



Deposition of:
Talbot County Council Meeting
April 13, 2021

In the Matter of:
Talbot County Council Meeting

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

April 13, 2021; 6:00 p.m.

Via Webex Events

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Corey W. Pack

Frank Divilio

Laura E. Price

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Welcome, everybody. And</p> <p>4 let's get started. Good evening. So let's</p> <p>5 stand and join in prayer for Mr. Leshner's</p> <p>6 prayer.</p> <p>7 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job, Council.</p> <p>9 Thank you, Mr. Leshner, for that</p> <p>10 heartwarming prayer. You do a good job at</p> <p>11 that. I really appreciate it.</p> <p>12 Okay. Let's start off with Council has an</p> <p>13 agenda in front of them for April 13th before</p> <p>14 us. Are there any additions, deletions, or</p> <p>15 corrections to the agenda?</p> <p>16 MR. STAMP: Mr. Council President.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir, Mr. Stamp.</p> <p>18 MR. STAMP: I'm requesting that an item be</p> <p>19 added to the county manager report this</p> <p>20 evening, specifically a letter of support from</p> <p>21 the county for FY21 Maryland Heritage Area</p>	<p>1 that we postpone those three until we are able</p> <p>2 to have the Public Works Advisory Board and the</p> <p>3 Planning Commission both meet and give us their</p> <p>4 recommendations. I believe that's the proper</p> <p>5 procedural tactic to take.</p> <p>6 So we certainly apologize for anybody who</p> <p>7 was prepared for this evening. Obviously any</p> <p>8 written comments that we've already received,</p> <p>9 we'll certainly make part of the record. But I</p> <p>10 believe we were talking about postponing this</p> <p>11 now so that both those bodies can get their</p> <p>12 meetings to May 25th.</p> <p>13 So I request amending the agenda.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds great. Do I have a</p> <p>15 second?</p> <p>16 MR. LESHER: I'll second.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, there's a</p> <p>18 motion and a second to amend the agenda, the</p> <p>19 April 13th agenda.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Okay. Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p>
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<p>1 Authority grant application by the DeShields</p> <p>2 family for the Bellevue Passage Museum. I</p> <p>3 would be adding that to the county manager</p> <p>4 report this evening.</p> <p>5 Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Stamp.</p> <p>7 Council, do we have support for that?</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: Yes.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Do we need to vote</p> <p>10 on that, Madam Secretary?</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: I believe you just need to</p> <p>12 request, if you amend the agenda, approve as</p> <p>13 amended.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds good.</p> <p>15 MS. PRICE: Mr. Callahan, we have three</p> <p>16 public hearings scheduled this evening,</p> <p>17 Resolutions 299, 300, and 301.</p> <p>18 And because of a scheduling, particularly</p> <p>19 the Planning Commission was not able to get</p> <p>20 their meeting scheduled prior to us having our</p> <p>21 public hearing this evening, I would request</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>2 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>4 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>6 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. The agenda has been</p> <p>10 changed for this evening. That's good.</p> <p>11 So if you are listening to us on the</p> <p>12 public hearings, so it would be down the road</p> <p>13 in the next couple of meetings and we'll make</p> <p>14 you aware of what's going on.</p> <p>15 So let's do the minutes. Council has had</p> <p>16 a chance to look at the minutes for March 23rd.</p> <p>17 Are there any additions, deletions, or</p> <p>18 corrections for the minutes? Hearing none, the</p> <p>19 chair moves that the minutes be accepted as</p> <p>20 unanimous consent. Okay.</p> <p>21 Next on the agenda here we got</p>

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<p>1 disbursements from March 30th, April 6th, and 2 April 13th. Council has had a chance to review 3 the disbursements from the 30th, the 6th, and 4 the 13th of April. Are there any additions, 5 deletions, or corrections to the disbursements? 6 Okay. Hearing none, the chair moves that the 7 disbursements be accepted as unanimous consent. 8 Thank you, Council. So okay. 9 First up we have a proclamation of Sexual 10 Assault Awareness Month. Madam Secretary, 11 would you please read the proclamation into the 12 record. 13 SECRETARY: Sexual Assault Awareness 14 Month, April 2021. 15 Whereas, sexual assault is an intolerable 16 violent crime and a serious public health issue 17 that affects millions of individuals each year. 18 And whereas, rape, sexual assault, and 19 sexual harassment harm our community and can 20 lead to long-term physical and psychological 21 health problems, including chronic pain,</p>	<p>1 its prevention, support survivors, speak out 2 against harmful attitudes and actions, and take 3 action to create a safer environment for all. 4 And whereas, 2021 marks the 20th 5 anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. 6 The theme for this year's campaign, We Can 7 Build Safe Online Spaces, is built on 8 foundational values of practicing consent, 9 keeping children safe, and supporting 10 survivors. Together with advocates and 11 communities across the country, we can prevent 12 all online abuse as we build safe online spaces 13 now and for the future. 14 And whereas, working to prevent sexual 15 assault in our communities is the best gift we 16 can give to survivors, and prevention is 17 possible when everyone gets involved. 18 And whereas, Talbot County supports the 19 experts who work to identify, decrease, and 20 prevent sexual violence and is dedicated to 21 providing services and alternative avenues for</p>
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<p>1 headaches, anxiety, post traumatic stress 2 disorder, and sexually transmitted diseases. 3 And whereas, Sexual Assault Awareness 4 Month calls attention to the fact that sexual 5 assault violence is widespread and impacts 6 families, homes, schools, and workplaces in our 7 community on a daily basis. 8 And whereas, child sexual abuse prevention 9 must be a priority to confront the reality that 10 one in six boys and one in four girls will 11 experience a sexual assault before age 18, and 12 that youth ages 12 to 17 are two and a half 13 times more likely to be victims of rape or 14 sexual assault. 15 And whereas, on campuses, one in five 16 women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted 17 during their time in college. And one in five 18 women and one in 67 men will be raped at some 19 point in their lives. 20 And whereas, we must work together to 21 educate our community about sexual violence and</p>	<p>1 survivors to seek proper care and treatment. 2 And whereas, Sexual Assault Awareness 3 Month is an opportunity to stand with sexual 4 assault survivors to celebrate progress in 5 combating these crimes and to recommit to 6 reducing sexual violence in Talbot County. 7 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of 8 Talbot County, do hereby recognize April 2021 9 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Talbot 10 County and call this observance to the 11 attention of all of our citizens. 12 Given under our hands in the great seal of 13 Talbot County this 13th day of April in the 14 year of our Lord 2021. 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary. 16 Is there a motion and second to approve 17 the proclamation? 18 MR. PACK: So moved. 19 MR. DIVILIO: Second. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you 21 call the roll, please.</p>

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 6 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 8 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 10 MR. PACK: Aye.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Motion passed.
 12 That's great. Okay.
 13 Is Beth Anne Langrell from For Seasons, is
 14 she on here?
 15 MR. DURHAM: I don't see her in the list.
 16 If you are on the phone, please press
 17 asterisk three on your phone and I will unmute
 18 you.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Beth Anne, are you with us?
 20 MS. MORRIS: Mr. Callahan, I do see that
 21 we have Kristy Mirando from the For All Seasons

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1 organization, if she wanted to speak on behalf
 2 of this proclamation.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. Kristy, are you with
 4 us?
 5 MS. MIRANDO: I'm with you guys. How are
 6 you?
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Kristy, it seems
 8 like you got people with you and animals.
 9 Kristy?
 10 MS. MIRANDO: Sorry about that.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem. Kristy, would
 12 you share some information with us?
 13 MS. MIRANDO: I would. This year we're
 14 going to focus on online spaces, staying safe
 15 with the pandemic. And we will be posting a
 16 lot of resources on our Facebook page with
 17 helpful tips and videos to support families and
 18 give them tips and ideas for keeping kids safe
 19 online.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. That's
 21 great, Kristy.

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1 Well, this is something that is very
 2 important to all of us and we don't ever, ever,
 3 ever want to see happen.
 4 I really appreciate all that you guys do
 5 down there because it's really extremely
 6 important the work you do to help people and
 7 help people that are abused and stuff.
 8 So Council, would Council like to say
 9 anything? Okay.
 10 MR. DIVILIO: I'll just say that we all
 11 recognize that the last year has created many
 12 different difficulties for us.
 13 And For All Seasons I know has posted a
 14 lot of information about the different phone
 15 calls that they're getting and being swamped
 16 and overworked because of the problems with
 17 people staying home, not necessarily having
 18 proper child care. It's -- I really appreciate
 19 For All Seasons and all the community groups
 20 that help work with this.
 21 But this is something that I'm hearing is

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1 increasing due to people being at home and not
 2 necessarily having the proper care or guidance
 3 or supervision.
 4 So it's something that does trouble me,
 5 and I'm glad that we are making this known and
 6 aware of it.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.
 8 Those are some very kind words.
 9 Mr. Pack, would you like to say something?
 10 MR. PACK: Well, I want to echo the same
 11 thoughts.
 12 And For All Seasons has been a great
 13 contributor to the community when it comes to
 14 mental health.
 15 And yes, the situation with COVID, people
 16 being confined to their homes has elevated some
 17 of the domestic violence and sexual assault
 18 we've seen, not just here in Talbot County, but
 19 across the nation. So it's good that Kristy
 20 and her group is taking the time to draw
 21 attention to sexual assault and what we can do

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1 as citizens to be aware of it and how to
 2 prevent it.
 3 So just want to congratulate them on what
 4 they're doing so far and offer my support as
 5 they move forward in mental health here in
 6 Talbot County.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack for
 8 those kind words.
 9 Ms. Price.
 10 MS. PRICE: Got to find the unmute button.
 11 And I would just echo everybody's comments
 12 and appreciate all of the groups and
 13 organizations that support people in need.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Price.
 15 Mr. Vice President, Mr. Leshner.
 16 MR. LESHER: Just want to add my
 17 appreciation for For All Seasons and the good
 18 work that you do in the community, along with
 19 other partners. And you are a good partner and
 20 organization. Thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.

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1 Kristy, I just want to commend you guys
 2 and your team and Beth Anne. Beth Anne is
 3 pretty much on the radio I believe with WCEI
 4 every week and giving that message. And I
 5 think it really helps the county and helps the
 6 listeners understand that there is help out
 7 there if they need it. And you guys do a great
 8 job.
 9 So really appreciate it. And you guys
 10 deserve a pat on the back and a
 11 congratulations. Thank you, Kristy.
 12 MS. MIRANDO: Thank you. Thank you for
 13 your support.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's move on to
 15 another one that's extremely important, Native
 16 Plants Week. Madam Secretary, could you please
 17 read the proclamation for the record.
 18 SECRETARY: Native Plant Week, April 19th
 19 through the 25th, 2021.
 20 Whereas, native plants help to define
 21 Talbot County's identity, natural history, and

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1 lifestyle.
 2 And whereas, native plants provide food
 3 and shelter to hundreds of species of birds and
 4 other wildlife, many of which are species of
 5 concern and are increasingly threatened by
 6 climate change and human development, including
 7 the common milk weed plant and the monarch
 8 butterfly.
 9 And whereas, native plants, like the white
 10 oak, are crucial habitats for nesting birds,
 11 like Carolina Chickadees, providing not just a
 12 place for nest building and chick rearing, but
 13 playing host to hundreds of species of insects,
 14 reptiles, amphibians, and mammals.
 15 And whereas, there are over 20 native
 16 plant species of concern located in Talbot
 17 County, with nine State rare or highly rare
 18 species and six species which are endangered or
 19 threatened.
 20 And whereas, Maryland's native plants have
 21 adapted to flourish and thrive in our unique

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1 climate, geography, and hydrology and in
 2 harmony with local wildlife.
 3 And whereas, Talbot's native plants are
 4 more drought and frost resistant, require less
 5 watering, and minimize the need for use of
 6 fertilizers and pesticides, thereby improving
 7 storm water runoff entering the Chesapeake Bay
 8 and its tributaries.
 9 And whereas, Pickering Creek Audubon
 10 Center and its regional partners encourage the
 11 purchase and use of native plants in gardens,
 12 lawns, and fields of all sizes and locations to
 13 sustain the beauty and benefits of our natural
 14 environment, honor those people who came before
 15 us, and create connections between people of
 16 all ages with our shared natural ecosystems.
 17 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of
 18 Talbot County, do hereby proclaim April 19th
 19 through the 25, 2021, as Native Plant Week in
 20 Talbot County, Maryland, and commend its
 21 observance to all citizens.

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1 Given under our hands in the great seal of
 2 Talbot County this 13th day of April in the
 3 year of our Lord 2021.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.
 5 Is there a motion and a second to approve
 6 the proclamation?
 7 MR. LESHHER: I so move.
 8 MS. PRICE: Second.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you
 10 please call the roll, please.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 16 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 18 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 20 MR. PACK: Aye.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is Mr. Jackson

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1 available and online? Mr. Jackson,
 2 Mr. Harrison Jackson?
 3 MR. JACKSON: Yes. Good evening.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening. How are you?
 5 From Pickering Creek.
 6 MR. JACKSON: Yes. Thank you so much,
 7 County Council. It's a pleasure to be here
 8 tonight.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. You want to give us
 10 a little bit of information on what you're
 11 doing and some good stuff here.
 12 MR. JACKSON: Absolutely. So native
 13 plants are critical to local wildlife and to
 14 humans.
 15 Having spent a lot of time out on the
 16 marshes myself and duck hunting and things like
 17 that, phragmites is an invasive species that's
 18 absolutely atrocious and that's causing a lot
 19 of problems.
 20 So native species like spartina, you talk
 21 about trees like white oaks, there's a lot of

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1 different native species of plants that really
 2 help wildlife and by extension help humans,
 3 whether it's hunting or being out crabbing or
 4 fishing or just going birding and enjoying
 5 being outside. Native species of plants really
 6 do help to provide a number of ecosystem
 7 services beyond what we use the outdoors for as
 8 well.
 9 So we really appreciate it.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. Thank you,
 11 Mr. Jackson.
 12 I'm going to open it up to Council a
 13 little bit for a couple of comments.
 14 Ms. Price.
 15 MS. PRICE: Pickering Creek is a great
 16 natural resource of natural resources. And
 17 it's a wonderful organization and a wonderful
 18 location for people to go and visit and enjoy
 19 all of that beauty.
 20 So we thank you for being a part of that
 21 and bringing this proclamation to our

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1 attention.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate that.
 3 Mr. Leshher.
 4 MR. LESHHER: I opened this meeting with a
 5 prayer talking about our care of the creation.
 6 And this is one way that we can exercise that
 7 care, by tending to native plants and fighting
 8 off the invasives.
 9 And the habitat values, as articulated in
 10 the resolution and by Harrison here, are
 11 legion.
 12 So we appreciate all you're doing on that
 13 front. And you and other organizations in the
 14 county, we know that you're an educator on this
 15 but there are some good resources for obtaining
 16 these as well from other partners in the
 17 county.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshher. I
 19 appreciate it.
 20 Mr. Pack.
 21 MR. PACK: Well, I will say this is a new

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1 one for me. On my ten-plus years, I think this
 2 is the first time we give a proclamation for
 3 Native Plant Week.
 4 So but it serves a purpose. And I thank
 5 Pickering Creek for all that you do.
 6 Been up there several times with my family
 7 and enjoyed the environment and all that you
 8 all offer to keep the environment safe.
 9 So Happy Native Plant Week and look
 10 forward to seeing you again with this.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 12 Mr. Divilio.
 13 MR. DIVILIO: Well, as a member that sits
 14 on the Weed Control Committee, it's nice to
 15 hear some native grasses and plants being
 16 discussed as opposed to the invasive ones that
 17 everybody is looking for, which it's
 18 interesting hearing about the birds dropping
 19 seeds and how things happen like that. And
 20 farmers, how aggressive they have to be to
 21 monitor it.

