



For Immediate Release

Easton, MD – October 27, 2021

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Talbot County Council Meeting Highlights October 26, 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 \(www.talbotcountymd.gov\)](http://www.talbotcountymd.gov).

The Talbot County Council held their regularly scheduled meeting on October 26 with all Council members present except for Council Member Frank Divilio.

On behalf of the Council, Pete Leshar asked for prayers for the family of Jeff Parks, a local businessman, a member of the Easton Volunteer Fire Department and a member of the Talbot County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, who passed away. Council President Chuck Callahan commented, "Jeff was a great colleague and firefighter who I worked with on several projects over the years. I send my thoughts to his family during this time."

- I. Council President Chuck Callahan presented a Proclamation for the 22nd Annual *Keeping the Lights on Afterschool* national celebration on October 28, 2021 to Nancy Andrew, Executive Director, Talbot Family Network. The proclamation expressed the Council's support for quality afterschool programs to provide safe and engaging learning experiences that help children realize their full potential; support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive when they are out of their classrooms; build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults; and engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children.

Council Member Corey Pack, who is the Council's liaison with Talbot Family Network, stated, "Talbot County advocates for community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are vital to helping our children become successful adults."

- II. Update by Talbot Family Network – Nancy Andrew, Executive Director, Talbot Family Network

Ms. Andrew provided background on the establishment of Local Management Boards in Maryland. Talbot Family Network, the local management board of Talbot County, was established in 1997 to change the way services are provided to children and families in their communities; to identify local needs and target resources for the community; and to focus on increasing local authority to plan, implement, and monitor children and family services. The Talbot Family Network's 15-member Board of Directors includes representatives from all public child-serving agencies (such as Talbot County Public Schools, Department of Social Services and Health Department), the Core Service Agency, law enforcement, and private non-profits and private community members.

Nancy Andrew commented, “The programs we fund are about relationships and are largely impacting under-resourced households, children and families” Among the FY21 funded programs highlighted were the Healthy Habits Program facilitated through the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center which is an evidenced-based nutritional education program using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) education principles operated at the Easton Elementary School serving 68 students in grades K-5. and the Mentoring Youth and Supporting Families Impacted by Incarceration program facilitated through Talbot Mentors which supports families impacted by incarceration. Ms. Andrew reported that the Mentoring Youth and Supporting Families Impacted by Incarceration Program is now self-sufficient and no longer requires funding support from Talbot Family Network. She reported that among the Governor’s priorities for Local Management Boards and those being focused on by the Talbot Family Network Board of Directors are improving outcomes for disconnected youth age 16 to 24; increasing opportunities for community-based programs and services for youth and families; and reducing childhood hunger. FY22 funded programs include Healthy Habits operated by Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center; Health Families operated by Talbot County Health Department; Re-engagement Coordinator operated by Talbot County Public Schools; Conversations on Race (monthly facilitated conversations and ongoing trainings); Poverty Education/Getting Ahead operated by Talbot County Department of Social Services; Career Pathways operated by Neighborhood Service Center; Local Care Team (coordinating multidisciplinary assistance to families and children); and the Healthy Talbot (<https://healthytalbot.org>) community resource directory.

III. Presentation of FY22 Senior Care Plan – Kate Stinton, RN, LCSW, Community Health Nurse Supervisor, Talbot County Health Department; Maria Maguire, M.D., Talbot County Health Officer

Kate Stinton has been involved with Talbot County’s Senior Care Plan for over 15 years and understands what it does for the County. Through a grant from the Maryland Department of Aging, each jurisdiction in Maryland is allowed to develop its own plan to meet the needs of its county and senior population. Talbot County is one of two Maryland counties where its Health Department receives the funding and serves as the lead agency for the Senior Care Program. Through partnerships with Upper Shore Aging, the Talbot County Department of Social Services, and Talbot County Government, the Talbot County Health Department has administered the Senior Care Program in Talbot County since 1982.

The Senior Care Program intends to provide coordinated community-based, in-home products and services for adults 65 and older with medical conditions who require help with bathing, dressing, and chores and may be at risk for nursing home placement. Anyone can make a referral to the program and participation is voluntary. It is the last resort for seniors needing assistance, filling in the gaps for services that can’t be gotten anywhere else. Support is provided between \$15 to \$300/month for individuals with need. Talbot County has provided \$50,000 in support of the program since 2014. The FY 2022 funding from the Maryland Department of Aging is expected to be level at \$115,000, which will make the budget for the program \$165,000.

Stinton stated, “The program helps people stay in their homes longer and age in place, preventing the current costs of \$225/day to be in a nursing home. Our success is shown in the 2019 State Audit which showed that Talbot County got 1.3 % of the funds in the State budget and served 5% of the State’s participants.”

According to Stinton, other measurements of success are that Talbot County does not maintain a waitlist for services and the agency serves a number of repeat seniors year after year, indicating that these seniors have been able to stay in their homes and avoid nursing home care.

The Senior Care Program served 221 seniors in FY 21, an increase of about 5% each year. The average support provided is \$56/month per person. She reported that 30% of Talbot County’s population is 65 or older and that there is a growing need for resources. Other statistics shared include:

68% of clients are female

51% of clients are 80 years old or older

68% of clients are living on a fixed income of \$1,500 or less a month
100% of clients have moderate to severe functional limitations

Dr. Maria Maguire added, “We are a one-stop-shop for seniors to get services. The Senior Care Program is a key program of the Talbot County Health Department and we are grateful for the County’s support.”

