



For Immediate Release

Easton, MD – December 15, 2021

Contact: Clay B. Stamp

County Manager

cbstamp@talbotcountymd.gov

410-770-8010

Talbot County Council Meeting Highlights, Tuesday, December 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 December 14 with all Council members present.

Introduction of Numbered Resolution:

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN REGARDING THE CONNECTION OF PHASE 1, SECTION 1 OF THE LAKESIDE PROJECT TO THE EXISTING TRAPPE WASTEWATER SYSTEM

A resolution was brought forward to amend the County's Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan regarding Phase I of the Lakeside project to the existing Trappe Wastewater Treatment Plant. Resolution No. 313 was introduced by Council President Callahan, Vice President Leshner, and Council member Price. Council member Price provided the background on the resolution, stating, "The resolution proposes to amend the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan in three respects. One would require the new connections to the existing town wastewater system from Lakeside Phase One be subject to the existing system not having any outstanding any enforcement actions, consent orders or violations. It also provides that a new portion of the startup phase may be connected to the existing system no more than 18 months after final approval if this were to be adopted by the Council. Third, within 18 months from the final issuance of all required permits and approvals for the new Lakeside wastewater treatment plant, all wastewater from that startup phase of being treated by the existing system would have to be redirected to the new system."

Council member Price explained that in accordance with the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan (CWSP), the Council can only introduce amendments to the CWSP four times a year, which is why the Council had to wait to introduce tonight's resolution. She added, "The language in here is what the developer in Trappe has represented to us over the years. What this does instead of letting them stay connected for an infinite number of years, it holds them accountable to what they have said verbally. This offers some protections environmentally. It limits how many homes can be connected and for how long."

A public hearing on Resolution No. 313 was scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room. In advance of the public hearing, both the Planning Commission and the Public Works Advisory Board will review Resolution No. 313 and provide their recommendations at their respective meetings on Wednesday, January 5, 2022.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF ANY INTEREST TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND HOLDS IN A PORTION OF BROOKS LANE TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS AND THE EXECUTION OF A QUITCLAIM DEED TO EFFECTUATE THE SAME

A resolution was brought forward to transfer the County's interest in Brooks Lane to the Town of St. Michaels. County Engineer Ray Clarke reported that Brooks Lane was improved to the Town's standards in 2017, constructing the road using asphalt as well as a stabilized cement for 20 feet. This portion of the roadway was annexed into the Town in 2018. The purpose of the resolution is to transfer the County's interest in Brooks Lane to the Town.

Resolution No. 314 was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Divilio, Mr. Leshner, Mr. Pack, and Ms. Price with a public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

County Manager's Report:

- Board and Committee Appointments
Mr. Stamp requested the Council's consideration of the appointment of Shawn Smith from the Talbot Soil Conservation District and Shannon Dill from the University of Maryland Extension Office as ex officio members to the Agricultural Resolution Board. The Council unanimously approved the appointments.
- Request from Department of Planning and Zoning to Participate in the FY2022 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Easement Acquisition Matching Funds Program
Mr. Stamp reported that the program is a matching funds program, and the Department is requesting Council approval to commit \$100,000 in County agricultural transfer tax and matching funds to participate in this program. Planning Officer Miguel Salinas reported that this is a regular request done in December of each year for each round of easement acquisitions. The County's fund balance from agricultural transfer taxes is a little over \$449,000. Council Vice President Pete Leshner added, "This has been an important program. I wish that we would put more than the minimum of \$100,000 into this program as it preserves Talbot County's rural character by purchasing preservation easements on these agricultural tracts. It makes sure that farmland stays farmland, and this is important." The Council voted unanimously to approve the request.
- Request from Roads Department to Purchase Scales for Use at the Repurposing Center
Mr. Stamp presented a request from the Roads Department to purchase scales for use at the repurposing center from low bidder Fairbanks Scales in the amount of \$124,055.44. He reported that two proposals were received and that there are sufficient funds for the purchase and that the

purchase was approved in the budget. The County will be utilizing the same discounts as were applied for Wicomico County for a similar purchase. The Council voted unanimously to approve the purchase of the scales.