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1 But I do appreciate seeing the working
 2 waterfronts and the shorelines that we're
 3 seeing now with the native plants and grasses.
 4 I was always used to just seeing the Oxford
 5 Strand, whereas now the Oxford Park has a nice
 6 one of these.
 7 So I do enjoy seeing them and I'm glad
 8 that there's organizations helping keep the
 9 landscapers and those companies aware of these.
 10 Thank you.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.
 12 And I think we also have somebody on the
 13 line, Ms. Ann Walker. Are you with us,
 14 Ms. Walker?
 15 MS. WALKER: I am with you, yup. Can you
 16 hear me?
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, I can. Yeah. Would
 18 you like to say a few words?
 19 MS. WALKER: Well, I would just like to
 20 second what Harrison said.
 21 You know, the values of nature are really

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1 invaluable to humans, and we need to be
 2 appreciating those more and more every day
 3 because if the Bay is going to get more and
 4 more polluted, that will disintegrate our
 5 quality of life down here on the Eastern Shore
 6 that we love so much. So the native plants
 7 help us and the ecology. So we need to pay
 8 close attention.
 9 Thanks.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. No problem.
 11 Thanks, Ms. Walker and Mr. Jackson, for
 12 all you do, the hard work that you're doing to
 13 make us a phenomenal county and healthy county
 14 because it takes these plants and trees to be
 15 healthy. So we really sometimes underestimate
 16 that stuff. But at the end of the day, it's
 17 people like yourself that really make this
 18 worthwhile and healthy and safe for us to live
 19 in this county. So I really appreciate it.
 20 Thank you, guys.
 21 MR. JACKSON: Thank you.

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1 MS. WALKER: Thank you.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay.
 3 So next we have up Margaret Enloe. We
 4 missed you big time last year. I mean we
 5 missed you.
 6 MS. ENLOE: I missed us as well, if that
 7 makes any sense.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: No. We really did.
 9 So I think you're here to tell us a little
 10 bit about what's going on and update us on the
 11 waterfowl because we're definitely ready to do
 12 it this year. I'm sure, I hope.
 13 MS. ENLOE: Thank you. One of my if you
 14 can call it a running joke was now we know what
 15 it would take to not have a Waterfowl Festival
 16 in Talbot County. Obviously it's a global
 17 pandemic.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: It is.
 19 MS. ENLOE: So yeah. It had been a
 20 question ever since I became executive
 21 director, like is this going to be every year.

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1 And obviously it takes a global pandemic to
 2 have no Waterfowl Festival.
 3 I thank you guys so much for the time to
 4 be on the agenda tonight. And boy, in the
 5 company of For All Seasons and Pickering Creek,
 6 a couple of other nonprofits that are real
 7 pinnacles in our county and our community.
 8 So the first message I have for us is that
 9 we are planning full steam ahead for Waterfowl
 10 Festival in November. If you didn't see that
 11 in the press release, we decided we better put
 12 that out there because there are all sorts of
 13 rumors circulating around.
 14 And what I'm here actually to talk to you
 15 all about tonight is our economic and cultural
 16 impact study. So if I could figure out screen
 17 share, I'm going to go through the study
 18 relatively quickly and happy to take any
 19 questions before or during or after the
 20 presentation.
 21 One of the things I want to mention about

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1 this study is that we commissioned it in 2019
 2 very specifically -- uh-oh. How do I do this?
 3 To get ready for the 50th anniversary year,
 4 which would have been in 2020.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Got you.
 6 MS. ENLOE: There we go. So the reason we
 7 did that in 2019 is that we really wanted to
 8 measure what our community thought about us,
 9 what our economic value was to the region, and
 10 we wanted to be able to have that information
 11 for our 50th anniversary festival.
 12 While we may not have had our event last
 13 year, but this year is the 50th festival. And
 14 it will be November 12th through 14th, second
 15 weekend in November, second full weekend every
 16 year.
 17 So the study was conducted by Rockport
 18 Analytics. Rockport is a firm that's actually
 19 based in Annapolis. And we were really
 20 fortunate to be able to find a local firm of
 21 such high quality who could also bring their

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1 people and spend time at festival weekend.
 2 I think those of us who are on the line
 3 sort of understand the principle that you
 4 almost don't get the festival unless you can
 5 attend the festival. So it was really valuable
 6 to have a firm that was local.
 7 They're independent. They have a
 8 long-standing track record of creating credible
 9 assessments and leading organizations in both
 10 the private and the public sector. They've
 11 done high profile events like an analysis of
 12 the Super Bowl, Pocono 500, as well as The
 13 Masters.
 14 I'm happy to talk a little bit more about
 15 them if people have questions, but I also want
 16 to touch on the model that they used. In any
 17 economic analysis, you're using a modeling
 18 format. They used the IMPLAN model, which
 19 stands for Impact Analysis For Planning. And
 20 it draws from the most extensive economic
 21 database available, while also allowing for

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1 detailed input that reflects sort of a local
 2 flavor.
 3 The software has been used by government
 4 agencies, academia, and leading researchers for
 5 more than 40 years. So just to let you know,
 6 very credible company, very credible results.
 7 So the study, first of all, at the top of
 8 the page point out that the entire study is
 9 about 32 pages long. It's available on the
 10 waterfowlfestival.org website.
 11 Today we're going to talk about the
 12 highlights in terms of economic, cultural, and
 13 community impact, as well as what we learned.
 14 We'll look at activities and lodging
 15 information. And then a really important piece
 16 of information is visitors' and attendees'
 17 satisfaction and loyalty.
 18 I would be remiss if I didn't thank the
 19 Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area for
 20 underwriting this project as well as several
 21 other projects that helped get us ready for our

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1 50th. They have been really invaluable
 2 (inaudible) infrastructure, and we really
 3 appreciate their support.
 4 If you wonder why other organizations
 5 don't do these studies, they're actually fairly
 6 expensive for organizations of a small size.
 7 So grant funding is very critical.
 8 So I'm just going to go straight to the
 9 big number. Our total economic impact from the
 10 2019 Waterfowl Festival is \$2.6 million in the
 11 Talbot County economy. That's a pretty
 12 significant number for a regional three-day
 13 event that draws visitors from all over.
 14 I want to talk a little bit about the term
 15 visitors, though. And you all may be familiar
 16 with what I'm about to explain since you do
 17 have Cassandra on your team. But I want to
 18 clarify what visitors mean.
 19 So we estimate just over 15,000 people
 20 came to the festival. We call those attendees.
 21 And that was for 2019. Of those attendees,

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1 45 percent meet the description of a visitor
 2 when you're doing an economic impact or tourism
 3 analysis. A visitor is defined as someone that
 4 traveled 50 miles or more to come or someone
 5 that stayed overnight. And in our case, that
 6 the primary reason they came was to come to the
 7 festival.
 8 So why this matters is that visitors that
 9 come from that distance are a measurement of
 10 new monies brought into the county by the
 11 event. So that's really what we're talking
 12 about in terms of visitor spending here is new
 13 monies that we benefited from.
 14 It also aligns with the way the State of
 15 Maryland looks at tourism data. So that also
 16 allows us to look at our visitor data in a
 17 larger picture if we wish to.
 18 Before I go on, because I'm going to talk
 19 a lot about visitor spending, any questions
 20 about visitors and attendees and that
 21 definition? I'll take that as a no. If any

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1 come up, just let me know.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, sure.
 3 MS. ENLOE: So one of the other important
 4 statistics that came out of this report was
 5 jobs and wages. Forty-eight jobs, full and
 6 part time, resulted in \$1.6 million in wages
 7 paid in Talbot County. A large portion of
 8 these wages ripple through the economy because
 9 workers spend it on groceries or they do other
 10 activities in the county. So it's something
 11 that's an important feature to remember when
 12 you're looking at economic impact.
 13 The next thing I want to talk about is
 14 where our visitors spend. We actually have a
 15 relatively remarkable amount of spending that
 16 happens on retail. What we learned from this
 17 study is that waterfowl visitors come and they
 18 shop. The average visitor spent on shopping at
 19 a similar event is 20 percent of their total
 20 spent. People that came to festival spend
 21 about one-third of their monies on shopping.

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1 It's really pretty remarkable amount of money
 2 for just --
 3 MS. PRICE: Margaret?
 4 MS. ENLOE: Yes.
 5 MS. PRICE: This is Laura. Is that
 6 shopping outside of buying a piece of artwork?
 7 I would assume artwork that's bought for
 8 (inaudible) separate.
 9 MS. ENLOE: Nope. Shopping in general.
 10 We asked people where they were spending. So
 11 this is shopping at the festival venues, but
 12 also shopping at our retail businesses in
 13 Talbot County.
 14 MS. PRICE: It would be inclusive if they
 15 bought a painting by (inaudible), then?
 16 MS. ENLOE: It would be inclusive, yes, if
 17 they bought a fine art piece.
 18 MS. PRICE: Okay. Got it.
 19 MS. ENLOE: We've done a whole lot of
 20 analysis actually in the last year on our fine
 21 arts spending. And most of the art that's

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1 bought at the festival, easily half of it, is
 2 under the \$250 range. And the really big
 3 pieces, we have fewer than you would think big
 4 art buyers every year. So a lot of the art
 5 buying is sort of the smaller pieces. So it
 6 does include all of that.
 7 Very good question, very good point.
 8 Let's see. I think if you look at the
 9 spending on retail and food and beverage, more
 10 than half of visitor spending, about
 11 55 percent, is retail. Excuse me. Is shopping
 12 in food and beverage.
 13 One of the things I want to note is
 14 lodging. And I'll talk in detail about that a
 15 little bit more. Only about 20 percent of the
 16 spend is on lodging. And that's because, and I
 17 think this won't surprise anyone on the meeting
 18 here, a lot of our visitors who do stay over
 19 stay with family or friends that are here. So
 20 about 20 percent of the people that stay over
 21 are staying with family or friends. So the

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1 lodging dollars that you see here refer to
 2 what's spent on paid lodging I guess is the
 3 best way to put it.
 4 The amount spent on lodging by visitors on
 5 waterfowl weekend represents more than a
 6 quarter of the lodging spent for all of Talbot
 7 County for November. So still a significant
 8 number.
 9 MR. PACK: Let me ask you a question. In
 10 that lodging number, are STRs included?
 11 MS. ENLOE: They are actually. We're
 12 going to look at that in the next slide if my
 13 computer hasn't frozen. There we go. Actually
 14 I'll jump ahead and I'll come back to the slide
 15 I just skipped.
 16 So if I look at the accommodation and
 17 where people stay, hotels and motels are about
 18 47 percent, friends or relatives 26 percent.
 19 And in this analysis, they call that
 20 peer-to-peer rental. So that's at about
 21 nine percent for people that come during

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1 waterfowl weekend. Bed and breakfast and other
 2 lodging is also about eight or nine percent.
 3 We were really curious how many people
 4 came and camped. So you can see from the data
 5 here only about one percent of people are
 6 coming and camping.
 7 The other thing about lodging is that
 8 not --
 9 MR. PACK: -- Talbot County?
 10 MS. ENLOE: Pardon?
 11 MR. PACK: Camping? Overnight camping in
 12 the county?
 13 MS. ENLOE: No, not necessarily in the
 14 county. We wanted to know how many --
 15 MR. PACK: Okay.
 16 MS. ENLOE: -- camping in general because
 17 we were curious.
 18 If you look at the next part of the slide,
 19 we wanted to know how many people stayed
 20 outside of Talbot County as well. And we were
 21 curious if they camped at Tuckahoe or Martinak

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1 State Park. We were curious if they stayed in
 2 Kent Island.
 3 And what we found in all that lodging
 4 information is that most people do stay within
 5 Talbot County. Fifty-seven percent in Easton,
 6 12 percent in St. Michaels, Oxford had
 7 seven percent. Cambridge, of course,
 8 Dorchester attracts some people for lodging as
 9 well.
 10 So going back one slide because I skipped
 11 over this to address the question. In terms of
 12 length of stay, most people stay an average of
 13 about two nights and some stay a little bit
 14 longer. People who are staying with friends or
 15 family tend to stay a little bit longer. They
 16 tend to stay three days and they tend to have a
 17 larger party size.
 18 Our visitors are really split between day
 19 trippers and overnight guests. So 40 percent
 20 of people come for the day, and overnight
 21 guests are at about, what is it, 53 percent

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1 stay one, two, or three days.
 2 So looking at taxes, the two pieces of tax
 3 information that are most significant are on
 4 the right-hand side. The hotel tax, we
 5 generate, we -- Waterfowl Festival spend was
 6 \$29,000 in hotel taxes. And on property taxes,
 7 the thing to know about them, this is really
 8 looking at -- my notes here. In the IMPLAN
 9 model, what it does is it allocates a portion
 10 of total property tax receipts based upon
 11 visitors' contribution to residential wages and
 12 commercial revenue.
 13 So the 77 percent figure mostly represents
 14 business property taxes. So 77 percent of the
 15 proceeds on sales generated -- excuse me.
 16 Based on the sales generated by Waterfowl
 17 Festival, 77 percent of those proceeds support
 18 businesses in paying their property taxes. So
 19 think of it as sort of a pass-through and how
 20 it contributes.
 21 So here is where we switch to what do

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1 people think of us. This was something we
 2 really wanted to know. And we surveyed people
 3 all during Waterfowl Festival 2019.
 4 Not familiar -- I'm not sure if you're
 5 familiar with net promoter scores. But a net
 6 promoter score is done on a scale of 100, and
 7 it really applies to events or festivals. And
 8 it's a measure of determining who is likely to
 9 visit again and who is likely to promote your
 10 event to others.
 11 It's not only about loyalty or
 12 satisfaction. It also can be tracked over
 13 time, and it will help us look to improve our
 14 offerings and increase that activity.
 15 So our net promoters? scores were far
 16 beyond our expectations. A net promoter score
 17 of 60 is considered very good for an event.
 18 Overnight visitors gave us a 90. Visitors
 19 whose primary reason is to be here to enjoy the
 20 heritage and traditions, 86. First time
 21 visitors, 86. Repeat visitors, 83. Visitors

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1 in general, 74. And I was heartened to know
 2 that the Talbot County score was really good as
 3 well because I know that we are not terribly
 4 convenient for a lot of people that live here.
 5 We have people that love to volunteer for us,
 6 and we couldn't do it without them. And I know
 7 we have people that kind of go around town on
 8 festival weekend. So to find that Talbot
 9 County residents gave us a net promoter score
 10 of 62 was still really wonderful as far as I
 11 was concerned.
 12 Eighty-nine percent of attendees are
 13 satisfied or extremely satisfied with the
 14 festival. And that is attendees. So that's
 15 out of the 15,000 people.
 16 Eighty-two percent of residents believe
 17 we're important or essential to celebrating and
 18 showcasing local cultural heritage.
 19 Seventy-five percent, very important or
 20 essential for providing recreational and
 21 educational opportunities.

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1 So here we are at our 50-year mark, and we
 2 consider that we've really helped to define
 3 Easton's identity and we've been vital for
 4 promoting our lifestyle, love for the outdoors,
 5 and love for the arts far beyond our Eastern
 6 Shore and our county.
 7 What was also heartening from our
 8 residents is that they believe that the
 9 Waterfowl is important or essential to
 10 stimulating the local economy. And that this
 11 year is obviously more important than ever.
 12 We're very important for promoting local
 13 attractions and amenities.
 14 I loved these as well. Most residents
 15 believe we're important for uniting the
 16 community towards a common goal, igniting a
 17 sense of community pride, and providing
 18 opportunities for more civic engagement. And
 19 we have completely embraced the idea that we're
 20 almost an annual homecoming for people who
 21 return here year after year.

