



**For Immediate Release**

Easton, MD – November 24, 2021

Contact: Clay B. Stamp

County Manager

[cbstamp@talbotcountymd.gov](mailto:cbstamp@talbotcountymd.gov)

410-770-8010

**Talbot County Council Meeting Highlights, November 23, 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 November 23 with all Council members present (Pete Leshar connected by phone).

**Update by Maryland Environmental Service (MES) – Tim Ford, Managing Director – Environmental Operations, MES and Gary Lasako, MES Senior Project Manager**

Tim Ford shared a PowerPoint presentation providing the County with an update from Maryland Environmental Service (MES). MES is an independent agency of the State providing water, wastewater, solid waste management, and other environmental services to the State, counties, municipalities, Federal Government, industries, and other private sector partners. The agency operates on a fee-for-service basis, working for clients under contract, which can be MOU's, IGA's, grants, Executive Order, or other contractual instruments.

Ford gave the history of the agreement on the Mid-Shore, "In the 1990s Caroline, Talbot and Queen Anne's counties got together and worked on a regional plan to provide solid waste management services for the three counties. Later, Kent County joined and it became a four-county partnership to provide solid waste management services for 80 years. They brought in MES as a partner."

Mid-shore I Regional Solid Waste Facility in Easton, MD was the first waste regional solid waste facility to operate under the Mid-Shore Agreement between the four counties. It accepted solid waste for 20 years before closing on December 31, 2010. MES now operates a Homeowner Drop Off and Transfer Station at the closed landfill site for Talbot County. The project is funded by Talbot County and a transfer fee on waste transferred to Mid-shore II located in Ridgely, MD. MES and Talbot County executed Amendment 1 of Contract 11-08-12 on December 18, 2020, which extends the service term for the operation of the Homeowner Drop Off and Transfer Station through December 31, 2030.

Mid-shore I Transfer Station Operations (April 2021 - September 2021) processed:

- Total Solid Waste Received 21,865 Tons
- Tons of Yard Waste Received 1,523 Tons
- HODO Usage 14,050 Customers
- Tons of HODO waste received 500 Tons

#### Mid-shore I Transfer Station Operations (April 2021 - September 2021) processed:

- Solid waste received is flat, period over period, but is up more than 2,400 tons (13%) compared to the same period 3 years prior.
- Additional signage was added to the transfer building to increase customer awareness and improve the safety of customers and employees.
- The procurement of an excavator loading scale was completed in September 2021 to maximize waste hauling efficiency.

#### Mid-shore I Regional Solid Waste Facility (RSWF), Easton, MD Post Closure Care

- Geo-membrane cap repairs consisting of patching or re-welding minor tears and perforations were completed in September 2021. Sacrificial coupons for laboratory materials testing were also collected for laboratory analysis.
- Landfill gas continues to be managed by the active gas collection and control system. A total of 68,238 MCF of landfill gas was flared between April 2021 and September 2021. Because the amount of gas is starting to trail off, Easton Utilities has elected to discontinue the use of that available energy.
- A total of 20,936 carbon credits were generated by flaring and gas to energy operations during the 2020 reporting period (Oct 2019 Dec 2020). These credits were marketed and sold at a price of \$4.25/ ton. Net proceeds, less verification and revenue sharing expenses, to MES were \$46,730.26.

#### Mid-shore II RSWF Operations, Ridgely, MD (April 2021 - September 2021)

- Billable Trash 72,007 tons
- Brush 2,013 tons
- Scrap Tires 24 tons
- Mattresses Recycled 31 tons
- Holly Road Homeowner Dropoff 1,077 tons
- All landfilling operations are occurring in Cell 3, which opened in 2020. The Completion timeframe for landfill gas system design extended until December 2021.

#### Mid-shore III RSWF, Queen Anne's County, MD

- MES has completed a draft Phase I Refuse Disposal Permit Application for the proposed Mid-shore III Regional Solid Waste Facility located near Centreville, MD.
- Queen Anne's County is currently reviewing the draft application before submittal to MDE for technical review. Mid-shore II is about at 70% capacity and it is estimated that it could stay open another 15 years depending on population estimates which is a consideration to keep in mind.

#### Mid-shore Regional Recycling Program (MRRP)

- The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) 13-08-08 between Talbot County and MES for Recycling Management Services is set to expire on June 30, 2022.
- MES will work with Talbot County, along with the other Mid-Shore Counties that participate in the MRRP (Caroline, Kent, and Queen Anne's), to renew the agreement for an additional 10-year period.

