYS OF THE SHORT-TERM RENTAL DWELLING, OR THE 50 PROPERTIES NEAREST TO THE SHORT-TERM RENTAL DWELLING, WHICHEVER IS LESS, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, Patrick Thomas, County Attorney, stated that the proposed legislation had been requested by Mr. Stepp. Mr. Thomas stated that currently, public hearing requirements for new and renewal short-term rental license applications are to be sent to owners of all properties with a property line within 1,000 feet, including a line of sight within 1,000 feet across waterways, of the proposed short-term rental dwelling. He stated that the proposed text amendment would permit notices to be sent to those properties, or to the 50 properties nearest to the dwelling, whichever is less. Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. At Ms. Haythe's request, information on whether approval of Bill No. 1653 is anticipated to increase or decrease staff's workload will be provided prior to the vote on the legislation. Written comments on Bill No. 1653 will be accepted until Noon on Friday, October 23, 2026. Bill No. 1653 is eligible for vote on Tuesday, October 27, 2026.

Bill No. 1654, A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 182 (VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES LONGEVITY AWARD PROGRAM) OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE FOR THE PURPOSES OF CLARIFYING THE DEFINITION OF "ACTIVE VOLUNTEER MEMBER" AND AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS FOR CONSISTENCY THEREWITH, PROVIDING THAT QUALIFYING ACTIVE VOLUNTEER MEMBERS SHALL RECEIVE MONTHLY BENEFITS IN A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF \$100 FOR LIFE, WITH THE ABILITY TO EARN ADDITIONAL MONTHLY BENEFITS, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS, AND AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS REGARDING RECORDS OF VOLUNTEER MEMBERS AND THE POINT SYSTEM FOR QUALIFYING FOR BENEFITS, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Patrick Thomas, County Attorney, stated that the proposed legislation had been requested by Mr. Callahan. Mr. Thomas stated that if approved, the legislation would provide for additional benefits in a minimum amount of \$50 per month for life for each additional five (5) years of service, up to a maximum amount of \$200 per month for life for 45 years or more of certified service. Currently, active volunteer members who are 62 years of age and have completed at least 25 years of certified active volunteer service are eligible to receive \$100 per month for life, subject to the County's annual budget. Mr. Thomas also outlined changes to the point system and timing of notices to volunteers in the program. Council discussion ensued with Brian LeCates, Director, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services and Phil Starkey, Vice President, Talbot County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association. Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. Written comments on Bill No. 1654 will be accepted until Noon on Friday, October 23, 2026. Bill No. 1654 is eligible for vote on Tuesday, October 27, 2026.

- IX. Request for Abatement of FY27 County Real Property Taxes – Martha Sparks, Talbot County Finance Officer - Ms. Sparks named the owners of 34 parcels who are requesting abatement from FY26-27 County Real Property Taxes and stated that the requests total \$54, 040.13; the owners of the properties are all non-profit or governmental entities which meet the State criteria for abatement. Upon motion by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the request by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Leshner – Aye

Mr. Stepp – Aye

Ms. Mielke - Aye

Ms. Haythe – Aye

X. County Manager's Report:

- A. Local Emergency Planning Committee – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Trappe Town Council Vice President, Michael Sullivan, to a three-year term on the Local Emergency Planning Committee as the Town of Trappe's representative; said term will expire on August 1, 2029. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the reappointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- B. Police Accountability Board – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Benny Mangor to a four-year term on the Police Accountability Board; said term will expire on August 1, 2030. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the appointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- C. Talbot County Department of Social Services Board of Directors – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Rabbi Jordan Goldson to a three-year term on the Department of Social Services Board of Directors; said term will expire on June 30, 2029. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the appointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- D. Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Katie Levitan to a three-year term on the Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board as a representative of the Private Sector; said term will expire on June 30, 2029. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the appointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- E. Request from Town of Queen Anne – Requested Council consideration to allocate \$75,000 of Talbot County's Program Open Space (POS) funding toward the acquisition by the Town of Queen Anne of a parcel of waterfront property on the Tuckahoe River in the town of Queen Anne which lies within the Talbot County portion of the town.