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1 I wanted to also highlight a couple of the
 2 reasons that people attend Waterfowl Festival.
 3 So arts and supporting artists, sporting and
 4 outdoor aspects, cultural and heritage
 5 traditions. They love walking around town, the
 6 food and beverage, the dining out. They attend
 7 activities all across the county as well
 8 because many organizations hold activities that
 9 weekend.
 10 This reflects some of the same data. Food
 11 and beverage and fine art are the top
 12 performing answers. But, of course, and no
 13 surprise I think, the diving dog competitions
 14 and the retriever dogs are also very, very
 15 popular. And if you remember in 2019, if you
 16 walked around the festival, there were a few
 17 more dogs on the streets than I think we had
 18 seen in a long time, which might be something
 19 we have to figure out how to work in concert
 20 with the town to manage.
 21 So really in wrapping up, a couple of

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1 different things. I do want to mention that we
 2 are a nonprofit organization. And I say that
 3 publicly as often as I can because people still
 4 do not understand that and do not realize that
 5 we have a broader conservation and community
 6 message and mission.
 7 We're seeing our fourth generation of
 8 loyal guests. And if I had had a crystal ball,
 9 this economic impact study comes at a perfect
 10 time because I think it demonstrates that we
 11 will be a critical part of the recovery in
 12 2021. And we are really super excited about
 13 that.
 14 The other thing this study tells me, and I
 15 think the whole county needs to be aware of
 16 this, the town needs to be aware of this, if
 17 our visitors are as loyal as what we're seeing
 18 in this data and they return year after year
 19 and they've missed a year, I think we're going
 20 to have a bang-up 50th festival in November
 21 this year. I think we might see a turnout far

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1 exceeding what we've seen in recent years.
 2 We're really thankful for the community
 3 support, from the volunteers, and for the
 4 businesses, the downtown businesses that
 5 support us, the corporate sponsors that support
 6 us. And we're just really excited about the
 7 coming year.
 8 I would also be remiss if I didn't
 9 acknowledge our partnership with the County
 10 Office of Tourism. Cassandra Vanhooser has
 11 been an invaluable partner in helping us in
 12 terms of marketing and reaching new audiences,
 13 thinking a little bit differently about things.
 14 And my final request or message for the
 15 Council is that I know that there are federal
 16 recovery monies that are being offered to
 17 localities. And it's our hope that the county
 18 would consider being an official sponsor of the
 19 Waterfowl Festival this year and helping us
 20 make it the best golden anniversary celebration
 21 it could possibly be.

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1 We love that we have a net promoter score
 2 for visitors of 90. We'd like to really knock
 3 it out of the park and make that net promoter
 4 score outstanding for this year.
 5 So that's what I have on the economic
 6 impact study. And I thank you for your time.
 7 And if you have any questions, I'm happy to
 8 entertain them.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, thanks a lot,
 10 Margaret. What a great, great presentation.
 11 And Council, I'm going to open it up to
 12 Council. Mr. Divilio.
 13 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you very much for this
 14 great presentation. And it's full of tons of
 15 information.
 16 The one thing that I could not find that I
 17 did want to address, we have the schools coming
 18 in next, are the duck sitters. And how many
 19 high school kids earn their community service
 20 hours volunteering for the Waterfowl Festival.
 21 It's a great benefit for them as well, and I

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1 can't imagine --

2 I'm part of the Lions Club. And we just

3 serve food. We have, I don't know, a dozen

4 kids every day helping us set up and

5 everything.

6 It's a great way to get students involved

7 in the community at the volunteering level, and

8 that's where I started. So I greatly

9 appreciate that program that you run for them.

10 That is very --

11 MS. ENLOE: Thank you. It's where -- so

12 just for everyone's -- to be clear with

13 everyone, we only have a staff of three, paid

14 staff of three.

15 And the fact that we have this community

16 event that runs as it does is due to the

17 festival chairmen. We have 60 festival

18 chairmen that between the staff and chairmen

19 manage all the events, all the venues, and

20 manage about, we think we're at about 850

21 volunteers to make the event run on any given

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1 weekend.

2 I bring that up because many of our

3 chairmen, who I dare say are in our collective

4 age bracket here, started as duck sitters. So

5 the duck sitting program is pretty important.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Sure is, sure is.

7 Thank you, Mr. Divilio.

8 Mr. Pack.

9 MR. PACK: Just very briefly. Thank you

10 for the presentation. It was very informative

11 and it shows the economic impact that Waterfowl

12 is making here in Talbot County.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.

14 Mr. Leshner.

15 MR. LESHER: Just to take us back to one

16 of Ms. Enloe's opening statements about the

17 firm that they engaged for this, Rockport

18 Analytics.

19 There are times that you look at economic

20 impact statements and you wonder where they got

21 these figures. Rockport is known as pretty

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1 conservative, using a pretty conservative

2 model.

3 These numbers are really credible. If

4 anything, the impact of this errs on the side

5 of understatement. And that only further

6 underscores how important this event is to this

7 community.

8 MS. ENLOE: Thank you.

9 I just remembered one point that I left

10 out that might be specific to what Mr. Leshner

11 just said.

12 Remember visitors are what we measured.

13 We asked Rockport to also estimate the

14 economic impact from people who attended within

15 50 miles but outside of Talbot County. And

16 that estimated an additional \$1.5 million in

17 impact. So that's local spending.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Price, you want to say

19 a few words?

20 MS. PRICE: I don't have any additional

21 questions.

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1 It was sad to have missed a year. Looking

2 forward to this coming November.

3 (Inaudible) 62 score, I'd love (inaudible)

4 and definitely don't avoid the Waterfowl

5 Festival. It's wonderful. I guess you guys

6 are just really, really excited to get geared

7 up again.

8 So thank you.

9 MS. ENLOE: Absolutely.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Well, Margaret, once

11 again, we're so glad that you're back with us.

12 And I mean your presentation was phenomenal.

13 And you mean so much to Talbot County. That's

14 for sure.

15 MS. ENLOE: Thank you.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: You run a really good

17 program. And if it's anything that the Council

18 can do for you, we're always here for you.

19 Please reach out to us if you need anything.

20 But congratulations.

21 There was one thing. Have you set a date

Page 50

1 yet?

2 MS. ENLOE: November 12th, 13th, and 14th.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: So pretty much like normal.

4 Yup.

5 MS. ENLOE: Pretty much like normal, yup.

6 And with the caveat that we're not at all sure

7 what normal is going to look like, but we're

8 going to figure something out for that weekend.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: There we go. That's good.

10 Well, we appreciate everything you guys do.

11 And all the volunteers, we appreciate them too.

12 Did you happen to have anybody else with

13 you tonight that wanted to say anything or were

14 you by yourself?

15 MS. ENLOE: It's just me tonight and our

16 grass cutter outside.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go. Well, thanks

18 for everything. And I appreciate it.

19 MS. ENLOE: Thank you.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Council, we're going

21 to move on a little bit here to the next thing

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1 on the agenda. The Council right now has a

2 presentation with Sarah Jones, Talbot County

3 Public Schools. Sarah is CFO and she's going

4 to ask for some budget transfers and tell us a

5 little bit about what she wants with the use of

6 fund balance.

7 Good evening, Sarah. How are you?

8 MS. JONES: I'm great. Thank you so much,

9 members of Council.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.

11 MS. JONES: For having me tonight.

12 So on April 1st, we submitted a revised

13 FY22 budget request to members of Council for

14 their consideration. And as part of that

15 budget request, we identified some savings in

16 our current FY21 operating budget that we felt

17 we could use to prefund and take care of some

18 items that were originally in our FY22 budget.

19 So what I'm coming to you tonight for is

20 the permission to do what our Board of Ed

21 approved at their March 31st meeting, which was

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1 to move some categorical expenditures among

2 categories.

3 So really what I'm asking is that we move

4 \$900,000 out of our instructional salaries. We

5 had savings there due to vacancies. We had

6 some key vacancies throughout the year that we

7 just were not able to fill or fill late in the

8 year. So there were some more significant

9 dollar amount vacancies as well as a number of

10 vacancies, just normal turnover throughout the

11 year.

12 So we'd like to use those savings in the

13 following way.

14 We'd like to shift 272,000 of it to

15 instructional materials. One item in our FY22

16 budget was the adoption a new social studies

17 curriculum, which comes at a high price. It's

18 a necessary adoption mandated by MSDE's

19 curriculum requirements. But we could purchase

20 that early with FY21 funds.

21 We'd like to shift \$128,000 to our plant

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1 operations category to pre-buy some custodial

2 supplies and get stocked up for next year with

3 some of the PPE and custodial supplies that we

4 need.

5 And we would like to make an advance

6 payment into our health care trust of \$500,000.

7 So that would help bring down next year's

8 health care costs.

9 MS. PRICE: Actually that was the question

10 I was going to ask, Sarah. I was like if you

11 saved \$900,000 in instructional salaries, how

12 did the health insurance go up. But that's for

13 prefunding next year.

14 MS. JONES: Right. And actually after

15 this adjustment and a few other adjustments,

16 which I could talk through some of the other

17 adjustments in our proposed revised budget, our

18 health insurance cost actually went down. So I

19 can get into that. I'd be too happy to do that

20 if --

21 MS. PRICE: No. That's okay. I mean you

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1 would think that if you had fewer employees,
 2 you would have a little bit less in health
 3 insurance.
 4 So on item two, plant operations for
 5 custodial supplies not covered in grants.
 6 Anything that's COVID related should be funded
 7 especially with the dollars that are coming.
 8 So I'm a little hesitant to say let's use
 9 regular TCPS operating dollars to pay for
 10 something that I think -- we know we have at
 11 least 3 million coming. I mean you have to
 12 apply for them.
 13 So I'm a little hesitant to approve that
 14 now. It seems a little premature. Whether we
 15 have to come back to it or not. Or if we
 16 approve it and you get the grant funds, then we
 17 would have to figure out where it would go if
 18 you don't end up needing the 128,000 with this
 19 new round of CARES money that's coming to the
 20 schools to pay specifically for COVID items.
 21 So if you don't spend it, what would we do

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1 with it?
 2 MS. JONES: Well, if we don't spend it, we
 3 might come back to you in a few months and say
 4 we found a different purpose for it or we may
 5 just not need to spend it.
 6 But the thing about the CARES money is we
 7 haven't figured out our budget. We need to
 8 figure it out before May. But those funds are
 9 for a three-year period of time.
 10 So we are looking sort of at a long term,
 11 not just a one-year budget. We want to see
 12 when it makes the most sense to rely on those
 13 funds.
 14 And it would cover anything from, like you
 15 said, PPE and cleaning supplies to technology
 16 to addressing learning loss to it's a pretty
 17 broad way in which we can use those funds, not
 18 just limited to PPE.
 19 MS. PRICE: Because typically in all the
 20 years, the 11 years I've been doing this so
 21 far, the categorical transfers are same year to

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1 same year, just simply a different category.
 2 This is different. This is for next year.
 3 And sometimes we have savings in the year and
 4 we can go ahead and buy some capital outlay
 5 things in advance of the next budget year, like
 6 you're doing with the social studies
 7 curriculum. And we know the health insurance
 8 has a cost.
 9 I'm a little squishy on item two because I
 10 think you're going to get the money. I think
 11 you're going to get plenty of money for that.
 12 So I'm not a big fan of that one just because I
 13 think the money is coming for cleaning-type
 14 things.
 15 MS. JONES: Okay. We do -- I mean
 16 currently this year we are overspent already in
 17 custodial supplies and we are going to be
 18 using -- I think we're \$180,000 overspent in
 19 custodial supplies already in this year.
 20 So we are going to be using some of our
 21 grant funds to cover that loss. So we're

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1 already allocating a pretty significant portion
 2 of grant funds, a significant amount of funds
 3 toward that.
 4 And so I think until we have the full
 5 picture of how we want to try to allocate or
 6 designate all of the SR funds that we are going
 7 to be getting, our thought was we don't want to
 8 necessarily reserve a huge portion of those
 9 grant funds that we could also use to fund
 10 positions, fund learning loss strategies, on
 11 PPE, and cleaning.
 12 So that was our thought.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds great, Sarah.
 14 So Council, Mr. Divilio, have any
 15 questions for Ms. Jones?
 16 MR. DIVILIO: -- at this time.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 18 Mr. Pack. Mr. Pack.
 19 MR. PACK: I'm sorry. No questions.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Vice President.
 21 MR. LESHER: I made some of these remarks

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1 in the budget deliberations.
 2 But really, while Ms. Jones is here, I
 3 want to simply commend the school system for
 4 this creative approach. As Ms. Price pointed
 5 out, we really haven't looked in the school
 6 budget at forward funding items through this
 7 process before. Although, we routinely do it
 8 for other departments. And I think that that
 9 kind of creative thinking is going to be
 10 beneficial to the Talbot County taxpayers.
 11 And we know that you are facing some
 12 significant costs to address summer school that
 13 in an unprecedented way, you've got some
 14 special challenges. You have really risen to
 15 the occasion. And I can support the request.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.
 17 Okay, Council.
 18 Ms. Jones, I just want to commend you for
 19 coming to us and explaining that to us. And
 20 you're doing a really good job, and we really
 21 appreciate all your effort in trying to save

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1 money and looking at creative ways to save
 2 money for us. I really appreciate it.
 3 So being that's said, Council, is there a
 4 motion and a second to approve the transfer,
 5 use of fund balance as outlined?
 6 MR. PACK: So moved.
 7 MS. LANE: Council, they haven't really
 8 discussed the use of fund balance. The only
 9 thing that's been discussed is doing the
 10 transfers.
 11 (Cross talk.)
 12 MR. LESHNER: -- that be addressed as a
 13 combined motion at the end of the presentation.
 14 MS. PRICE: Let's keep them separate.
 15 SPEAKER: -- combined.
 16 MS. PRICE: Let's keep them separate.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: That's fine. Angela, you
 18 just want to keep them separate? Is that the
 19 way we want to do this?
 20 MS. LANE: Separate is fine, but we just
 21 have to be clear that you voted on a -- it's

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1 clear that you voted on both issues separately.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So.
 3 MS. JONES: -- interject one thing?
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. Go ahead, Sarah.
 5 MS. JONES: I'm not sure if this impacts
 6 or not.
 7 The fund balance that we're talking about
 8 using is really, I view it as more of an FY22
 9 budget aspect. It's listed as a line item now
 10 in our revised FY22 budget. Meaning we want to
 11 use our end-of-year 6/30/21 fund balance in
 12 that way.
 13 We weren't necessarily planning to prepay
 14 any items with our fund balance last year.
 15 Does that make sense? In other words, we now
 16 have taken out \$360,000 of our funding request
 17 to the county by saying we would fund that in
 18 FY22 with our fund balance. So it's not so
 19 much an FY21 item as it is an FY22 item as part
 20 of our budget.
 21 That's just how I see it. You may see it

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1 differently.
 2 MS. LANE: No. I think that's exactly how
 3 it's been presented to the county and it's how
 4 I've interpreted it also.
 5 But I do think Council needs to approve
 6 the use of fund balance for you all for next
 7 fiscal year as well as the transfer for the
 8 current fiscal year.
 9 MS. PRICE: So Angela, since we haven't
 10 even introduced fiscal year 22's budget, I
 11 think it doesn't seem -- we should address this
 12 when we're going through approving the fiscal
 13 year 22 budget as far as use of fund balance.
 14 It just seems odd to vote on it. That's our
 15 next agenda item is to introduce the budget.
 16 We haven't had a public hearing on it yet.
 17 MS. LANE: Except (inaudible) truly
 18 aren't -- they aren't going to show up in the
 19 county's portion of the fiscal 22 budget.
 20 It's just to give the board permission to
 21 use fund balance to pay expenses. So whether

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1 we do it now or later I guess doesn't matter.
 2 But they were combined in the same memo.
 3 MR. PACK: Can we put...
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Go ahead, Mr. Pack.
 5 MR. PACK: I think the motion that was
 6 made was just regarding the transfer of the
 7 \$900,000 from the FY21, and that was the motion
 8 that I made.
 9 So if we can just deal with that and then
 10 go to the fund balance question, I think that
 11 (inaudible) both points.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So Council, so right
 13 now we're just going to work on and vote on the
 14 transfer, which is the \$900,000.
 15 So is there a motion and a second to do
 16 that?
 17 MS. PRICE: You already have that.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 19 MS. PRICE: Just before we vote, I just, I
 20 mentioned it before about the 128,000 to do
 21 everything you can with the funds that are

Page 63

1 coming. And that if you don't need to use our
 2 regular operating expenses for those extra
 3 COVID-type expenses, please don't. And let's
 4 find some other place for them to go because I
 5 mean those types of things we're supposed to
 6 get reimbursed for.
 7 And I know every department is keeping
 8 track of all of our COVID expenses.
 9 So I'd hate to just see our regular per
 10 pupil money going to something that is not a
 11 normal expense. So just keep it in the back of
 12 your head. Thanks.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Price.
 14 Okay.
 15 We got a motion and a second. Madam
 16 Secretary, could you call the roll, please.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

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1 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 3 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 5 MR. PACK: Aye.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. The next thing would
 7 be the fund balance. And I think, Sarah, you
 8 sort of explained that. You want to explain
 9 that one more time and we'll take a vote on
 10 that?
 11 MS. JONES: Sure. So what we're proposing
 12 to do is to use \$360,000 of our fund balance at
 13 the end of June 30, 2021, to fund items in our
 14 FY22 budget request.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Council, we've got a
 16 motion and a second to approve a fund balance
 17 of about 360,000 for the fund balance. Do I
 18 have a motion and a second?
 19 MR. LESHNER: I will so move. And
 20 remarking in the process, that the suggestion
 21 to pay down that down payment on the OPEB is

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1 one that actually originated from this Council.
 2 So the School District is simply circling back
 3 to us in part of this request fulfilling our
 4 suggestion.
 5 MR. PACK: I'll second the motion,
 6 Mr. Callahan.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack. Okay.
 8 We got a motion and second it.
 9 Madam Secretary, could you call the roll,
 10 please.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 16 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 18 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 20 MR. PACK: Aye.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Council, thank you.