- Request from Department of Public Works to Accept USDA Loan and Grant Funding Package in the Amount of \$1,650,000 for Phase V of the St. Michaels Sanitary Sewer System Restoration Project

County Engineer Ray Clarke requested that the Department of Public Works accept a USDA Loan and Grant funding package in the amount of \$1.65 million for additional engineering services and construction work to complete Phase V of the St Michaels Sanitary Sewer System Restoration Project. The USDA has offered the County \$1.65 million of which \$880,000 would be a new loan and \$770,000 would be in grant funding. The funding enables the County to finish up a lot of the sewer collection system work that it has done in St. Michaels. The payments on the loan portion would be subsidized through a rate increase for taxpayers for that Sanitary District. The Council approved unanimously to accept the loan and grant funding package from USDA.

- Request from Department of Public Works to Award Bid No. 17-09, ST. MICHAELS PUMPING STATION #3 UPGRADE/REHABILITATION – TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND (Change Order No. 21)

County Engineer Ray Clarke introduced a request from the Department of Public Works to award Change Order No. 21 to Talbot County Bid No. 17-09 to Schummer, Inc. in the amount of \$1,286,105 for the upgrade and rehabilitation of the St. Michaels Pumping Station #3. This Change Order had been contingent upon the County receiving a funding package from Rural Development (USDA). Now that the Council has approved the loan and grant funding package from USDA, Mr. Clarke is seeking approval. The Council unanimously approved Change Order No. 21.

- Request from Department of Public Works to Award Bid No. 15-23, ST. MICHAELS PHASE V SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM REHABILITATION AND GRACE STREET PUMP STATION REPLACEMENT ENGINEERING SERVICES (Amendment No. 17)

County Engineer Ray Clarke presented a request from the Department of Public Works for the Council's approval to award Amendment No. 17 to Talbot County Bid No. 15-23 to RAUCH, Inc. in the amount of \$183,375 for St. Michaels Phase V Sanitary Sewer System rehabilitation and Grace Street Pump Station replacement engineering services. This amendment had been contingent upon the County receiving a funding package from Rural Development (USDA). Now that the Council has approved the loan and grant funding package from USDA, Mr. Clarke is seeking approval. The Council unanimously approved Amendment No. 17.

- Update on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant

Mr. Stamp presented an update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant. Talbot County will have a community survey on the American Rescue Plan Act available beginning this week to garner input from the public on the County's priorities. He also reported that Council Vice President

Pete Leshar is chairing an internal committee to work on developing a strategy for the use of the American Rescue Plan Act Funds totaling \$7.2 million. Director of Economic Development & Tourism Cassandra Vanhooser reported that a small group has worked with BEACON and Salisbury University to put together a survey to solicit input from our citizens about what the County's priorities should be using this money. This survey will be available on the County's website (www.talbotcountymd.gov) in both English and Spanish, with translation being done by the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center.

"We will be calling on our partners and asking them to use their networks to help distribute the survey to Talbot County residents," Vanhooser added. "We'll also use our own websites and social media channels to invite participation. The survey will be open through the second week of January and should have results a week to 10 days after that."

Council Vice President Pete Leshar added, "We met with all of the municipalities because each of the municipalities is also receiving some of this funding. We wanted to be able to coordinate what we are doing with what the municipalities are doing. The funding is extraordinarily flexible and can be used for a lot of different things for our businesses and nonprofits."

Continuation of Public Hearing: 6:30 p.m.