Council discussion ensued with Emily Gilmer, Director, Talbot County Department of Parks & Recreation who stated that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board approved recommending that Council allocate \$75,000 in County POS funding toward the purchase. Phil Starkey, Mayor, Town of Queen Anne, stated that the approximately 2.2-acre property was formerly the site of Dave's Riverside Garage which has been appraised at \$118,000; the Town of Queen Anne will contribute \$18,000 toward the purchase and is proposing a kayak launch with parking for the site. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the request as outlined by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- F. Request from Department of Parks & Recreation – Emily Gilmer, Director, Department of Parks & Recreation, requested Council approval to utilize FY27 Capital Budget Funding for the following projects: (1) order and replace the dehumidifier in the main ice rink at the Talbot County Community Center; (2) order and have fabricated a dehumidifier for the curling rink so that it will be ready for installation when funding becomes available; and (3) replace the HVAC units in the curling rink. Mr. Stamp stated that if approved, the purchases would be made by piggybacking on a Wicomico contract with Electrical Automation Services, Inc. (EASI) at a cost of \$1,055,836, \$172,914, and \$91,604, respectively, for a total cost of \$1,320,354; sufficient funding is available for the projects. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the purchases by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- G. Request from Department of Public Works – Josh Elliott, County Engineer, requested Council approval to utilize FY27 Operating Budget Funding for the sole source purchase of replacement parts for the Rotomat drum screen rake assembly used at the County's Biosolids Utilization Facility on Klondike Road in Easton in the sum of \$58,273.00. If approved, the purchase will be made from Sherwood-Logan & Associates as the parts must match and fit the existing screen, an important component of the biosolids treatment process; funding is available in the FY27 Budget. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the purchase as presented by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- H. Request from Department of Emergency Services – Brian LeCates, Director, Department of Emergency Services, requested Council approval to utilize FY27 Capital Outlay Funding to purchase a 2027 Horton Ambulance on a Ford F-550 chassis

in the sum of \$378,350.00 through Fesco Emergency Sales; said purchase will be made by piggybacking on a competitively bid HGAC (Houston-Galveston Area Council) contract; funding for the purchase was included in the FY27 Budget. Council discussion ensued with Mr. LeCates. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the purchase as outlined by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Leshar – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Ms. Mielke - Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- I. Open House at Public Safety Complex – Sarah Kilmon, Communications Manager, stated that over the last four years the Council has undertaken various major projects and this year has been a year of completion for several of the projects. She stated that the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Public Safety Complex on Marys Court, which houses the Sheriff's Office and the Department of Emergency Services, and a future 9-1-1 Center, will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 28640 Marys Court in Easton. Those in attendance will have an opportunity to speak with staff in different divisions throughout the facility, a K-9 demonstration, and touch-a-trucks for the Sheriff's Office and Emergency Services.

XI. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

XII. Council Comments:

Ms. Haythe – No comments

Ms. Mielke- No comments

Mr. Leshar - No comments.

Mr. Stepp - Mr. Stepp stated that before the next Council meeting, early voting will begin in Talbot County. He stated that early voting will take place at the Easton Volunteer Fire Department beginning on Thursday, October 22, 2026, until Thursday, October 29, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and encouraged those who choose to do so, to vote.

Mr. Leshar - Following Mr. Stepp's comments, Mr. Leshar recognized First Class Scout William Jallade of Troop 190 of Easton who was in attendance and stated that, in his opinion, it is always good to have scouts in attendance. He stated that Mr. Jallade is one of our hockey stars and will be enjoying the new dehumidifier at the Talbot County Community Center. Mr. Leshar concluded his comments by stating that it is election season, and sadly, with election season seems to come vandalism and theft of political campaign signs. He stated that there is no place for that in this community and you might think that it tears down the other side, but instead, it reflects badly on your own side when you perpetrate these acts. He asked that people refrain from touching campaign signs - if you get caught, you will be prosecuted, so just leave them alone.

Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Wye Oak Room at the Talbot County Community Center for a meeting with representatives from the Maryland Department of Transportation for the annual Consolidated Transportation Meeting; and to reconvene on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. for a tour of the BAAM Academic Center located at 31 Jowite St., in Easton, then at 3:30 p.m. 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. Leshner – Aye

Mr. Stepp – Aye

Ms. Mielke - Aye

Ms. Haythe – Aye

The meeting ended at 6:33 p.m.

The transcript of the Tuesday, October 13, 2026, County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

XIII. Summary of Closed Session Held on October 13, 2026:

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

Time of closed session: 3:35 p.m. End 4:40 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: Haythe, Leshner, Mielke, Stepp

Members opposed: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Callahan

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	Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action
To discuss a public security	GP § 3-305(b)(10)(15)	Public discussion would constitute a risk to public	Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke,	Council concurred with recommendation

and cybersecurity matter		security as well as network security information	Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	
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		TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND		
		WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT		
		10/6/2026		
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		TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND		
		WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT		
		10/13/2026		
OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK				
OPERATING FUNDS AT		10/6/2026	\$	45,699,589.21
Total ADP Payroll PPE 9/25/2026				(1,114,788.48)
Returned Paymentus Payments				(2,109.94)
Returned Check #322				(14,124.56)
Bank Charges 8/2026				(10,116.11)
Deposits				2,145,247.83
Checks				(168,258.50)
ACH Disbursements				(1,025,998.95)
Voided Checks				225.37
OPERATING FUNDS AT		10/13/2026	\$	45,509,665.87
PETTY CASH FUNDS			\$	17,855.00
INVESTMENT FUNDS				
			<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)			3.90%	\$ 24,503,902.38
Bayvanguard Bank			3.89%	\$ 11,781,679.93
Shore United Money Market Account			3.63%	\$ 65,887,210.30
INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL			\$	102,190,647.61
<u>TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</u>			\$	147,700,313.48