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<p>1 Sarah, you did a great job. I really</p> <p>2 appreciate all you're doing. And I know it's</p> <p>3 hard, and it's been a tough year on all you</p> <p>4 guys. We're doing our best to help you guys</p> <p>5 out.</p> <p>6 MS. JONES: Thank you. We appreciate that</p> <p>7 and hope you give our revised budget the</p> <p>8 consideration that I know that you will.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Appreciate it now.</p> <p>10 Thank you. Okay.</p> <p>11 Let's move on to introduction of</p> <p>12 legislation. Let's see here. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>13 would you please read the title of the bill</p> <p>14 into the record.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: An act to establish the</p> <p>16 2021-2022 annual budget and appropriation</p> <p>17 ordinance.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>19 Ms. Lane and Mr. Stamp, turn it over to</p> <p>20 you for your PowerPoints and explain this</p> <p>21 budget to us.</p>	<p>1 off.</p> <p>2 MS. LANE: Okay. The FY fiscal 2022</p> <p>3 proposed general fund budget is \$112,535,000.</p> <p>4 Our current budget for fiscal 21 is</p> <p>5 \$96,550,000.</p> <p>6 The County Council received requests for</p> <p>7 operating and capital items of just over</p> <p>8 \$119 million, which is \$22.5 million more than</p> <p>9 the current fiscal 21 budget.</p> <p>10 The fiscal 22 proposed general fund budget</p> <p>11 is \$112,535,000, which is \$15,000,985 (sic.)</p> <p>12 more than the current year budget. And that is</p> <p>13 16.56 percent more than the current year</p> <p>14 budget.</p> <p>15 However, included in this increase of</p> <p>16 almost \$16 million, over \$14 million is for</p> <p>17 transfers to capital projects fund of</p> <p>18 \$10 million and for capital outlay and</p> <p>19 equipment purchases of \$4 million. And to</p> <p>20 offset those basically new expenses and</p> <p>21 one-time expenses, the budget is funded with</p>
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<p>1 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Mr. Council</p> <p>2 President, Members of Council. Angela and I</p> <p>3 will walk through a PowerPoint with you. The</p> <p>4 lion's share will be Angela, who does most of</p> <p>5 the work and does a great job at it. So we're</p> <p>6 going to get this presentation up.</p> <p>7 Jessica, are you controlling it? Who is</p> <p>8 controlling it?</p> <p>9 MS. LANE: I am controlling it. Can you</p> <p>10 all see it?</p> <p>11 MR. STAMP: Yes.</p> <p>12 MS. LANE: Okay. I think I'm trying to --</p> <p>13 MR. STAMP: Mr. Council President, can you</p> <p>14 see it? Members of Council?</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir, I can, Mr. Stamp,</p> <p>16 yup.</p> <p>17 MR. DURHAM: Down in the lower right-hand</p> <p>18 corner, just click -- yeah, you got it.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>20 MS. LANE: There we go.</p> <p>21 MR. STAMP: Angela, go ahead and start</p>	<p>1 revenues of \$20.8 million from prior year fund</p> <p>2 balance.</p> <p>3 The fiscal 22 budget for operating</p> <p>4 expenses in the general fund is increasing by</p> <p>5 3.86 percent. That's a fairly modest increase,</p> <p>6 especially when you look at our total budget</p> <p>7 increasing by over 16 percent. Really just</p> <p>8 under four percent is going to operating</p> <p>9 expenses.</p> <p>10 The budget does include a one-cent</p> <p>11 increase to the real property tax rate above</p> <p>12 what is allowed under the current real property</p> <p>13 tax cap as authorized by the voters of Talbot</p> <p>14 County in November of 2020. And public safety</p> <p>15 is a top priority in this budget.</p> <p>16 I will now ask Mr. Clay to go through some</p> <p>17 budget strategy items.</p> <p>18 MR. STAMP: So this Council is aware, we,</p> <p>19 in developing this budget, the strategies</p> <p>20 surrounded it is that we were looking at</p> <p>21 focusing on three primary areas; personnel</p>

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1 retention, and recruitment, strategic projects,
 2 and efficiency in our processes.
 3 You can go ahead and advance the slide.
 4 And as Angela remarked, when you look at
 5 the budget, you're looking at a modest increase
 6 in the operational line item of the budget, but
 7 clearly an investment in our capital
 8 improvement projects.
 9 The previous presentation they talked
 10 about the hope of moving into a year of
 11 recovery. That's what we're seeing nationally,
 12 regionally, across the State of Maryland.
 13 There's a lot of grant opportunities coming
 14 that hopefully the number of COVID cases will
 15 continue to decrease as the number of
 16 vaccinations increase. So investing in a year
 17 of recovery was some thought behind this
 18 budget.
 19 So one of the things we talk about here in
 20 Talbot County is outlined in our Comprehensive
 21 Plan as well as our community resiliency and

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1 hazard mitigation plan are the five pillars
 2 that hold our community up. And those are
 3 public safety and health, infrastructure,
 4 environment, education, and economic stability.
 5 So whether it's emergency management or even
 6 investing budgetarily, we keep those in our
 7 mind.
 8 So as we invest in a capital improvement
 9 project, we can see that in this year, for
 10 example, you can go ahead and advance the
 11 slide, you can see this year, just as a couple
 12 of examples, the budget supports, as the voters
 13 indicated they wanted to see in the last
 14 election, a graduated expansion of paramedic
 15 services in the north end of the county, which
 16 will require adding a station and a paramedic
 17 crew.
 18 It contains funding enhancement to our
 19 volunteer fire departments to address
 20 operational costs as well as supporting
 21 personnel through retention and recruitment.

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1 So again, those pillars of public safety and
 2 health were touched there.
 3 Funding for the extension of sanitary
 4 sewer services into the Bay Hundred area
 5 especially, which is an environmental project
 6 because we're rescuing a number of septic tanks
 7 that may be failing and putting toxins into our
 8 waterways.
 9 Construction of key road projects or
 10 infrastructure projects. An example of that is
 11 Airport Road and Goldsborough Neck Road. That
 12 is a secondary means of ingress and egress to
 13 the Bay Hundred area and, frankly, an
 14 evacuation route for that area. And Council
 15 has prioritized that project.
 16 So these are a few projects that are
 17 behind that bigger increase in the capital
 18 improvement program.
 19 Again, the capital improvement program is
 20 an investment into our future. And frankly, a
 21 number of the projects in this are long overdue

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1 and need to be addressed. And just merely by
 2 engaging to this level in this program, we are
 3 trying to address and stimulate economic
 4 development as well.
 5 I'll hand it back to you, Angela.
 6 MS. LANE: Thanks. Again, the modest
 7 increase in the operations budget of just over
 8 3.8 percent includes a number of new and
 9 important items, with the primary focus again
 10 being on public safety.
 11 The first one is we do have funding for
 12 increased retirement expense associated with
 13 the potentially joining the Law Enforcement
 14 Officers Pension System, LEOPS, for the
 15 Sheriff's Office. This has been something
 16 that's been discussed for a number of years,
 17 and we do have the funding for the retirement
 18 expense in this proposed budget.
 19 We also have salary scale adjustments for
 20 911 dispatchers, EMT, paramedics, and
 21 correctional officers to address recruitment

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1 and retention issues. Again, those departments
 2 have had significant burdens placed on them
 3 during the last year and are often hard to
 4 recruit. So hopefully by adjusting our salary
 5 scale, we can recruit and retain our employees
 6 in those departments.

7 We have added six new positions. Four
 8 additional positions for a 12-hour-a-day
 9 emergency medical services unit. That is our
 10 surge unit that we started in the current
 11 fiscal year, primarily being funded through
 12 overtime and some part-time employees. The
 13 goal is now to make that be a permanently
 14 staffed position with full-time positions. So
 15 those are the four positions for that unit.

16 We have added one legal assistant for the
 17 Office of the State's Attorney and one
 18 administrative fiscal position for the
 19 Department of Public Works.

20 The Talbot County Public Schools is funded
 21 at the same level as in fiscal 2021, which is

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1 \$532,000 you more than the State-mandated
 2 Maintenance of Effort funding level.

3 And this budget does include a step
 4 increase for eligible full-time county
 5 employees.

6 This slide shows our revenues in the
 7 proposed budget as compared to the current
 8 budget in major category areas. Property
 9 taxes, being our largest revenue stream, is
 10 going up just over four and a half percent.
 11 Part of that increase, which is quite a bit
 12 above what we would normally expect to go,
 13 which would be in the two to three percent
 14 range, is because of the one cent additional
 15 penny that we were able to add to the property
 16 tax rate due to the change implemented by the
 17 voters last November.

18 Income taxes we're projecting to be
 19 basically constant. And most of our other
 20 revenue streams are pretty much bouncing around
 21 a little bit but not too much.

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1 The two other changes, both increases that
 2 are pretty significant, are transfer from other
 3 funds, which is going up over \$500,000 and that
 4 is a transfer from the special revenue fund to
 5 help offset debt service expenses in the
 6 current budget, and the use of prior year fund
 7 balances. But again, the majority of that is
 8 going to capital projects and capital outlay,
 9 which are one-time expenses.

10 And here is a graphic just showing the
 11 distribution of those funds, which is pretty
 12 consistent from prior years other than the use
 13 of fund balance is higher this year, but that
 14 is probably not something that will continue
 15 year after year. This is more of a one-time
 16 transfer.

17 And our expenditures. Again, public
 18 schools is a significant portion of our budget.
 19 It's over 40 percent of our budget just to the
 20 one agency. And that number is actually going
 21 down slightly. And the reason why it's going

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1 down slightly is because of debt service.

2 When we prepared the fiscal 21 budget, we
 3 had not actually borrowed the funds for the
 4 Easton Elementary School. So we put in an
 5 estimate in the fiscal 21 budget. When we
 6 actually borrowed the funds, that number went
 7 down. And our first payment for the Easton
 8 Elementary School of principal won't actually
 9 happen until July 1, 2021, which is in our
 10 fiscal 22 budget.

11 So we didn't have a principal payment due
 12 in fiscal 21 on the Easton Elementary School.
 13 So that's part of the difference there, the
 14 timing and the amounts.

15 Other county operations are going up by
 16 eight percent. That includes all our other
 17 county operations, our departments, as well as
 18 the Health Department, the library, Chesapeake
 19 College, the volunteer fire departments, all
 20 those other groups are in that number. So our
 21 operating expense is only going up by

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1 3.84 percent.

2 In addition to that, again, where the big

3 increases are in capital outlay and our

4 transfer to other funds. \$10 million in our

5 transfer to other funds is going to the capital

6 projects fund, \$1.8 million is going to the

7 golf course for the renovation, well, the

8 replacement of the irrigation system that's

9 over 40 years old at that site. So those are

10 really the major drivers of the increase in

11 this year's budget.

12 And here is a graphic, again, showing

13 public schools and county operations are pretty

14 much the same portion of our budget. And we

15 have transfers to other funds as well as some

16 capital outlay and some contingency money in

17 this budget.

18 And so far I've just been discussing

19 general fund. But since \$10 million of our

20 general fund budget is a transfer to the

21 capital projects fund, I did want to put this

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1 slide in just to show where we are proposing to

2 spend funds in fiscal 22 in the capital

3 projects area.

4 First thing you'll notice is the capital

5 projects budget is \$18.8 million. So some of

6 these items are going to be funded through

7 grants and through long-term borrowing as well

8 as cash from our transfers.

9 So we're looking for land acquisition.

10 And this is not to increase land acquisition.

11 It's to fund -- have the opportunity to be able

12 to purchase land with cash as we have

13 opportunities for future county projects.

14 We actually do already have \$2 million in

15 the capital projects budget, but that's to be

16 funded by debt. And basically the rules with

17 borrowing, sometimes it doesn't make sense to

18 borrow for smaller land purchases. So we want

19 to be able to propose legislation through the

20 capital projects fund to allow us to purchase

21 land for our future uses with our cash in that

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1 fund rather than borrowing.

2 We do have some overlaying projects for

3 our parking lots.

4 We do have the first phase of our public

5 safety center. That will be \$5 million, and

6 that will house the Sheriff's Office as well as

7 other public safety operations.

8 The Sheriff's Office does need to vacate

9 the Talbot County Business Center in the near

10 future. So this is a priority project.

11 We do have some court house roof repairs

12 and replacements that need to be done.

13 And then our next big public safety

14 project is expansion of EMS stations,

15 particularly in the north end of the county.

16 And we have broadband expansion. And this

17 broadband expansion is to provide broadband

18 services in the unserved area of the county.

19 It will not compete with any current providers.

20 This is to go to the areas that have not been

21 offered service by the private providers.

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1 Under highways and streets, we have

2 funding for Black Dog Alley that will start

3 some improvements for that road that are

4 necessary for traffic safety, and as well as

5 funding for Airport Road. Again, to look at

6 the expansion of that road in terms of widening

7 to allow it to handle the type of traffic that

8 it is now receiving. And this will be phase

9 one of the Airport Road upgrades and expansion.

10 For parks, we have some funding to

11 continue with the Frederick Douglass Park on

12 the Tuckahoe. We're trying to do the next

13 phase so that park can be more readily used by

14 our citizens and visitors. And we do have some

15 funding for a study of the Bill Burton Park

16 down on the Choptank River.

17 And our final item in the capital budget

18 is our public schools. This is the first phase

19 of the Easton High School roof replacement. It

20 will be a two-year project. And this is the

21 first phase of it to allow this project to

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1 start for half the school roof replacement in
 2 the summer of '22.
 3 And then we'll have some funds that will
 4 go into capital projects fund reserves,
 5 \$3.88 million. So those will be available for
 6 the next year.
 7 And as you just heard me say, the Easton
 8 High School roof is a two-year project. We
 9 will need some of these funds to fund the next
 10 phase of that project as well as some of the
 11 other ones.
 12 And this budget is using \$20.8 million of
 13 fund balance. It is a big number, but it is
 14 not -- we're not being foolhardy with our
 15 funds. This is a summary of our fund balances
 16 going back to fiscal 2009. This is our
 17 discretionary fund balance. So in addition to
 18 the discretionary fund balance, we still have
 19 our rainy day fund, which is in the \$13 million
 20 range. So we have that, plus we have these
 21 funds.