#### April 2021 - September 2021 Recycling Collection Summary

- Mixed Metal/Plastic 293 tons
- Mixed Paper 371 tons

- Cardboard 500 tons
- Glass 513 tons

**Total 1,677 tons**

- During the reporting period, commodity revenue for fiber materials (mixed paper and cardboard) was up 159%. Mixed paper fetched \$180/ton at the end of the period, whereas cardboard generated \$165/ton.

Mid-shore Regional Recycling Program (April 2021 to September 2021)

Talbot Used Oil and Recycling Sites

- Contract 2-21-4-05 executed between MES and Talbot County for MES to remove improperly discarded waste or recyclables from the Recycle Sites. Contract renewal request submitted to Talbot County in November 2021.
- Monitoring and operation of used oil sites continues at the six (6) used oil collection locations in the County.

MES Community Service

MES provided recycling services at the 50th Waterfowl Festival this month and collected 300 lbs. of recyclables, primarily mixed plastic.

**Update by Talbot Soil Conservation District and Request for Increase in Erosion and Sediment Control Review Fees – Shawn Smith, District Manager, Talbot Soil Conservation District; John Swaine, III, Chairman, Board of Supervisors, Talbot Soil Conservation District**

Shawn Smith provided background on Talbot County’s Soil Conservation District which was formed in 1958 as a quasi-governmental agency with certain powers. One of the powers is to review and approve the region’s sediment control plans, which began in 1992. The agency regularly shares its fee structure with the Council to see if it’s in line with the current economic market. Fees are used for district activities for education and outreach to schools and providing technical assistance to landowners. The fees were last reviewed in 2014 with the Council.

Smith stated, “We have already discussed them at length during our monthly Soil Conservation District board meetings and we think these new fees are in line with the neighboring counties. We think these fees will also help offset some of the responsibilities that we have to try to promote soil conservation within the county.”

Vice President Pete Leshner commented, “I had the privilege of going on the agricultural tour with representatives from the Soil Conservation District and got to look at a number of the projects that they have engineered and it's pretty impressive what they're doing.”

Smith explained that if you disturb more than 5,000 square feet on your property, you're required to have an approved erosion sediment control plan. He shared the proposed new fee structure with the Council, explaining that there has been quite an increase in large county and town projects which take lot of staff review time. The new fees will help offset the cost in staff time to review these projects. He also reported that the majority of their applicants are properties of one acre or less.

Council member Pack asked if they could provide public notice of the increase in fees to County citizens and Smith acknowledged although there is not a formal process in place for this that he would be doing that through media, written communication with engineering firms and developers working on these projects,

and through District's website. There had not been an extensive update to fees since 2014. The new fees will take effect January 1, 2022.

The Council voted unanimously to approve an increase in Erosion and Sediment Control Review Fees for the Talbot Soil Conservation District.

**Introduction of Numbered Resolution:**

**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION DISTRICTS PURSUANT TO § 3-12A-01 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND**

Mr. Thomas shared that the Talbot County Board of Education Redistricting Commission prepared a redistricting plan for the seven (7) Board of Education election districts based on the 2020 census data. In accordance with the Education Article § 3-12A-01, Md. Code Ann., the boundaries for the seven (7) Talbot County Board of Education election districts are required to be established promptly following each decennial census. The statute provides that the Redistricting Commission is to prepare a redistricting plan for the seven (7) Board of Education election districts. The districts are required to be reasonably compact, contiguous and substantially equal in population, and, in accordance with legal principles established by law, ensure that one (1) or more of the election districts encompasses residents in which a majority of the voting-age population consists of racial minorities.

The Commission met on July 15, September 2, September 30, and October 7 to review current Board of Education election district maps as well as data from the 2020 Census. Based upon these meetings, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend a minimal change of a slight enlargement to District 1 aimed at increasing the minority population within this District, and a few minor refinements to certain district boundaries to better align with census block boundaries. The Commission reported that the recommended changes if adopted by Council, would not cause any of the current members of the Board of Education to reside outside of their current District.

Resolution 312 was introduced by all Council members. A public hearing will be held Resolution No. 312 at the Council Meeting on December 14, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

**Council Election of Officers**

Under Section 209 of the County Charter, the Council annually selects a President and Vice President among its members. Mr. Thomas instructed Council members that each member would cast the ballot for President first and that he would tally up the ballots and announce the President and then follow the same process for the Vice President. Mr. Leshner gave the notice of his intent to cast an absentee ballot in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure and Mr. Thomas reported that he had his sealed ballots. Ms. Morris distributed and collected the ballots. The Council elected Chuck Callahan as President and Pete Leshner as Vice President.

