



For Immediate Release

Easton, MD – September 15, 2021

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Talbot County Council Meeting Highlights, September 14, 2021

These highlights only reflect the business items covered from the Council's approved agenda. To view the complete County Council meeting, please visit: Talbot County Meeting Videos - Talbot County, Maryland (www.talbotcountymd.gov).

The Talbot County Council held their regularly scheduled meeting on September 14 with all Council members present.

Discussion of County Repurposing Center – Warren Edwards, Roads Superintendent, and Joye Nagle, Finance Director, presented a request for a loan from the County's General Fund for an additional \$276,152 for the current year's operations for the Repurposing Center. The additional funds are needed due to a difference in projections initially made based on usage of the facility before the pandemic. Warren Edwards recast revenue projections using the inventory currently on hand. By FY26, the Repurposing Center enterprise fund is expected to break even. The Council unanimously approved the loan from the General Fund.

“I want to compliment you for fighting through this. I appreciate that you are trying to repurpose the surfaces we are taking up and saving the County money,” stated Council member Frank Divilio.

Update on Easton Airport Obstruction Removal Program – Phase 2; Request to Town of Easton to Exempt Easton Airport from the Forest Conservation Act when Complying with the Requirements of 14 CFR Part 77 – Micah Risher, Airport Manager, presented an update on Easton Airport Obstruction Removal Program - Phase 2. The County's grading permit has been held up due to the current Town of Easton's Forest Conservation Ordinance which currently exempts on-Airport trees from the Forest Conservation Act. The County is requesting that the Town's Ordinance be revised to extend the exemption from the requirements of the Forest

Conservation Ordinance to apply to all property involving the cutting or clearing of trees to comply with the requirements of 14 CFR S 77.25 relating to objects affecting navigable airspace, provided that the Federal Aviation Administration has determined that the trees are a hazard to aviation. The Council unanimously approved sending a letter to the Town of Easton making this request.

Council Action on Talbot County Board of Liquor License Commissioners Resolution No. 2021-01, A RESOLUTION OF THE TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS ADOPTING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE SALE FOR OFF-PREMISES CONSUMPTION AND DELIVERY OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. The Talbot County Liquor Board has approved this resolution on August 23, 2021. The local board can adopt regulations with the Council's approval. The Council unanimously voted to approve the resolution which provides "all deliveries of alcoholic beverages shall be made from the licensed premises to the individual purchasing the alcoholic beverage by the Licensee or the Licensee's employee, who shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and certified in an alcohol awareness program. The Licensee shall maintain a log of all alcoholic beverages delivered...for a period of two (2) years from the date of delivery, which shall be available for inspection." The provisions of the resolution shall expire after June 30, 2023. Council members commented that this is an important initiative to support our local economy and liquor license holders.

Introduction of Administrative Resolution:

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE COMPLETION AND CREATION OF A CIVIL WAR UNITY MONUMENT AND ESTABLISHING A FUND FOR ALL CITIZENS TO COME TOGETHER IN A JOINT EFFORT TO RECOGNIZE TALBOT COUNTY'S ROLE IN THE CIVIL WAR – Council member Laura Price asked that the administrative resolution which she proposed be pulled from this meeting in order to allow for additional public feedback on the resolution. Council member Price questioned whether the administrative resolution should be an administrative resolution or a numbered resolution in order to allow for a public hearing and requested that the resolution be drafted as a numbered resolution for introduction at a future Council meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE RELOCATION OF THE TALBOT BOYS STATUE – Council member Frank Divilio presented the resolution to relocate the Talbot Boys statue from the Courthouse Grounds to the Cross Keys Battlefield near Harrisonburg Virginia. He reported that at this time, he has secured a commitment from the American Battlefield Trust to accept the Talbot Boys statue as well as private commitments to fund the project by the establishment of a fund held at the Mid-Shore Community Foundation to move the Talbot Boys statue at no cost to Talbot County taxpayers. The Cross Keys Battlefield is part of the

American Battlefield Trust – a non-profit organization that preserves America’s hallowed battlegrounds and educates the public about what happened there and why it matters. The Council voted 3-2 to approve the resolution with Council members Divilio, Leshner and Pack voting in favor and Callahan and Price opposed.