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1 Back in 2009, we had \$21.5 million. And
 2 that was a serious economic downturn in 2009
 3 and '10. And we did use almost \$17 million in
 4 those two years to shore up county revenues.
 5 We do not expect any potential downturn in
 6 fiscal 22 and beyond to be of that magnitude.
 7 So I'm very comfortable that when we finish
 8 fiscal 22, we'll have a fund balance, a
 9 discretionary fund balance of \$15 million,
 10 which is more than enough to weather any
 11 potential downturns that are being projected at
 12 this point for the next few years. So I think
 13 we are in good shape, even with the fairly
 14 significantly use. But we need to use these
 15 funds for infrastructure repairs that have not
 16 been done for a number of years in the county.
 17 And the proposed budget will have public
 18 hearings held on Tuesday, May 4th, at two p.m.
 19 and at seven p.m. And the public is always
 20 encouraged to submit written comments because
 21 of the COVID-19 pandemic. So if people want to

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1 submit public comments, the address is
 2 publiccomment@talbotcountymd.gov.
 3 And for more information on the budget, we
 4 will post the budget, this PowerPoint, and a
 5 summary in the next few days on our county
 6 website.
 7 And that is the end of the slide show. So
 8 I don't know if there are any questions or
 9 comments.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay, Council.
 11 Great presentation, Angela. As usual,
 12 you've done a phenomenal job. You and
 13 Mr. Stamp and staff, all of you put together.
 14 Council, I want to commend you guys for
 15 doing a great job. We spent the last several
 16 months putting all this together.
 17 So I'm going to open it up for comments.
 18 So Mr. Leshner, Vice President, you want to
 19 speak on this?
 20 MR. LESHNER: Thank you, Mr. Callahan.
 21 When we went to the Talbot County electorate

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1 last year and asked them to put a measure on
 2 the ballot to modify in a fairly modest way the
 3 tax cap to allow that extra penny to keep it at
 4 a solid two percent rather than consumer price
 5 index, the lower of that or two percent, we
 6 made a commitment. And we said where there is
 7 a critical need is in public safety. And it's
 8 both in the capital needs with the construction
 9 of the Sheriff's Office on the horizon, but
 10 also, also the recruitment and retention of our
 11 officers.
 12 And the aspects of this budget that have
 13 to do with public safety salaries, not only the
 14 Sheriff's Office, but in the emergency services
 15 and so forth, all of those public safety
 16 functions, we're making a real commitment.
 17 Yes, there's an increase. But as the
 18 budget presentation pointed out, we've managed
 19 to hold that to less than four percent with
 20 this new support from the property tax.
 21 This I believe is a responsible and

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1 sustainable budget and is fulfilling, as we
 2 made that commitment to the public, those
 3 critical functions and funding them going
 4 forward. We heard from the public that these
 5 are important, these need to be funded, and
 6 we're true to our word here. This is where
 7 this money is going.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.
 9 Mr. Divilio.
 10 MR. DIVILIO: Well, I'm terrified. It's a
 11 big increase, and it definitely makes me
 12 nervous. But as I go back and I look at all
 13 the projects that we've been -- that have been
 14 on hold for years and have been discussed and
 15 ideas thrown around, I'm glad that we have some
 16 incredible department heads. Ms. Lane is
 17 fantastic.
 18 When you sit down and run through this
 19 budget and know that what has been planned in
 20 the past, what we're working towards, and the
 21 goal of where we'll be, I know that we're

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1 making some huge improvements, both in traffic
 2 and in safety and all the departments really.
 3 But it comes at a time when money isn't
 4 just freely flowing. You look around and
 5 businesses are either closed or hiring right
 6 now. It's a very odd time.
 7 And I am very nervous because I know we
 8 still have a road to recovery to come out of
 9 this and we're not there yet.
 10 But I have a lot of pride in our county,
 11 in both the citizens, us who have been elected,
 12 and those that we've chosen to be the
 13 department heads to lead us in the right
 14 direction. And I'm taking a lot of comfort in
 15 that, knowing that we're going to get some big
 16 boxes checked off that have needed to be
 17 checked for many years, some of them expensive.
 18 Building buildings is expensive. But they've
 19 been sitting there. We've been fortunate with
 20 what we've had and where we've been.
 21 So I'm looking forward to things moving

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1 forward with this and hearing the public
 2 comments, seeing if there's any other ideas
 3 from the public. We have the upcoming
 4 hearings.
 5 But right now, I am nervous going into
 6 this.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.
 8 Your words were very smart by saying that. And
 9 we understand that, and we're going to get you
 10 comfortable. Okay. So try to, anyway.
 11 Mr. Pack.
 12 MR. PACK: Hey. Well, let me start off by
 13 giving credit where credit is due, that's to
 14 Angela and Denitsa and her staff for, once
 15 again, bringing to Council a very organized and
 16 well thought out budget process.
 17 And also to Mr. Stamp and Jess and the
 18 County Manager's Office as well for their input
 19 and working with the department heads.
 20 I must say, quite honestly, this has been
 21 probably one of the more congenial budgetary

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1 processes that I have had the pleasure of being
 2 a part of. I guess it takes away stress when
 3 you got so much surplus money to work with.
 4 But to sum up the point that Mr. Divilio
 5 was speaking to, I knew, and I think several of
 6 us knew, that these capital expenses were going
 7 to come due and we were going to have to step
 8 up and pay for them.
 9 I think the way that this budget is set
 10 up, yes, there is a large increase, but when
 11 you look at the operational size, as Mr. Leshner
 12 pointed out, less than four percent of the
 13 operational. And that's the part that keeps
 14 eating, the operational side. So yes, you have
 15 a big capital side that you have to pay out.
 16 That stops after a period.
 17 It's the operational side. It's the
 18 dollars and the benefits. That's a very modest
 19 increase, and I can live with that. I don't
 20 know whether that gives Mr. Divilio any more
 21 comfort. But to see that that operational

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1 number is not a huge number, in my point of
 2 view, gives me some rest.
 3 Again, the process was probably one of the
 4 more expedient processes we went through. I
 5 think we only got together a handful of times.
 6 I remember times when we would be back there
 7 all night long beating the table and drinking
 8 coffee until almost midnight. But I guess
 9 COVID does have its benefits, right.
 10 So anyway, I just want to say that I'm
 11 very pleased with the budget. I believe when I
 12 started with this Council some many, many years
 13 ago, I think we were about a \$68 million
 14 budget. And now we're over \$100 million. But
 15 it's not reckless spending and it's not an
 16 increase just for the sake of increase.
 17 We had to do some things on the capital
 18 side that we knew that we were going to have to
 19 pay. We had to do some things on the
 20 operational side when it comes to retention and
 21 recruitment and keeping good quality people

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1 here. So this is the price you have to pay to
 2 do business in the 21st century.
 3 So I think Talbot Countians should be, and
 4 we'll hear the comments when they open it up
 5 for public hearing, but I think Talbot
 6 Countians should be I hope satisfied as to the
 7 process that this Council went through and
 8 paying the things that we had to pay. Again,
 9 this is not reckless spending.
 10 To see the Board of Education at
 11 42 percent of our budget and the county at 43,
 12 I don't have that slide in front of me,
 13 probably the closest that I've seen those two
 14 slices on the pie chart in quite some time.
 15 Normally the Board of Ed was around 50 percent
 16 and county operations was somewhere around 42,
 17 43 percent. So to see those numbers evening
 18 out a little bit more.
 19 Again, if you're a county citizen and you
 20 want it balanced in those two departments as
 21 far as public education spending and county

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1 operational spending, you got it.
 2 So to me, it's a win-win. You're paying
 3 off some capital things that you knew you were
 4 going to have to pay on, you're putting
 5 investment into your people on the operational
 6 side in a very modest and a very thoughtful
 7 way, frugal way. And you're keeping your
 8 schools funded at a respectful level. I think
 9 it's a win-win across the board for everybody
 10 in my opinion.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack. Well
 12 said. I agree with everything that you said.
 13 Ms. Price.
 14 MS. PRICE: You saved me for last on
 15 budget comments. Oh, boy.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: I figured, I figured, you
 17 know.
 18 MS. PRICE: Terrifying is a good word. I
 19 agree with Mr. Divilio. And I will echo what
 20 Mr. Pack said.
 21 You know, I remember my first year on the

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1 Council when we had to cut a budget and slice
 2 and dice. And it was painful because the
 3 county had, as Ms. Lane said, in the two years
 4 prior had used \$17 million in fund balance.
 5 And I remember someone saying that it was a lot
 6 easier to do a budget when you're cutting than
 7 doing a budget when you're growing. I'm not
 8 sure I agree with that. I think they're both
 9 equally challenging when you're deciding on
 10 where that growth has to go.
 11 And I, too, look at what the operating
 12 expenses are. And I know what we call the
 13 three or four-page summary, which now maybe is
 14 five, separating out what is capital outlay and
 15 really looking at the true operating expenses
 16 that do come back. And I think that was Tommy
 17 Duncan's term, the things that keep on eating,
 18 right, Mr. Pack. We're dating ourselves. So
 19 we have a lot of that.
 20 And normally you don't see the School
 21 Board and county at the 42 (inaudible.) And we

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1 had this big huge chunk this year, but we
 2 haven't been able to do these items.
 3 And the other thing to rest in is that
 4 while we are allocating I think it's
 5 \$16 million or something for the capital, those
 6 still have to be approved at a later date.
 7 This is just authorizing us to do it. But when
 8 any project comes up, whether it's next month
 9 or in six months or a year or even if it's the
 10 following, this is really just we're setting
 11 the table.
 12 And if something goes wrong, that's
 13 \$20 million that we're transferring, if
 14 something goes wrong, God forbid, right, then
 15 we can call that back. We don't -- this is not
 16 approval to spend the money. This is just
 17 putting it there. Everything goes along. We
 18 have the money to do it, we'll do these
 19 projects. And there's some that we have to do
 20 it. But just what people need to know is that
 21 any capital spending requires a whole separate

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1 bill to truly authorize the expenditure of the
 2 money. So it's ready to go, but we haven't
 3 spent that yet.
 4 So all that's to say is yes, going from
 5 60 million to 112 some million and almost
 6 doubling a budget in my time on the Council is,
 7 yes, Mr. Divilio, absolutely terrifying.
 8 But it's a great job. And it's all -- I'm
 9 being very conservative but comfortable with
 10 where those monies are going. So thanks.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Price.
 12 It means a lot for Ms. Price to get
 13 comfortable. That's for sure.
 14 So Council, I think we've done a
 15 phenomenal job. All your comments, staff,
 16 Angela, Clay, and Jess, and all the staff
 17 that's put this stuff together. Everybody has
 18 done such a great job. I'm very proud of the
 19 way we put this together.
 20 You're right, Ms. Price. So even though
 21 we've got capital budgets here for \$18 million,

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1 that doesn't mean we'll spend it. And it's got
 2 to be approved. These things, since I've been
 3 on Council, too, have been building up, too.
 4 So I feel pretty comfortable. Mr. Divilio
 5 has called me a couple of times with some
 6 concerns. And I think we all wouldn't be human
 7 if we all weren't concerned because of what can
 8 happen.
 9 We all have businesses. We're all
 10 business people. We take all this stuff to
 11 heart.
 12 So I mean we really try to do what is
 13 beneficial to the county. And we're building a
 14 future. We're building retention and
 15 recruitment. We're keeping people. That's
 16 what it's about. I mean if anybody knows how
 17 hard it is to keep employees, it's all of us,
 18 you know. And it's just the nature of what is
 19 happening right now with the pandemic. And
 20 we're all going to recover from this very well
 21 I hope.

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1 But you know, me sitting here as
 2 president, it's a big lift on my shoulders.
 3 And I do appreciate Council's attitude on being
 4 open minded. Like Mr. Pack said, we really
 5 went through this pretty well with a fine tooth
 6 comb.
 7 And the public has to understand. We
 8 really never really butted heads on much here
 9 this year. And I'm proud of everybody from
 10 doing that because it was difficult to put
 11 together.
 12 And to have Angela by our side really
 13 helps a lot with the security of what we're
 14 doing here.
 15 Angela, I know that this is one of your
 16 last budgets and you've got a few more months
 17 left. And I really, really appreciate the
 18 dedication and all the hard work that you've
 19 done I think for, I might get the years wrong,
 20 but I think you've been with us 18, 19 years
 21 and we're losing the best of the best. And I

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1 can't thank you enough.
 2 The public don't quite understand the
 3 dedication that you've put in to run this
 4 county. And it's a big, big deal. And I thank
 5 you for everything, for helping us to do all
 6 that. And that goes for your staff, too. Not
 7 just you, but your staff. The only reason I'm
 8 tooting your horn is because you're leaving,
 9 unfortunately.
 10 MS. LANE: This is my last budget.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: I know it, I know it. So I
 12 just want to toot your horn a little bit on
 13 that.
 14 MS. LANE: Well, thank you. I appreciate
 15 it.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: You've got some great
 17 people behind you that help you, too.
 18 MS. LANE: You'll be in good hands when I
 19 leave.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.
 21 But let's go ahead. Let's see here now.

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1 Anybody else have anything to say? Mr. Stamp,
 2 do you have anything for us?
 3 MR. STAMP: No. I enjoyed working with
 4 Council putting this budget together. I think
 5 there's strategy wrapped around it. I think
 6 it's sound.
 7 Ms. Price brought up a good point that
 8 capital enabling legislation has to be passed
 9 on capital projects.
 10 I think it maintains frugality in the
 11 operating sense and investment in the community
 12 at a time where we need to invest in the
 13 community to stimulate the economy with our
 14 capital improvement program.
 15 So I think it's a sound budget. I think
 16 it maintains frugality for the long run. And
 17 again, it's an investment. Thank you.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Stamp.
 19 So Council, because we're meeting
 20 virtually environment this evening, I'm going
 21 to ask Madam Secretary to please conduct a roll

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1 call to introduce the legislation.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 7 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 9 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 11 MR. PACK: Aye.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, would you
 13 please announce the bill number and the public
 14 hearing date and the time of the legislation,
 15 please.
 16 SECRETARY: Yes. This will be known as
 17 Bill Number 1473. And there will be two public
 18 hearings. The first one will be on Tuesday,
 19 May 4th, at two p.m. That will be a virtual
 20 public hearing. And the second one will be at
 21 seven o'clock that same evening, Tuesday, May

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1 4th. And it will be in the Easton Elementary
 2 School cafeteria. And the Easton Elementary
 3 School is located at 307 Glenwood Avenue.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.
 5 And we'll announce that several times, and
 6 we have to advertise that. So we'll make sure
 7 that everybody is crystal clear on when we're
 8 going to meet about that. Okay.
 9 All right, Council.
 10 Thank you, Angela. Appreciate it now.
 11 Okay. So let's move on. We're still --
 12 let's see here now. Let's move on to public
 13 hearing. So we've had a small little change.
 14 If people are listening, we're going to move
 15 Resolution 299, 300, and 301, we're going to
 16 move that down the road for a couple of weeks
 17 until we get the Public Works and...
 18 MR. PACK: Planning Commission.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Planning Commission. Thank
 20 you, Mr. Pack. Straight on taking a look at
 21 that. We jumped the gun we think a little bit

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1 on that. So we apologize and we want to make
 2 sure that everybody takes a look at that and
 3 gets their input on that. So all right. We're
 4 going to do that.
 5 So the next thing we want to do is we've
 6 got, Madam Secretary, could you please read
 7 Bill 1471 in the record, please.
 8 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1471, a bill to
 9 repeal official zoning map 41 of Talbot County
 10 and reenact the same with an amendment,
 11 changing the zoning district on a portion of
 12 tax map 41, parcel 68, remaining lands, and
 13 lots one, two, and three, consisting of
 14 2.029 acres of land, more or less, from the
 15 village hamlet, VH, zoning district to the
 16 western rural conservation, WRC, zoning
 17 district.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.
 19 Okay. I will now open the public hearing
 20 on 1471. If you wish to provide comments, say
 21 your name, where you're from. And we'll allow

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1 you three minutes to speak or five minutes to
 2 speak individually if you're representing an
 3 organization.
 4 So Parker, do we have anybody on the line?
 5 MR. DURHAM: We do have one person
 6 indicating they wish to speak. Indicated from
 7 the beginning of the meeting. So I'll go ahead
 8 and give them the opportunity.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Caller, are you on
 10 here with us? Can you say your name and where
 11 you're from, please?
 12 MR. DURHAM: This is a caller with a
 13 410-886 telephone number.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Caller, are you with
 15 us?
 16 MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Council President, this
 17 is William Anderson. I raised my hand earlier
 18 in order to report to the Council consideration
 19 by the Public Works Advisory Board of
 20 Resolution 299. But since that will be
 21 deferred, I withdraw my request to speak.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, Mr. Anderson.
 2 I appreciate it and appreciate you listening in
 3 and hanging in there with us tonight.
 4 MR. DURHAM: Mr. Anderson, if you can
 5 press asterisk three on your phone again, I'd
 6 appreciate that.
 7 And we do not have anyone else indicating
 8 that they wish to speak.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. That
 10 sounds good. Okay. Thank you.
 11 So all right. I will remind Council that
 12 in accordance to the Talbot County Code, a
 13 majority of the Council is requested to make a
 14 site visit on 1441.
 15 This bill is eligible for vote on Tuesday,
 16 April 22nd.
 17 SECRETARY: I believe that's 27th,
 18 Mr. Callahan.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. It happens, it
 20 happens. Twenty-seventh. I'm sorry. Sorry
 21 about that, Council. Okay.