Resolution No. 308, A RESOLUTION TO RESCIND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 281, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN (THE "PLAN") TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP PORTIONS OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF TRAPPE, MARYLAND, ASSOCIATED WITH THE LAKESIDE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (THE "LAKESIDE PROJECT") (FORMERLY KNOWN AS "TRAPPE EAST"), FURTHER DESCRIBED AS TAX MAP 54, PARCEL 304; TAX MAP 55, PARCELS 14, 15, 17, 19, 44, 65, 83, AND 85; AND, TAX MAP 59, PARCEL 4, THE TOTAL AREA CONSISTING OF EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE ACRES, MORE OR LESS (THE "PROPERTY"), FROM "S-2" AND "W-2" (AREAS WHERE IMPROVEMENTS OR EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING, OR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COMMUNITY, MULTI-USE, OR SHARED SANITARY FACILITIES ARE PROGRAMMED FOR PROGRESS WITHIN THREE TO FIVE YEARS) TO "S-1" AND "W-1" (AREAS SERVED OR TO BE SERVED BY COMMUNITY, MULTI-USE, OR SHARED SANITARY FACILITIES WHICH ARE EXISTING, UNDER CONSTRUCTION, OR HAVE IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS); TO AMEND THE PLAN TO ADD CERTAIN WATER AND SEWER CAPITAL PROJECTS RELATED TO THE LAKESIDE PROJECT AND EXISTING SYSTEMS FOR THE FISCAL YEARS 2020 THROUGH 2030; AND, TO AMEND THE PLAN TO UPDATE THE NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION IN THE PLAN RELATIVE TO THE LAKESIDE PROJECT AND EXISTING SYSTEMS, as amended, WITHOUT PREJUDICE

On Monday, December 13, Dan Watson, original petitioner for Petition 21-01, presented his case for the requested rescission of Resolution No. 281, outlining concerns with the proposed Lakeside development including current water quality issues in the waterways surrounding the Lakeside development and the Trappe Wastewater Treatment Plant, oversight of the Wastewater Treatment Plant by Maryland Department of the Environment and timeline for issuance of permits, as well as inflow and infiltration issues within the current Trappe Wastewater Treatment Plant service area. A public

hearing was held on Resolution No. 308 on Tuesday, December 14 to provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the legislation. The Council agreed to leave the record open on Resolution No. 308 until Friday, January 14, 2022. Resolution No. 308 will be eligible for vote at the Council's meeting on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. Both the Planning Commission and the Public Works Advisory Board will review Resolution No. 308 and the documents and testimony submitted during the public hearing process and provide their recommendations at their respective meetings on Wednesday, January 5, 2022.

Public Hearings:

Resolution No. 310, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF ANY INTEREST TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND HOLDS IN FLOOD AVENUE TO THE TOWN OF EASTON AND THE EXECUTION OF A QUITCLAIM DEED TO EFFECTUATE THE SAME

A public hearing was held on Resolution No. 310. County Attorney Patrick Thomas shared the plat showing current ownership of Flood Avenue. Mr. Stamp reported that due to recent resurfacing work on Flood Avenue, there has been flooding affecting the adjacent County Roads Department facility. The Council determined to hold the record on Resolution No. 310 open until December 21 to resolve these flooding issues before voting on transferring the property to the Town of Easton.

Resolution No. 311, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE TO CLARIFY CERTAIN PROCEDURES REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF NUMBERED AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTIONS, THE FILING OF PETITIONS, THE DRAFTING OF LEGISLATION, AND THE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AND TO CORRECT OUTDATED AND INCONSISTENT LANGUAGE

A public hearing was held on Resolution No. 311. County Attorney Patrick Thomas explained that the purpose of Resolution No. 311 is to amend the County's rules of procedure to clarify certain procedures regarding the adoption of numbered and administrative resolutions, the filing of petitions, the drafting of legislation and the conduct of public hearings, as well as to correct outdated and inconsistent language.

The Council determined to hold the record on Resolution No. 311 open until January 14 in order for County Attorney to clarify questions raised by Council and the public to provide additional feedback on the proposed changes. Resolution No. 311 will be eligible for vote on Tuesday, January 25.

Resolution No. 312, 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

A public hearing was held on Resolution No. 312 following which the Council voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Pete Leshar commented, "I just want to reiterate my thanks to the members of the Redistricting Commission that we appointed for their quick and timely work in getting this done. We were somewhat late in appointing them, but the Census Bureau was even later in providing them the necessary data for them to actually do their work and they turned it around in a remarkably short time with help from our staff in the County's GIS department. So, thanks to both the Commission and Mark Cohoon for moving this along so that we could actually make the deadline for the Board of Elections to get the redistricting done in time for candidates to be aware and to file for these offices."