Council member Divilio noted in part:

“My initial position on this issue was to let the people of Talbot County decide the fate of the Talbot Boys and put the question on the 2022 ballot. While I still feel this would have been the best course, we can no longer delay a resolution. The Talbot Boys issue has divided our community for too long and has sidelined many other important things the County Council and County Government needs to address.”

“I believe in transparency and public engagement in local government. And while I understand the frustration of many who would have liked a public comment period on this resolution, I believe that the Council is well-versed in how the community feels about the Talbot Boys after 18 months of hearings, protests, yard signs, calls, letters, demonstrations, news stories, blog posts and text messages. We will do more harm than good by delaying this decision any longer. It’s time to make a decision and move forward.”

Public Hearings:

Resolution No. 304, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO REVISE CHAPTER THREE – AMENDMENT PROCEDURES - the public hearing on Resolution No. 304 which addresses amendment procedures to the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan will be continued to Tuesday, October 12th at 6:30 p.m. in order to allow the Planning Commission to review the proposed changes and make a recommendation to the County Council. The Planning Commission will be discussing Resolution No. 304 at their meeting on October 6th.

Resolution No. 306, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP CERTAIN REAL PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 1004 S. TALBOT STREET (MARYLAND ROUTE 33), ST. MICHAELS, MARYLAND 21663 AND SHOWN ON TAX MAP 32 AS PARCEL 148 AND LOCATED AT 1006 S. TALBOT STREET (MARYLAND ROUTE 33), ST. MICHAELS, MARYLAND 21663 AND SHOWN ON TAX MAP 32 AS PARCEL 75 FROM “S-3” FUTURE PLANNED AREA FOR SEWER SERVICE A PERIOD OF 6-10 YEARS TO “S-1” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS - the public hearing on Resolution No. 306 to amend the Talbot County Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan to reclassify and remap property located at 1004 S. Talbot Street and 1006 S. Talbot Street in St. Michaels from “S-3” future planned area for sewer service to “S-1” immediate priority service will be continued to Tuesday, October 12th at 6:30 p.m. in order to allow the Planning Commission

to review and make a recommendation to the County Council. The Planning Commission will be discussing Resolution No. 306 at their meeting on October 6th.

Bill No. 1493, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND (THE “COUNTY”) TO BORROW NOT MORE THAN SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$600,000) IN ORDER TO FINANCE AND REFINANCE IMPROVEMENTS TO CERTAIN WASTEWATER FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY AND TO EFFECT SUCH BORROWING BY THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF ONE OR MORE SERIES OF ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS PAYABLE FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO BE LEVIED BY THE COUNTY; EXEMPTING THE BONDS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 19-205 AND 19-207 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND; AUTHORIZING THE CONSOLIDATION OF SEPARATE SERIES OF BONDS INTO ONE OR MORE BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDING OF SUCH BONDS AND RELATING GENERALLY TO THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF SUCH BONDS FOR SUCH PURPOSES.

A public hearing was held on Bill No. 1493. The legislation pertains to the replacement of the belt filter press at the Region II Wastewater Treatment Plant located in St. Michaels, which is a priority project. As such, Council received legal advice that the Council’s Rules of Procedure could be suspended upon vote of 4/5 of the Council to allow Bill No. 1493 to move to third reader. Council unanimously approved Bill No. 1493 which authorizes the procurement of the belt filter press replacement.

Eligible for Vote:

Bill No. 1492, A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL SALARY OF THE SHERIFF FOR TALBOT COUNTY TO BECOME EFFECTIVE FOR TERMS BEGINNING IN AND AFTER 2022 was brought forward for vote and unanimously approved by Council.

“This bill is important to attract and retain talent and make the necessary market adjustment for this position. We have done this in other management positions in the County. The Sheriff is currently paid less than some in his line,” commented Council member Leshner.

County Manager’s Report:

- Board and Committee Appointments – County Manager Clay Stamp asked for the following appointment approvals:
 - Jeff Schneider – Reappointment to Tourism Board as the hotel/motel sector representative
 - Judith Musch – Reappointment to Upper Shore Aging Board of Directors
 - John “Jay” Shortall – Reappointment to the Weed Control CommitteeThe Council unanimously approved the appointments as presented.