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1 Madam Secretary, we got one more bill,
 2 1472. Could you put that in the record for us,
 3 please.
 4 MS. MORRIS: Excuse me, Mr. Callahan.
 5 This is Ms. Morris.
 6 Going back to Bill 1471, I do see that
 7 Peter Cotter is on the line. I believe he's
 8 the attorney for the applicant and wanted to
 9 give him the opportunity to make comment if he
 10 wished.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure, sure. What was his
 12 last name?
 13 MS. MORRIS: It's Peter Cotter.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Cotter, are you on the
 15 phone?
 16 MR. COTTER: Good evening, Council.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. How are you doing?
 18 MR. COTTER: I'm doing well. Thank you.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Great, great. So the floor
 20 is yours.
 21 MR. COTTER: Well, I don't, in light of

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1 the fact that there wasn't any public comment,
 2 I don't want to put more into the record than
 3 is necessary.
 4 If the Council would like to hear the
 5 arguments in favor, we're happy to do that.
 6 Obviously, there's been a staff report on the
 7 issue and such.
 8 But I'm really here to answer any
 9 questions or to provide any information that
 10 Council may want on the application. But if
 11 there's no request made, I don't feel the need
 12 to provide any information that's not
 13 requested.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. Okay. No
 15 problem.
 16 MR. DURHAM: We do have another caller.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: We do. Okay.
 18 Thank you, Mr. Cotter.
 19 MR. DURHAM: This caller has a 410-886
 20 telephone number.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Caller, can you give

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1 us your name and where you're from, please?
 2 PASTOR PALMER: Yes. My name is Pastor
 3 Palmer. I'm the pastor of St. Luke's United
 4 Methodist Church in Bellevue, Maryland.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, pastor. Would you
 6 like to comment on Bill 1471?
 7 PASTOR PALMER: Actually I wanted to have
 8 a moment for the public comments. I wasn't
 9 sure as to how to get in at first.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. So if you could
 11 hold on, we'll be at that in 15, 20 minutes,
 12 something like that.
 13 PASTOR PALMER: Thank you very much.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
 15 Appreciate it. Stay on the line. Okay.
 16 So Madam Secretary, Jess, are we good to
 17 head on to 1472?
 18 MS. MORRIS: Yes, sir. Thank you.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. No problem. I
 20 appreciate it.
 21 And Parker, if somebody pops on and you

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1 need me, just let me know. Okay?
 2 MR. DURHAM: Will do.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,
 4 would you please read 1472 in the record,
 5 please.
 6 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1472, a bill to
 7 amend Chapter 134 of the Talbot County Code,
 8 roads ordinance, to authorize the establishment
 9 and operation of a Roads Repurposing Facility.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds great. Okay. At
 11 this time, now we'll open the public hearing on
 12 1472. If you wish to comment or provide
 13 comments to 1472, please do with your name.
 14 I'll give the individual three minutes to talk.
 15 And if you're representing somebody, an
 16 organization, give you five minutes.
 17 So Mr. Durham, is there anybody on the
 18 line for 1472?
 19 MR. DURHAM: There currently is not.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. That
 21 sounds great. So okay. So thank you.

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1 The bill is eligible for vote on Tuesday,
 2 April 27th. Madam Secretary, is that --
 3 MR. PACK: Mr. Callahan, I ask that we
 4 close the public hearing on both 1471 and 1472
 5 at this time.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
 7 Madam Secretary, do I need a motion to do
 8 that?
 9 MR. PACK: I just request that we close
 10 them. Is there any reason to leave them open?
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: I don't think so, Mr. Pack.
 12 Yup. There's a motion to close the --
 13 MR. PACK: I'm not making a motion. I'm
 14 just asking that we do close it. I mean we
 15 normally close it. Okay.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: So I'm assuming we don't
 17 have to have a vote or nothing. Okay. No
 18 problem.
 19 MS. PRICE: On the first one, we got to
 20 make sure we have a majority that's done the
 21 site visit.

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1 But on 1472, is it not eligible until the
 2 next Council meeting or is it eligible for a
 3 vote tonight?
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: It's eligible next meeting.
 5 Am I correct, Madam Secretary?
 6 MS. PRICE: We can't move it to third
 7 reader?
 8 SECRETARY: I guess if Council chooses to,
 9 they can, yes. I don't see why they couldn't,
 10 unless there's something I'm not aware of.
 11 MS. PRICE: If the Council wants to move
 12 this one to third reader and take this one off
 13 our books this evening, I would make a motion
 14 to move it to third reader, unless anybody
 15 wants more time to think about it.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, if it's okay with
 17 you, Ms. Price, can we hold off until the next
 18 meeting?
 19 MS. PRICE: Sure.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: That would be great. I
 21 appreciate that.

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1 Let's move on. Mr. Stamp, for your
 2 report, please.
 3 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Mr. Council
 4 President, Members of Council. Under county
 5 manager report tonight, I have a number of
 6 items.
 7 The first are board and committee
 8 appointments.
 9 And first one to the Agricultural
 10 Preservation Advisory Board, I'm requesting the
 11 reappointment of John Swaine to the Advisory
 12 Board.
 13 MR. PACK: So moved.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 15 MS. PRICE: Second.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, call the
 17 roll, please.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 21 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
 2 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 4 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 6 MR. PACK: Aye.
 7 MR. STAMP: The next item I have is
 8 Airport Board, requesting the appointment of T.
 9 Griffin to fill the remainder of William Roll's
 10 term set to expire on June 1, 2021.
 11 MS. PRICE: So moved.
 12 MR. LESHHER: I'll second.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you
 14 call the roll, please.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 18 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
 20 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.

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1 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 3 MR. PACK: Aye.
 4 MR. STAMP: Next item, requesting the
 5 reappointment of Robert Jump, Jr. and Don
 6 English to the Board of Electrical Examiners.
 7 MS. PRICE: So moved.
 8 MR. PACK: I'll second it.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you
 10 call the vote, please.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
 16 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 18 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 20 MR. PACK: Aye.
 21 MR. STAMP: And we are requesting the

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<p>1 reappointment of Cory Buxton to the Public 2 Works Advisory Board. 3 MR. PACK: So moved. 4 MS. PRICE: Second. 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Madam 6 Secretary, could you call the roll, please. 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 10 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 12 MR. LESHER: Aye. 13 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 14 MS. PRICE: Aye. 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 16 MR. PACK: Aye. 17 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council. That 18 concludes the board and committee appointments. 19 The next item I have is Ray Clarke, the 20 county director of Public Works, our engineer, 21 is here with us. The first item is a request</p>	<p>1 Again, this is to design the road as well 2 as drainage with about 39 feet of pavement. 3 Part of what we're trying to do right now 4 with Airport Road is get the design done and 5 then hopefully work to get it constructed, as I 6 guess efforts were underway to build some 7 warehouses and whatnot in the Easton Technology 8 Park. 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Clarke. Do 10 you foresee the design taking two, three months 11 or less than that? 12 MR. CLARKE: Yeah. I'm thinking at this 13 point we're trying, after tonight, depends on 14 what happens here, we're trying to set up a 15 design meeting next week I believe with Davis, 16 Bowen & Friedel. So we are going to try and 17 fast track, especially Airport Road, as quickly 18 as we can. And then try -- I think they would 19 like to have it done by September. It's going 20 to be tough. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds great. I</p>
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<p>1 from the Department of Public Works to award a 2 contract for engineering design services for 3 phase two, Goldsborough Neck improvements, 4 Mistletoe Hall, from Mistletoe Hall Farm Road 5 to Airport Road, and phase three, Airport Road 6 improvements, which is Goldsborough Neck Road 7 to US Route 50 under Bid 1708, an open-ended 8 engineering services. 9 Ray is here to ask for this project and 10 will explain further and will be available for 11 questions. Ray. 12 MR. CLARKE: Sure thing. Council, these 13 are design services with Davis, Bowen & 14 Friedel. Primarily what we're looking to try 15 and do is we have \$66,750 to design Airport 16 Road basically from Centreville Road, US Route 17 50, back to Goldsborough Neck Road, and then 18 \$49,500 for Goldsborough Neck Road to finish up 19 that section from Mistletoe Hall Farm, which I 20 guess is the industrial park with the town, to 21 Airport Road.</p>	<p>1 appreciate all your efforts. If you could keep 2 everybody in the loop out there, because it's 3 really important to them out there, that would 4 be great. 5 Okay, Council. 6 MR. LESHER: Mr. Clarke. 7 MR. CLARKE: Yeah. 8 MR. LESHER: Could you remind the Council 9 and perhaps the listening public what it means 10 for an open-ended engineering contract? 11 MR. CLARKE: An open-ended engineering 12 services agreement. We actually went through 13 the process of accepting bids from various 14 engineering firms that applied. I'm going to 15 assume we had roughly about five to seven firms 16 that applied. 17 We then went through a ranking process and 18 then awarded three contracts to three 19 engineering firms. We focused with the firms 20 let's say surveying and road construction, 21 surveying and environment projects, water and</p>

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1 sewer work. And then also we hired a firm that
 2 actually has architectural services as well in
 3 the event we needed architectural services.
 4 So we try to look at firms, both local as
 5 well as firms that are outside the area, and
 6 awarding them based upon I guess their
 7 qualifications.
 8 And ultimately we then seek proposals from
 9 those firms that were pre-awarded and basically
 10 having them develop scopes and then we get a
 11 price and then submit that to you all for
 12 award.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Clarke.
 14 MR. LESHER: So what I gather from that is
 15 that you'll be back to us on specific phases of
 16 this project with specific dollar amounts for
 17 those engineering and ultimately construction
 18 needs?
 19 MR. CLARKE: Yes. Especially for Airport
 20 as well as for Goldsborough Neck Road, yes,
 21 sir, we will be.

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1 MR. LESHER: Thank you very much.
 2 MR. PACK: Mr. Callahan, I will make the
 3 motion that we go ahead and approve Bid 17.08.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 5 Do I have a second?
 6 MR. DIVILIO: I'll second.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.
 8 Madam Secretary, could you call the roll,
 9 please.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 13 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 15 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 17 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 19 MR. PACK: Aye.
 20 MR. STAMP: Thank you.
 21 And Council, Preston Peper, our director

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1 of Recreation and Parks, came to me. He's
 2 having -- he's here with us tonight to discuss
 3 this with you.
 4 He's having significant difficulties in
 5 attracting lifeguards to run our pools this
 6 summer. I don't think we are alone in that.
 7 He's talked with some neighboring jurisdictions
 8 and has come up with an idea that we believe
 9 may work. He wants to present that to you.
 10 It would be entering a pool management
 11 contract with Coastline Pool Services to
 12 operate, maintain both the George Murphy and
 13 Bay Hundred community pool for 2021 at a cost
 14 of \$192,000. There are sufficient funds in the
 15 pool budget at this time to cover that cost.
 16 And again, Preston is here and I would
 17 like him to just take a minute and talk to you
 18 about that.
 19 Preston.
 20 MS. MORRIS: Yes. Preston is joining us
 21 by phone this evening. And he's caller user

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1 five, Mr. Host.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 3 MR. PEPER: Can you hear me now?
 4 MR. PACK: Yes, we have you.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: We can hear you, Preston.
 6 Yup, we can hear you.
 7 MR. PEPER: Okay. So yeah. Like
 8 Mr. Stamp had said, we're having significant
 9 problems coming up with lifeguards. Right now
 10 we currently only have four for both pools.
 11 In talking to some of the other counties,
 12 they're having the same problem. Kent County,
 13 for instance, only has seven. They need about
 14 30 to open their pool.
 15 I'm not sure if this is a COVID-related
 16 issue, if this is just a
 17 not-having-the-pool-for-a-couple-of-years
 18 issue. But we would like to see about entering
 19 into a contract for a year-by-year commitment
 20 with Coastline.
 21 We would still supply a front desk

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1 attendant. So we still get revenue for this.
 2 So this is not like the contract that we had
 3 with the YMCA where they did the whole thing.
 4 We still get the revenue for swim lessons and
 5 the pool admissions and memberships. We still
 6 get the revenue. We just don't have to
 7 necessarily administer all the expenses that go
 8 along with operating the pools.
 9 This company would do all the staffing,
 10 teach the lessons, maintain chemicals, order
 11 chemicals, that whole thing. So it's kind of a
 12 one-stop shop with them.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 14 MR. STAMP: The only nuance with this is
 15 that there is not a contract to piggyback on.
 16 This would be a sole source procurement. And
 17 the justification would be that they're in the
 18 area regionally handling other counties that
 19 we're connected to and they do provide a
 20 service and are prepared to jump in to provide
 21 this service for us for the summer.

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1 MS. PRICE: That sounds like a wonderful
 2 idea. They're ready to jump in and get wet,
 3 huh?
 4 SPEAKER: Exactly.
 5 MS. PRICE: Well, I'll make a motion, then,
 6 to go with the contract for that pool company.
 7 Can I -- whatever it's called, whatever the
 8 county pool company is called.
 9 MR. DIVILIO: Coastline Pool Services.
 10 I'd be happy to second it. I thank
 11 Mr. Peper for looking outside the box to come
 12 up with a solution.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Absolutely. Thanks a lot,
 14 Preston. I really appreciate you looking after
 15 us.
 16 Madam Secretary, can you call the roll,
 17 please.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 21 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 2 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 4 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 6 MR. PACK: Aye.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Preston.
 8 MR. STAMP: Yeah. Thank you very much
 9 Preston. I'm going to move to -- I'll come
 10 back one more.
 11 I'm going to move to the next one, which
 12 is requesting Council approval to apply for and
 13 accept Emergency Rental Assistance Program
 14 grant through the Maryland Department of
 15 Housing and Community Development in the amount
 16 of \$2,439,498.
 17 Talbot County would designate the
 18 Neighborhood Service Center as a sub recipient.
 19 I believe Ummu is here on behalf of Marilyn
 20 Neal to answer any questions relative to this
 21 ERAP program.

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1 Ummu, are you on?
 2 MS. MORRIS: Mr. Durham, I see that
 3 Ms. Thomas is on. Would you mind unmuting her
 4 line, please?
 5 Okay. Ms. Thomas, you should be able to
 6 go ahead and speak.
 7 MS. THOMAS: Good evening. Hello?
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening, Ms. Thomas.
 9 Thank you. You can go ahead and talk. Thank
 10 you.
 11 MS. THOMAS: Oh, great. The Neighborhood
 12 Service Center is seeking to assist (inaudible)
 13 rental assistance program.
 14 This program is really critical because it
 15 will assist anyone having financial difficulty
 16 as a result of COVID-19 with housing needs,
 17 energy needs, and other needs that support
 18 housing and homelessness prevention.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thanks a lot,
 20 Ms. Thomas, for explaining that to us. I
 21 appreciate that.