Council Member Pete Leshner, who is a liaison to Upper Shore Aging, commented, “I am aware of the tremendous impact these programs have on our senior population.”

Council Member Corey Pack added, “I marvel every year with how much you are doing with very little. You are stretching out the dollars tremendously to give services to the individuals who have needs. I wish we had more to give you.”

Council unanimously approved the Senior Care Plan.

IV. Introduction of Legislation:

A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 190-63.1 A. OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE IN ORDER TO MODIFY THE COMPOSITION OF THE TALBOT COUNTY SHORT-TERM RENTAL REVIEW BOARD

A bill was brought forward to amend the composition of the Talbot County Short-Term Rental Review Board, specifically to eliminate the requirement of appointing an attorney with real estate experience. The Short-Term Rental Review Board will still be comprised of five members. The bill will be sent to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation since it is an amendment to the County’s Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 190). Council Member Laura Price shared the difficulty in finding an attorney with real estate experience to serve on this board. Bill No. 1495 was introduced by Mr. Callahan and Ms. Price with a public hearing dated for Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

V. Public Hearing

Bill No. 1494, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE A CAPITAL PROJECT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT AND AN OFFICE TRAILER FOR THE REPURPOSING CENTER LOCATED AT 28128 ST. MICHAELS ROAD, EASTON, MARYLAND WAS READ.

A public hearing was held on Bill No. 1494 which authorizes a capital project for the Repurposing Center and allows for the acquisition of certain equipment and an office trailer. The legislation is eligible for a vote on November 9, 2021.

X. Update by Easton Airport – Micah Risher, Manager, Easton Airport and Jack Pettit, Chair, Airport Board

Micah Risher reported on the FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Grants in September 2021 totaling \$500,267 to advance Runway Safety Improvements. He explained that air traffic activity is up 30% YTD as compared to 2020; fuel sales are up 42% YTD, selling more fuel than the airport ever has; and charter usage is up from 2,074 charters in 2015 to 2,520 charters in 2021 – on track to double charter usage.

Risher outlined several facilities improvements, including terminal improvements, Trooper 6 hangar improvements, and overall security improvements.

Risher states, “We are particularly proud of our outreach efforts. Airport Day 2021 had 5,000 attendees – the largest event ever for us. We are also excited about the response to our Walk & Talk and Coffee & Airport Conversation events.” He also reported on a new program, the Aviation Career Education (ACE) Passport Program for youth, and the airport’s increased visibility in the media.

Jack Pettit added, “I have been able to fly into many airports and Easton Airport is at the very top of general aviation airports in the country. Improving runways for safety has made a big difference.”

XI. County Manager’s Report:

- Board and Committee Appointments – The Council unanimously approved the appointment of Anthony Kern to the Ethics Commission and the appointment of Ron Vener to the Hog Neck Golf Board.
- The Council unanimously approved the annual request from Easton Airport to forward a letter to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in support of Easton Airport’s Deer Cooperator Permit application for removal of deer hazardous to Airport operations.
- The Council unanimously approved a request from Easton Airport to extend the contract for aviation fuel supply, renewing a contract with Titan Aviation Fuels for a 5-year term (through January 2027). The airport has had the contract for 20 years and negotiated incentives for the new contract.
- The Council unanimously approved a request from the Town of Easton to transfer that portion of Flood Avenue, owned by Talbot County to the Town of Easton. Council directed Mr. Thomas to prepare legislation to effect the transfer of Flood Avenue to the Town of Easton. Additionally, the Town of Easton requested Council approval to repave Flood Avenue this fall as part of their annual paving contract at the cost and expense to the Town. The Council unanimously approved the request.
- The Council unanimously approved the request from the Roads Department to enter into a five-month rental agreement with GT Mid-Atlantic for four pieces of equipment to be used at Repurposing Center to include a grinder, trowel, excavator, and stacker at a cost of \$90,020.
- Announcement of Household Hazardous Waste Day – Saturday, October 30, 2021 – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Maryland Environmental Service will be hosting a Household Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday, October 30, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (rain or shine) at the former Hobbs Road Landfill, 26375 Hobbs Road, Denton, Maryland. The event is open to residents from Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne’s and Talbot counties. For further information please visit [HHW Drop off Day Caroline Oct 30 2021.pdf \(talbotcountymd.gov\)](#) or call 410-770-8170.

The next legislative meeting of the County Council will be held on **Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 6 p.m.** There will be a Public Hearing hosted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) on Trappe East (Lakeside) Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge Permit (19-DP-3460) on **Thursday, October 28, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** at the Curling Rink, Talbot County Community Center, 10028 Ocean Gateway, Easton. The meeting is open to the public. On Tuesday, November 2, 2021, the County Council will be meeting with representatives from the Maryland Department of Transportation at 3:00 p.m. for the annual consolidated transportation plan meeting. The meeting will be held in the Wye Oak Room, Talbot County Community Center, 10028 Ocean Gateway, Easton and is open to the public.

Caption: Pictured left to right is Council Member Corey Pack presenting a proclamation to Nancy Andrew, Executive Director, Talbot Family Network for the 22nd Annual *Keeping the Lights on Afterschool* national celebration on October 28, 2021.