Bill No. 1495, 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 public hearing was held on Bill No. 1495. County Attorney Patrick Thomas explained that the proposed amendment deletes the requirement that the Short-Term Rental Review Board have an attorney with experience in real estate because it has been difficult to get applications from someone with that specific qualification. He explained that this doesn't preclude an attorney from serving on the board.

Council member Corey Pack commented that the Planning Commission's recommendation is to amend the bill to add back the attorney and remove that the attorney must have real estate experience. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Ms. Price, Council by a vote of 4-1 (with Mr. Divilio dissenting) approved an amendment to Bill No. 1495 to strike the words "with experience in real estate" from the attorney position. Council approved Bill No. 1495, as amended.

Presentation and Discussion of Potential Alternative Locations for Talbot Boys Monument

Local citizens Stephen Hunter and Ken Eaton presented information about two additional properties to be considered for the Talbot Boys Monument in addition to the Cross Keys location in the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield for consideration of the monument remaining in Talbot County, Maryland. They also shared additional information about the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield location with Council.

Mr. Eaton presented information first about the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield location in Rockingham County, Virginia. He shared that the Cross Keys Battlefield is primarily owned by separate individual property owners and that the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation owns approximately 170 acres of the estimated 4,498 acres of the battlefield. He also reported that 90% of the acreage of the Cross Keys battlefield is not protected and is in danger of development pressure.

Mr. Eaton then presented information on Confederate Memorial Park near Point Lookout in Scotland, Maryland in St. Mary's County, approximately 120 miles from the center of Easton. The seven-acre park was developed by individuals with the common interest of remembering war veterans that served in the Civil War and is centrally located between the Point Lookout State Park (the site of Confederate prisoner of war Camp Hoffman) and the United States National Cemetery. Since its inception, the park continues to be improved with parking area walkways, memorial bricks, historical displays, and an informational center. The Confederate Memorial Park holds various programs, artillery displays and camp reenactments throughout the year. Recently, a sizable Confederate grave marker recognizing 17 unknown Confederates killed at Fort Stevens was relocated here after it was vandalized several times at his former location. The Confederate Memorial Park currently has 14 security cameras that provide surveillance. Local law enforcement regularly patrols the area. He also pointed out that St. Mary's County even uses the site on its own website for tourism. The site also has ties to Lieutenant Robert H. Goldsborough (one of the names on the current Talbot Boys Monument), state delegate and state senator, a descendant of Governor Charles Goldsborough, the 16th, Governor of Maryland. He was captured by federal troops in 1863 and was eventually transferred to Point Lookout Prisoner of War Camp. He is buried at Ashby, the family cemetery located on privately-owned property in Talbot County.

Mr. Eaton shared the second possible location as the Shannahan property, located on Chloras Point Road in Trappe, Maryland, 19 miles from the center of Easton. Mr. Hunter shared that their research found that Mr. John H. K. Shannahan, owner of the property, was on the committee that brought about the idea of the monument in 1913. The property is owned by William Elston Shannahan, III, a distant descendant of Talbot boy John Henry Kelly Shannahan and has other blood relatives on the Talbot Boys monument. This property has been in the family for the past 185 years. The monument would be placed near an

existing barn to allow the owners to maintain a level of security with electricity available for lighting. There is an existing private roadway that serves this area of the farm and is separate from the private residence. The placement would be near an existing private road near the barn overlooking a farm pond. The area would be improved with a small parking area and courtyard for special events and visitation.

Ms. Price made a motion to further explore the relocation of the Talbot Boys monument to the Shannahan property. The motion was seconded by Mr. Callahan. The motion failed by a vote of 2-3 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – aye

Mr. Divilio – nay

Mr. Leshner – nay

Ms. Price – aye

Mr. Pack - nay

The County Council's next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 21, beginning at 6 p.m.** The Council will convene a closed session at 4:30 p.m. beforehand to discuss legal, real estate and personnel matters.