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<p>1 MS. THOMAS: Thank you.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions from</p> <p>3 Council? Okay.</p> <p>4 Madam Secretary, could you -- is there a</p> <p>5 motion? I'm sorry. Is there a motion?</p> <p>6 MR. DIVILIO: I'll make a motion.</p> <p>7 MR. LESHER: Second.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>9 Madam Secretary, could you call the roll</p> <p>10 please.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>14 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>16 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. Ms. Price.</p> <p>18 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>21 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p>	<p>1 find in favor of Mr. Wynne. I believe that</p> <p>2 actually happened in 2015.</p> <p>3 And Talbot County's total obligation to</p> <p>4 the tax payers of Talbot County who had been</p> <p>5 impacted by this ruling was \$1,788,192.</p> <p>6 All of these refunds have already been</p> <p>7 processed by the Comptroller's office, and now</p> <p>8 it is time for us to pay the comptroller back.</p> <p>9 The legislature has introduced a number of</p> <p>10 bills related to this, but essentially we have</p> <p>11 two repayment options. We can pay the full</p> <p>12 amount of the county refunds from our May 2021</p> <p>13 income tax distribution.</p> <p>14 Or we can pay 1/80th of this amount due in</p> <p>15 four distributions each fiscal year starting in</p> <p>16 May of 2021 going through February of 2041. So</p> <p>17 each payment would be \$22,352.40 or \$89,409.60</p> <p>18 per year.</p> <p>19 It seems like -- we have the money already</p> <p>20 set aside. I want to make that clear to</p> <p>21 Council. We had reserved these funds, in fact,</p>
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<p>1 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.</p> <p>2 The next item that we have, Angela, are</p> <p>3 you still with us?</p> <p>4 MS. LANE: Yes, I am.</p> <p>5 MR. STAMP: Okay. Great. I'm going to</p> <p>6 hand this to Angela. She wants to discuss with</p> <p>7 you an item regarding repayment of income tax</p> <p>8 refunds as it relates to the Wynne case.</p> <p>9 Angela.</p> <p>10 MS. LANE: Yes. As many of you are aware,</p> <p>11 Brian Wynne brought suit against the Maryland</p> <p>12 State Comptroller's Office I believe back in</p> <p>13 2009. He challenged those Maryland statute and</p> <p>14 argued that it violated the commerce clause</p> <p>15 because it burdened Maryland's residents that</p> <p>16 conducted interstate business. Basically</p> <p>17 Maryland taxed all of those on that income.</p> <p>18 And over a number of years, this lawsuit</p> <p>19 went through all the available legal options</p> <p>20 and was actually heard at the Supreme Court.</p> <p>21 But the Supreme Court of the United States did</p>	<p>1 more than this, back in 2013 and 2015 as we</p> <p>2 were going through many layers of lawsuits.</p> <p>3 And there were many layers of lawsuits, not</p> <p>4 only about the Wynne case, but then it was how</p> <p>5 much interest would be repaid to these tax</p> <p>6 payers on these funds. So we've had a long,</p> <p>7 long span of litigation concerning this case.</p> <p>8 But we do have the funds set aside. So</p> <p>9 from my perspective, it doesn't really matter.</p> <p>10 There's a part of me that certainly from ease</p> <p>11 is we just pay it in November and we're done.</p> <p>12 Otherwise, we're going to have to adjust all</p> <p>13 our income tax distributions over the next 20</p> <p>14 years for the \$22,352 that's going to be</p> <p>15 withheld from each of those 80 distributions.</p> <p>16 MR. PACK: Angela, which line item is the</p> <p>17 \$1.7 million currently sitting in in the</p> <p>18 budget?</p> <p>19 MS. LANE: It's actually in deferred</p> <p>20 revenues.</p> <p>21 MR. PACK: Deferred revenues.</p>

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1 MS. LANE: Because we knew we would have
 2 to recognize this as an income tax revenue at
 3 some point down the road.
 4 MR. PACK: Right. And you probably
 5 budgeted more than 1.7 I'm assuming.
 6 MS. LANE: Yes. We have \$3 million in
 7 that pot.
 8 MR. PACK: I would say pay it,
 9 Mr. Callahan.
 10 MS. LANE: -- part of it will be
 11 recognized this year. Anything above the 1.7
 12 we'll recognize this year, and then we'll just
 13 keep the 1.7 reserved if that's how the Council
 14 wants to go forward or we'll recognize the
 15 whole \$3 million in income in this fiscal year
 16 and pay back the \$1,788,000 in May.
 17 MR. PACK: We have it. Why don't we just
 18 pay it.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, Council. So Mr. Pack
 20 is recommending just go ahead and pay it.
 21 Council, are we okay with that?

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1 MR. DIVILIO: -- Mr. Pack.
 2 MR. LESHHER: I support this approach as
 3 well.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Price.
 5 MS. PRICE: That's fine. You know, it's
 6 probably just a hassle to do it the other way
 7 around. It's a lot to keep track of.
 8 MR. PACK: Yeah.
 9 MS. LANE: It is.
 10 MS. PRICE: Thank you for making sure that
 11 it was set aside to make this an easy decision
 12 and that we're not having to pull money out of
 13 current revenues or fund balance. It's already
 14 there. So thank you, Ms. Lane.
 15 MS. LANE: Right.
 16 MR. DIVILIO: Excellent point, excellent
 17 point.
 18 MS. LANE: Thank you.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, Council. We got a
 20 motion and a second to go ahead and pay it
 21 right off.

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1 Madam Secretary, could you call the roll,
 2 please.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 6 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 8 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 9 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 10 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 12 MR. PACK: Aye.
 13 MS. LANE: Thank you, Council.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Angela.
 15 Next, Mr. Clay.
 16 MR. STAMP: Don't go far, Angela.
 17 MS. LANE: I'm here.
 18 MR. STAMP: While you're here, Angela is
 19 here to request approval for fourth quarter
 20 budget transfers.
 21 So go ahead, Angela, please.

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1 MS. LANE: Council, as you're aware,
 2 fourth quarter transfers can only be made with
 3 the approval of the County Council in the
 4 fourth quarter of the year. And these are
 5 transfers between agencies and departments of
 6 the general fund or between funds.
 7 So I have a fairly long document of fourth
 8 quarter transfers that I'm proposing to
 9 transfer for various line items in the general
 10 and recreation funds. These --
 11 MS. PRICE: Ms. Lane.
 12 MS. LANE: Yes.
 13 MS. PRICE: Ms. Lane, may I jump in?
 14 You and I have a little plan. This is the
 15 list. It usually take 15 or 20 minutes to read
 16 through or pretty long. And so if we can get
 17 her or Mr. Durham to screen share, we can kind
 18 of hit the highlights and we can scroll through
 19 this long list because it is dozens and dozens
 20 of things that at the end of the day all
 21 balances out. It's not more revenue.

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1 So if Council is interested, if we can get
 2 that screen share going, people can just view
 3 it while she kind of hits the highlights
 4 instead of spending the next 15 minutes reading
 5 dollars and cents.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm okay with that.
 7 MR. DURHAM: Share screen.
 8 MS. LANE: Okay, Council.
 9 MS. PRICE: Awesome.
 10 MS. LANE: The whole document is three
 11 pages. This is the first page.
 12 Again, most of these are going to hit --
 13 well, virtually all of these with the exception
 14 of one or two departments are hitting salaries
 15 and benefits because when we started this
 16 budget, we did not add any new positions in
 17 fiscal 21, we did not do any -- we did not have
 18 any increases. So all of this has happened
 19 during -- anything that happened in terms of
 20 salary and benefits was in theory in our
 21 contingency fund.

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1 Capital outlay was all in the county
 2 manager's budget. None was in the departments.
 3 So we're now moving those line items into the
 4 departments where the expenses are actually
 5 going to show up, which is why there's so many
 6 this year.
 7 Normally we would have budgeted these
 8 items in the departments. But not knowing how
 9 our revenues were going to be impacted by the
 10 COVID-19 pandemic, Council was very
 11 conservative and set these monies aside so they
 12 could not be used by departments without your
 13 specific approval.
 14 And through the course of the year,
 15 Council did approve a number of positions and
 16 we did do a step increase for county employees
 17 halfway through the year, and capital outlay
 18 purchases have been approved throughout the
 19 year.
 20 And also during the budget process, we
 21 actually had some departments that had

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1 requested capital outlay items to be purchased
 2 in fiscal 22. Council approved those being
 3 purchased in fiscal 21.
 4 Another reason why salaries look like
 5 they're going up significantly is I'm
 6 anticipating our health insurance expenses will
 7 be higher than what they have been. We also
 8 had bonus pay for our public safety
 9 departments, our first responders, due to
 10 COVID. And while we have grant funding to pay
 11 it, the expense still shows up.
 12 So that's really sort of a number of
 13 reasons why these look like they're very large
 14 items. And compared to other years, they are
 15 because these items were not budgeted in the
 16 department during the year.
 17 So I don't know if you want me to pick up
 18 any specific departments. If you have any
 19 questions, I can certainly stop and go through
 20 a specific department.
 21 The one in the middle of this page that I

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1 want to touch on is county administration.
 2 You'll see that capital outlay in this case is
 3 going down by \$1.6 million because we are
 4 allocating those to other departments now.
 5 And again, all those funds were put in the
 6 county manager's department, who historically
 7 spends no money on capital outlay.
 8 Let me go to page two. And you'll see
 9 particularly in our public safety departments,
 10 which are on the top half of this page, those
 11 are significant numbers. Salary and benefits,
 12 all of these departments had significant
 13 overtime during this past year. And again,
 14 health insurance expenses are going up.
 15 Emergency medical services, we added
 16 positions. Emergency management, Council added
 17 positions. So that's reflected in these
 18 numbers.
 19 Under emergency medical services, the
 20 capital outlay, \$300,000 of that line item is
 21 an ambulance, which was asked for in fiscal 21

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1 and Council did approve that I believe in July
 2 of 2000 (sic.) to go ahead and get that
 3 purchased because of the lead time on that
 4 item.
 5 If you go down to Roads Department, we
 6 have fairly significant expenses in operating
 7 expense there. And that is to allow them to do
 8 more patching and repairing of roads and
 9 resurfacing of roads this year. Because we had
 10 level funded them, they didn't really have
 11 funds to expand their operations at all. So
 12 that will allow them to do additional patching
 13 and roadwork.
 14 Again, capital outlay, that was equipment
 15 that was approved by the Council early in the
 16 fiscal year. So we're moving the funds to
 17 reflect that. I don't know --
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds good, Angela.
 19 Does Council have any questions?
 20 MS. LANE: Okay. I have one more page.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

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1 MS. LANE: On page three, again, I don't
 2 think there's anything too surprising here.
 3 The one item I will point out is under
 4 Board of Ed, debt service, we're going down.
 5 And that was actually something I discussed
 6 earlier because we hadn't actually -- we didn't
 7 know what our debt service numbers were going
 8 to be when the budget was prepared, we put in
 9 full payment of principal and interest for the
 10 full year. And our first principal payment
 11 actually isn't due until July 1st, which will
 12 be in fiscal 22. So that's why that number is
 13 decreasing.
 14 And reserve for contingencies is
 15 decreasing because, again, we had put all these
 16 operating expense line items and salary line
 17 item potential expenses in reserve for
 18 contingencies.
 19 So the total appropriations budget for the
 20 general fund, the net change is zero. Even
 21 though the line items are changing by

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1 \$35 million, we're moving money around from
 2 here, there, and everywhere. But we end up
 3 with no net change in terms of the total
 4 budget.
 5 We are changing our transfer to other
 6 funds. We are increasing our transfer to the
 7 Community Center and to the golf course both to
 8 fund capital outlay items that were approved
 9 for those departments. So again, their
 10 revenues will increase and their expenses will
 11 increase, but the net impact to the total
 12 budget is zero.
 13 So those are all the transfers.
 14 MS. PRICE: And with that, I'll make a
 15 motion to approve the fourth quarter transfers.
 16 MR. DIVILIO: I'll second.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 18 a second. Madam Secretary, can you call the
 19 vote.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 2 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 4 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 6 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 8 MR. PACK: Aye.
 9 Ms. Lane, thank you very much.
 10 Ms. Morris, is there any way we can post
 11 this document up on the county website in case
 12 any listener, since Ms. Lane did not go through
 13 line by line as we normally would do, and that
 14 was a great suggestion, Ms. Price, but can we
 15 post this document so that our tax payers can
 16 look at it if they wish over the next week or
 17 two?
 18 MS. MORRIS: Yes, absolutely.
 19 MR. PACK: Yes.
 20 MS. LANE: Actually, I'll make sure it
 21 goes on the budget page of the Finance

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1 Department's section of the website.
 2 MR. PACK: Thank you. Appreciate that,
 3 Ms. Lane.
 4 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council, and thank
 5 you for your patience. I only have two more
 6 items. It should not be difficult.
 7 The next item I have, Dana Newman is here,
 8 our director of the Talbot County Library.
 9 It's a request from them for the Council to
 10 send a letter of support for the Build America
 11 Libraries Act legislation that they will be
 12 applying for.
 13 Dana, would you like to share with the
 14 Council a little bit of information about the
 15 request?
 16 This will require no county funds to be
 17 associated with the letter of support.
 18 MS. NEWMAN: Can you hear me?
 19 MR. STAMP: Yeah. I hear you loud and
 20 clear.
 21 MS. NEWMAN: Okay. I want to thank the

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1 Council, first of all, for listening. It's
 2 been a long night, and I will try to make my
 3 comments brief.
 4 The Build America Libraries Act provides
 5 \$5 billion federally to construct new
 6 libraries, to support broadband initiatives
 7 connected to libraries, to help libraries with
 8 any ADA compliance issues, also to rectify any
 9 problems with library building issues as they
 10 relate to COVID or other natural disasters.
 11 It has been 24 years since libraries have
 12 had federal legislation that has supported
 13 building projects on the federal level.
 14 And I think that the theme tonight has
 15 been about investing in communities. And the
 16 library is an integral part of the community.
 17 I would argue that it's one of the hearts of
 18 the community and we keep people learning and
 19 listening and reading.
 20 And I would say that this is a good bill.
 21 I mean I think it will help with taking the

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1 burden off of the local governments because
 2 that's really where most of the funding comes
 3 from for library construction projects. I know
 4 that it is a pretty hefty burden on the federal
 5 government when a lot of other legislation is
 6 being considered for infrastructure projects,
 7 but I think that it really is a good investment
 8 in local community.
 9 And I would ask that the County Council
 10 support this mostly because we have an
 11 expansion project coming with the St. Michael's
 12 Library. It would help with the cost of that
 13 project if it is enacted at the federal level.
 14 So that is really one of the things the
 15 library always looks to do, is try to find out
 16 sources of revenue, and I think this would
 17 provide a good amount of revenue for that
 18 project and help us to come into compliance
 19 with some ADA issues that we're having there.
 20 But also to buy some WiFi hotspots, additional
 21 WiFi hotspots to circulate to the public. So

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1 that funding could also be used in addition to
 2 the new construction for the St. Michael's
 3 Library. There are other projects we could use
 4 that funding for.
 5 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Dana.
 6 So Council, there you go. We're just
 7 requesting your consideration to send a letter
 8 of support.
 9 MR. PACK: I'll make that motion we send a
 10 letter of support for the Build America's
 11 Libraries Act.
 12 MR. LESHNER: Second.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 14 a second. Madam Secretary, can you call the
 15 vote, please.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 19 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 21 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 2 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 4 MR. PACK: Aye.
 5 MR. STAMP: And I'm happy to report this
 6 will be the last item on your county manager
 7 report.
 8 I'm requesting your consideration to
 9 support a grant application by the DeShields
 10 family for the FY21 Maryland Heritage Area
 11 Authority grant in the amount of \$100,000 for
 12 the Bellevue Passage Museum. If the grant
 13 funds are awarded, they will be managed by the
 14 Midshore Community Foundation.
 15 There will be no county funds required.
 16 This is just a letter of support for their
 17 effort to do this project.
 18 MR. PACK: If I could add, Mr. Stamp.
 19 Dr. DeShields sent me this letter about a week
 20 ago asking for Council support on this Maryland
 21 Heritage Area grant. They're looking to do

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1 some rehabilitation of some of the historic
 2 properties down in Bellevue area.
 3 Many Council may know that Bellevue at one
 4 time was a very industrious area when it came
 5 to seafood industry. Several black-owned
 6 businesses were operating out of Bellevue. The
 7 Turner Seafood Industry is one of them that
 8 comes to mind.
 9 I remember visiting Bellevue, the church
 10 there, St. Luke's Church, many years ago. And
 11 so a lot of the historic pictures that they had
 12 of the seafood industry during its heyday.
 13 So a lot of time and consideration has
 14 gone into trying to revitalize this area and to
 15 memorialize the history there in Bellevue.
 16 I know there's a very, very short
 17 turnaround time for this grant. I believe
 18 it's -- I think it's tomorrow, right, the 14th,
 19 Mr. Stamp? I think it's the 14th. Yeah. So I
 20 would ask for Council's consideration this
 21 evening.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, Council.
 2 MR. LESHER: Mr. President, as before with
 3 Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, letters of
 4 support, I'll recuse myself on this. The
 5 governor has appointed me to the MHAA, and I'll
 6 reserve my vote for that body so that I'm not
 7 sort of petitioning myself, as it were.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.
 9 MR. LESHER: On this letter of support.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, Mr. Leshar.
 11 Appreciate you letting us know.
 12 Council, I need a motion and a second.
 13 MR. PACK: I'll make the motion for a
 14 letter of support, Mr. Callahan.
 15 MR. DIVILIO: I'd be happy to second it.
 16 I just ask, Mr. Pack, if you could forward
 17 that letter around. I'd like to read the
 18 letter, if you could.
 19 MR. PACK: I thought Ms. Morris sent it
 20 out.
 21 But Ms. Morris, can you forward that

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1 letter out? I thought we did that already.
 2 MR. STAMP: It was placed in Granicus
 3 earlier.
 4 MR. PACK: I thought it was.
 5 Check Granicus, Mr. Divilio. It should be
 6 in Granicus.
 7 MR. STAMP: And if you can't, just let me
 8 know. We'll send you that right away.
 9 MR. DIVILIO: Okay.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and a
 11 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 12 vote, please.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 16 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshar. Oh, sorry.
 18 Ms. Price.
 19 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 21 MR. PACK: Aye.