**County Manager's Report:**

- Board and Committee Appointments  
Mr. Stamp recommended the appointment of Mr. Levin Schwaninger, Jr. to the Weed Control Committee. Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment.
- Request from Roads Department to Purchase Screener for Use at the Repurposing Center

Mr. Stamp requested approval of the purchase of a 2016 Power-screen Warrior 800 track mounted screen from Aggregate Screens and Crushers for the price of \$115,000 for use at the Repurposing Center. The request is a budgeted item. He shared that there was a memo from the Road Department's superintendent that strongly recommended the Council authorize the purchase of this piece of equipment. The Council voted unanimously to approve the purchase.

- Recommendation to Award Bid No. 21-12, REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) - REMOVAL OF COUNTY OWNED CONFEDERATE MONUMENT FROM TALBOT COUNTY COURTHOUSE GREEN – 11 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET, EASTON, TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Mr. Stamp reported that following the direction given by the majority of Council on September 14, 2021, County staff worked to issue an RFP for the relocation of the Talbot Boys monument. The RFP was duly advertised and he requested the award of Bid No. 21-12 to the sole bidder, Stratified, Inc. of Washington, D.C. for \$67,000 contingent upon the project being fully funded by the Mid-Shore Community Foundation with no County funds required. Mr. Stamp reported he had received confirmation from the funder that they will be able to cover the cost of the request and that no County funds would be used.

Council member Pack made a motion to award the RFP to Stratified, Inc. Council member Divilio seconded the motion. During a discussion of the motion, Council member Price said that she knew of some possibilities within the County to keep the monument in the County. She requested the motion be amended to allow the County Manager some flexibility to amend the contract if a suitable location within the County were located and subsequently approved by Council. Council member Pack reported that the two proposals for possible alternative locations for the statue were submitted shortly before the Council's meeting this evening. Vice President Leshner made a motion to amend the motion on the table to give the County Manager the flexibility to present to the Council for their consideration by December 6 any acceptable alternative locations as submitted for the monument in time for review before the Council's December 14 meeting as part of the award of the bid. Any deviation to the destination approved by Council will be authorized at the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting through an amended administrative resolution prepared by the County Attorney. If there are no alternative destinations submitted to the County by December 6 and subsequently approved by Council on December 14, the proposal simply goes forward as submitted with removal of the monument from the Courthouse grounds to the Cross Keys Battlefield located in Harrisonburg, VA. He added that the Talbot County staff will have the ability to amend the scope of work in the contract with the bidder for the final destination based on Council's direction and noted that the location for the monument would need to offer perpetuity, authenticity, and public access like the Cross Keys battlefield location in Virginia offers. The motion was seconded by Council member Price.

The amendment to the motion as proposed by Council member Leshner, seconded by Council member Price failed by a vote of 2-3 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – nay

Mr. Divilio – nay

Ms. Price – aye

Mr. Leshner – aye

Mr. Pack – nay

For the record, Mr. Callahan then clarified his vote that he wished to vote in favor of the amendment. The amendment passed by a vote of 3-2.

The Council then voted unanimously to approve the amended motion to award Bid No. 21-12 to Stratified, Inc., in the amount of \$67,000 contingent upon the project being fully funded by the Mid-Shore Community Foundation with no County funds required, and further providing flexibility for the Council to review any submitted proposals for alternative locations for the monument that offer perpetuity, authenticity, and public access like the Cross Keys battlefield location in Virginia offers with alternative locations to be submitted for Council's consideration by December 6, 2021 for consideration at their December 14, 2021 meeting.

- County offices are closed on **Thursday, February 25 and Friday, November 26** in honor of Thanksgiving holiday and American Indian Heritage day.

The County Council's next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 14, beginning at 6 p.m.** The Council will be convening in a work session at 4 p.m. that day with Planning and Zoning staff to discuss their strategic planning efforts. The work session is open to the public and will be held in the Bradley Meeting Room at the Talbot County Courthouse.

On **Monday, December 13, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**, the Council will continue the public hearing on Resolution Number 308, the purpose of which is solely for the petitioner, Daniel Watson, to complete his presentation to the Council. All other public comments on Resolution Number 308 will be received during the Council's December 14 portion of the public hearing.