- Request from Roads Department to Utilize FY22 Budgeted Funds to Purchase a New Milling Machine, Portable Broom, and Pick-Up Truck – County Manager Stamp reviewed the Roads Department’s request to purchase equipment using FY22 budgeted funds. the Roads Department is requesting Council approval to utilize FY22 budgeted funds to purchase a new Wirtgen W150XFi Cold Milling Machine from the low bidder, Elliott & Frantz in the amount of \$549,661.67 which reflects a Sourcewell discount. Additionally, requesting to sole source purchase a portable broom attachment from Chesapeake Supply & Equipment Company in the amount of \$47,400 and a water truck attachment in the amount of \$15,000. Finally, requesting to purchase a 2021 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 Double Cab pick-up truck from Hertrich Fleet Services, Inc. utilizing the State of Maryland contract in the amount of \$57,894 (which includes the light, radio and safety package). Council unanimously approved the expenditures.
- Request from Department of Public Works to Award Bid No. 20-13, TALBOT COUNTY REGION II (ST. MICHAELS) WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SLUDGE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS; BELT FILTER PRESS REPLACEMENT – ST. MICHAELS – TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND – Following the passage of Bill No. 1493, Ray Clarke, County Engineer, requested Council approval to award Bid No. 20-13 to M2 Construction for the base bid and bid alternate #1 in the amount of \$566,266. Including professional services, Mr. Clarke explained the cost of the belt filter press purchase will exceed the \$600,000 allotted for this project by approximately \$20,000. He asked that these funds be taken out of the repairs line item in the current operating budgets for the sanitary districts. The Council unanimously approved the expenditure.
- Request from Department of Parks and Recreation to Utilize State FY22 Capital Budget Funds (House Bill 590) for LED Lights at Talbot County Community Center and Replacement Scoreboards at Perry Cabin Park – Preston Peper, Director of Parks and Recreation, requested to use State FY22 Capital Budget funds for LED lights at TCCC and replacement of scoreboards at Perry Cabin Park as follows: \$155,795 utilizing the Sourcewell contract to award Musco Sports Lighting, LLC funds to complete the LED light retrofit at the Talbot County Community Center; \$42,013.67 utilizing the Sourcewell contract to award Nevco Scoreboards & Video Displays to replace scoreboards at Perry Cabin Park. The County Council thanked Delegate Mautz who sponsored legislation to fund these projects. The Council unanimously approved the expenditure.
- Presentation of Letters of Interest for SFY22 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Jessica Morris, Assistant County Manager reported the County staff recommendation to partner with some non-profits in Talbot County for the FY22 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application cycle. The requests came from Polaris Village Ministries, Chesapeake Multicultural

Resource Center, Mid Shore Pro Bono, Foundation of Hope and Building African American Minds (BAAM). The staff recommended partnering with all of the organizations for this grant cycle with the exception of BAAM, which the County hopes to partner with in the next grant cycle. The Council voted to approve the partnerships as outlined. A public hearing on the grant applications will be scheduled for September 28, 2021.

- Appointment of County Attorney – County Manager Clay Stamp reported that Patrick Thomas of MacLeod Law Group LLC has been a resident of Talbot County for two years as of August 2021, therefore meeting the Charter residency requirement for this position. Mr. Stamp asked Council if they wanted to remove the word “acting” from County Attorney title as Mr. Thomas has met the residence requirement as outlined in the Charter. The Council unanimously approved the appointment of Patrick Thomas as County Attorney.

“This is a great decision for this Council to make. You have done a great job for us, Mr. Thomas. What is impressive to me is that if you don’t know the answer to a question, you will find it. In addition, your firm brings the expertise all in one place that we need and this is revenue we will be saving the taxpayer,” added Council President Chuck Callahan.

“Our staff is working diligently to make sure we are being as transparent as we can be. We have increased efforts to provide appropriate added-value information for public access to our talbotcountymd.gov website and will be adding more as we move forward. Additionally, we are producing a “County Council Highlights” release after each Council meeting in an effort to better communicate with our citizens. Finally, I encourage the public to contact the County Manager’s office if you feel we can provide information or to provide explanations regarding issues or processes,” County Manager Stamp concluded.

The next legislative meeting of the County Council will be held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 6 p.m.



Caption: Pictured left to right are Mike Carroll, Talbot County Roads Department Motor Equipment Operator III, and Warren Edwards, Superintendent for Talbot County Roads Department, with bio-retention material repurposed from Talbot County ditches at the County's new Repurposing Center.