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<p>1 MR. STAMP: So Mr. Council President, 2 Members of the Council, as always, I thank you 3 for your leadership and support. And this 4 completes the county manager report for this 5 week. 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds great, Mr. Stamp. 7 Appreciate it. Good job. 8 Let's move on to public comments. 9 Mr. Durham, do we have anybody online? 10 MR. DURHAM: Our first caller is the 11 pastor from St. Luke's. I will unmute him. 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. No problem. Pastor, 13 could you go ahead? You're online. 14 PASTOR PALMER: Okay. Thank you for 15 giving me an opportunity to speak. 16 I wanted to voice my support for the 17 DeShields family and their efforts down in 18 Bellevue. 19 And I was also impressed with the 20 resolution for the Sexual Assault Awareness 21 Month for April 2020, 2021. But I was a little</p>	<p>1 lawn. 2 Thank you for your time. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you for your time and 4 thank you for your comments and input. I 5 appreciate it. 6 Next caller. 7 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller is an 845-788 8 number. 9 Caller, please begin. 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Caller, could you give us 11 your name and where you're from, please? 12 MS. CONNER: Hi. This is Eliza Conner. 13 I'm calling from Easton. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Go ahead, Ms. Conner. 15 MS. CONNER: Okay. Hi. Thank you all so 16 much for the time to be heard. And I know it's 17 been a long night. I really appreciate the 18 diligence and the commitment you have to 19 serving our community. 20 But I'm here tonight to express my support 21 for our community's call to remove the Talbot</p>
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<p>1 confused with that because the resolution said 2 you were going to speak out and take action in 3 support of awareness and prevention. 4 But at the same time, it's my 5 understanding that members of the Council have 6 been in support of maintaining a symbol of 7 human trafficking and exploitation of women and 8 children, and that is the Talbot Boys monument. 9 If you're going to say this in a 10 resolution, then why have a statue that says to 11 those very same people who were human 12 trafficked, who are raped and exploited, that 13 you will get no justice here in Talbot County 14 based on the fact that we are letting you know 15 that our court house is supportive of the 16 traditions and the history of sex trafficking, 17 human trafficking, and sexual assault? 18 So I would say that if you're going to 19 pass a resolution for such, then the action 20 would also need to be taken in regards to 21 removal of the Talbot Boys from the court house</p>	<p>1 Boys monument from the court house lawn. 2 I also really appreciate the pastor's 3 comments just now reflecting on the dissidence 4 really between so much of what I've heard 5 tonight regarding what you all on the Council 6 support and the continued effort to maintain 7 and uphold the symbol of violence and 8 oppression on the county court house lawn. 9 So one of the other things I heard tonight 10 was the emphasis on public safety featured in 11 tonight's proposal for fiscal year 22. 12 I'm asking you to please lift up your 13 leadership to open your minds and widen your 14 hearts to consider the very painful and 15 visceral impact this statue plays on the 16 psychological safety of our community members 17 and the deeply negative impact it has on the 18 present day narrative that they are living out. 19 So I might specifically speak to Council 20 Member Price, Council Member Callahan, and 21 Council Member Divilio. I'm asking the three</p>

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1 of you to please reflect on how your potential
 2 personal fear of change and the possible
 3 attachment to your personal opinion is getting
 4 in the way of your ability to best represent
 5 the mental, spiritual, and physical wellbeing
 6 of your contingents.
 7 Please remove the Talbot County -- the
 8 Talbot Boys statue from our county court house
 9 lawn.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Conner. I
 11 appreciate you calling in and giving your
 12 thoughts tonight. I appreciate you staying on
 13 and listening.
 14 MS. CONNER: Thank you.
 15 MR. DURHAM: We have no other callers at
 16 this time.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: No other callers. So we'd
 18 be glad to listen. Just let us know. We're
 19 going to do Council comments now. So you know,
 20 if somebody calls in, just let me know. Okay,
 21 Mr. Durham? That would be great.

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1 MR. DURHAM: Will do.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: So let's move on to Council
 3 comments. Mr. Vice President, Mr. Leshner.
 4 MR. LESHNER: Thank you, Mr. President. I
 5 was tuned in to the Talbot County private
 6 sector call on COVID conducted by emergency
 7 operations and also with our tourism director
 8 Cassandra Vanhooser's support and involvement.
 9 The COVID update shows that our seven-day
 10 positivity average is significantly above where
 11 we were just a month ago. And although Talbot
 12 County leads the State in vaccination rates, 47
 13 and a half percent have had either their first
 14 dose of a two-dose regime or the single dose
 15 vaccine. 33.9 percent, over a third of us,
 16 have had a second dose or the single vaccine.
 17 Despite those really encouraging numbers,
 18 we heard notes of caution. We are still a long
 19 way from herd immunity. Almost one out of
 20 three tests from our area that are genetically
 21 sequenced, and that's a small number of them,

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1 are showing the B117 variant, the more highly
 2 transmissible coronavirus version that
 3 originally emerged in the UK. It's here, it's
 4 local.
 5 We need to continue to exercise our
 6 prudent measures and follow the governor's
 7 orders until we achieve much higher vaccination
 8 rates to achieve that herd immunity.
 9 We saw the impact of the hold on the
 10 single-dose vaccine with the cancelation of the
 11 FEMA clinic here in Talbot County this week.
 12 And certainly, that's going to slow things
 13 down.
 14 I would encourage those who can to seek
 15 vaccinations at one of the mass clinic sites,
 16 the closest which is in Salisbury. You can get
 17 appointments there. They are not age
 18 restricted. Anybody over the age of 16 can now
 19 do that.
 20 This is how we can, if we comply, this is
 21 how we can fully reopen our economy and make

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1 sure that that day arrives sooner. And we all
 2 recognize the economic importance of how
 3 important that is, as well as really saving the
 4 lives and protecting the health of our Talbot
 5 County citizens.
 6 We have gotten to the point where it seems
 7 that vaccine supply has finally caught up with
 8 vaccine demand. We will soon see us going in
 9 the other direction where it will be hard to
 10 get those next batches of doses and identify
 11 the people who need to get them. So please do
 12 your part and get out and get your vaccination.
 13 It's important to all of us and the
 14 economic future in the near term of Talbot
 15 County.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Vice
 17 President. Well said.
 18 Ms. Price.
 19 MS. PRICE: I am going to bless you all
 20 and say good night. No comment.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Price.

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1 Mr. Divilio.
 2 MR. DIVILIO: So I hope I don't steal your
 3 thunder. I was just going to address the
 4 blessing of the boats that we went to down in
 5 Tilghman, which is a partially correct title
 6 for it. It was a blessing of all the watermen
 7 who were down there as well.
 8 If you don't know, there was a life saved
 9 in February. A gentlemen went overboard from
 10 Queen Anne's County on one of our creeks. And
 11 if you know our rivers, it's not very easy to
 12 just say yes, it's that boat over there. It's
 13 not a car accident with a car on the side of
 14 the road that's in flames.
 15 It takes a lot of coordination to get on
 16 the water and to an individual who is
 17 underwater in freezing temperatures. There was
 18 a lot of radio communication between the local
 19 watermen from Tilghman and from Talbot County
 20 getting that radio onto -- getting that boat
 21 onto the right channel so that help could get

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1 there.
 2 And the coordination could not have been
 3 better of just individuals. There were
 4 emergency responders as well. But when you see
 5 individuals running to their dock, to their
 6 boat to go out and rescue a fellow waterman
 7 that they don't know, that's not from this
 8 area, it really was a nice blessing. It really
 9 warmed my heart to see a community that no
 10 questions were ever asked other than what can
 11 we do and how can we respond.
 12 When you look at all the watermen, when
 13 you look at the seafood, the crabs that are on
 14 the tables in Baltimore, you travel around the
 15 country and get a Chesapeake Bay blue crab,
 16 those are our folks here. And those are
 17 individuals who do this every day. And out in
 18 the roughest conditions, they're bringing
 19 dollars back to Talbot County and they're
 20 looking out for one another. And I'm glad that
 21 we have a great Council that looks out for

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1 them.
 2 So I appreciate being invited down to that
 3 and getting to learn how close-knit that
 4 community is again. I had forgotten about
 5 that. So I do appreciate them because that
 6 could have been a recreational boater, that
 7 could have been a sailor, that could have been
 8 anybody's family out there. It didn't have to
 9 be a waterman that they saved. It could have
 10 been anybody. And we've very fortunate with
 11 some great individuals and a great community
 12 who do look out for one another.
 13 So thank you.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.
 15 That was some very kind words and I agree.
 16 Mr. Pack.
 17 MR. PACK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Callahan.
 18 I just want to expand upon where
 19 Mr. Lesher left off regarding vaccinations here
 20 in the county. And I want to do so from the
 21 standpoint of equity and making sure that we

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1 reach those populations in the county that are
 2 not going out and getting vaccinated in large
 3 enough numbers.
 4 An equity task force was placed together
 5 with Nancy Andrews as our chairperson to work
 6 on with Dr. Maguire from our health office in
 7 reaching into these communities of color here
 8 in Talbot County to make sure that we address
 9 the barriers that may present to them as to why
 10 they are not going out and getting vaccinated.
 11 Right now, Talbot County is trending below
 12 the State average when it comes to African
 13 American citizens being vaccinated. We're also
 14 trending below the State average when it comes
 15 to our Hispanic citizens being vaccinated.
 16 So this task force is meeting to try to
 17 overcome some of those barriers. We know some
 18 of it is based on some systemic and historical
 19 trepidation that some people may have towards
 20 vaccination. We understand that some of the
 21 hesitation may be or some of the barriers may

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1 be because of technology or transportation.
 2 So the task force is trying to address
 3 those barriers and reach out into those
 4 communities and get people vaccinated so we can
 5 all be healthier across all sectors here in
 6 Talbot County.
 7 I do want to give a shout out to BAM.
 8 They did a vaccination on Saturday. I think
 9 some over 100 citizens were vaccinated down at
 10 the BAM Center.
 11 Also, Trinity Cathedral did a vaccination.
 12 And I know the Senior Center I believe is
 13 scheduling for their vaccination. If it didn't
 14 take place this week already, it's taking place
 15 later this week. The date just alludes me
 16 right now. So hats off to Childlene Brooks and
 17 her staff over there for working to get a
 18 vaccination clinic operating at our Senior
 19 Center.
 20 We're also looking at working into
 21 St. Michael's with Chief Smith and the

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1 Community Center there in St. Michael's, as
 2 well as Union United Methodist Church to get
 3 persons vaccinated in the Bay Hundred area as
 4 well as other areas in the county.
 5 So this is a continued effort. We want to
 6 reach into all sectors of the population and
 7 get people vaccinated because the quicker we
 8 get to herd immunity, the safer we're all going
 9 to be. So just wanted to pass that on to the
 10 citizens who are out there. If you haven't
 11 been vaccinated and you need to, you're
 12 interested in getting vaccination, please go
 13 onto the emergency services website and get
 14 that vaccination information.
 15 Thank you.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack. I
 17 appreciate those educational words and kind
 18 words.
 19 And I will comment on that, too. So if
 20 you do need help in vaccination, please give us
 21 a call so we can help you. It is important to

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1 get vaccinated at this point. And it seems
 2 like it's available. It's getting better and
 3 better each week.
 4 And emergency services and the Health
 5 Department are working fiercely to try to make
 6 it work. And Council and Corey is doing a
 7 great job in managing a lot of this stuff that
 8 comes to us every week.
 9 It's a lot of work. Mr. Stamp does a
 10 great job, his staff, his team, his
 11 departments. They have to be commended doing
 12 all this stuff.
 13 So it is really getting better. But like
 14 Vice President Leshner said, we really can't let
 15 our guards down because once you let your
 16 guards down, it's going to get you. So if you
 17 need some help, just let us know.
 18 I will end on what Mr. Divilio said.
 19 Mr. Divilio, myself, and Mr. Leshner were at the
 20 blessing of the fleet. That probably, that
 21 day, that situation was one of the best

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1 situations since I've been on the Council and
 2 actually physically seeing a miracle happen. I
 3 get chills even thinking about it.
 4 What people don't understand what the
 5 miracle was is this gentleman was on his boat,
 6 slipped on his deck, fell overboard. His mate
 7 could not lift him up. So he was right beside
 8 the boat for about 25 to 30 minutes right
 9 beside the boat and couldn't pull him up.
 10 It was a miracle that they put everything,
 11 everything in motion and got this man out in
 12 about 30 minutes and he lived.
 13 Could you just sit here and imagine being
 14 right beside your boat with your mate looking
 15 at you and you couldn't pull him up or you
 16 couldn't get up and you froze? I couldn't
 17 believe it, I couldn't believe it.
 18 But Phil, I can't remember the gentleman's
 19 name. But man, just to see him and his
 20 daughter sitting there. The miracle that that
 21 happened, that this man was given a second

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1 chance. It was phenomenal. It almost made me
 2 tear up a little bit because it was a big deal.
 3 And let's face it, the blessing of the
 4 boats made that happen. You know, I really
 5 truly that believe. It was one of the best
 6 moments in my little career here for being on
 7 Council. It was really touching.
 8 And Mr. Leshner, the vice president,
 9 standing up there, giving these awards out, and
 10 me having him there and Mr. Divilio beside us,
 11 I really felt a part of this. And it was
 12 great.
 13 Mr. Pack, I really appreciate. You've
 14 done it for many years too. And I wish you and
 15 Ms. Price were there just to get the whole
 16 feeling and vibes of that blessing because it
 17 was pretty awesome. And I was really glad to
 18 be a part of it. It's one of the few moments
 19 that I think was very touching. That's for
 20 sure.
 21 And not to get all wishy, but the Lord was


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1 there. That's for sure, you know.
 2 So being that's said, Mr. Leshner, Mr. Vice
 3 President, you want to bring us on home, Buddy?
 4 MR. LESHNER: Yes, indeed.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 6 MR. LESHNER: The Council's next meeting
 7 will be held on Tuesday, April 27th, beginning
 8 at six o'clock p.m. The Council will be
 9 convening in open session at 4:30 p.m. and
 10 immediately adjoining into closed session to
 11 discuss real estate, legal, and personnel
 12 matters, as listed on the statement for closing
 13 that meeting.
 14 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn
 15 this meeting and reconvene as noted?
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. Where we at, Council?
 17 All good?
 18 MS. PRICE: Night-night.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, can you
 20 call the roll.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 3 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 5 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. Ms. Price.
 7 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 9 MR. PACK: Aye.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 11 MR. PACK: Good night.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, Council.
 13 Good job tonight, good job.
 14 (Meeting concluded at: 8:54 p.m.)
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1 STATE OF MARYLAND
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and
 3 for the State of Maryland, County of Anne Arundel,
 4 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot
 5 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me
 6 at the time and place herein set according to law,
 7 was interrogated by counsel.
 8
 9 I further certify that the examination was
 10 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed
 11 from my stenographic notes to the within printed
 12 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription
 13 in a true and accurate manner.
 14
 15 I further certify that the stipulations
 16 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my
 17 presence.
 18
 19 I further certify that I am not of counsel
 20 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,
 21 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way
 interested in the outcome of this action.
 AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 19th
 day of April, 2021, via Webex.

 Diane Houlihan
 Notary Public
 My commission expires September 16, 2021

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