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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

April 16, 2019; 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Corey W. Pack

Chuck F. Callahan

Frank Divilio

Pete Leshner

Laura E. Price

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Hello everyone. If you</p> <p>4 wouldn't mind standing with us for an opening</p> <p>5 prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.</p> <p>6 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>7 MR. PACK: Thank you. Hello everyone.</p> <p>8 Thanks for coming out.</p> <p>9 Council does have an agenda before us.</p> <p>10 Are there any additions, deletions, or</p> <p>11 corrections to the agenda? Hearing none, the</p> <p>12 chair ask that it be accepted with unanimous</p> <p>13 consent.</p> <p>14 We also have disbursements from the 16th</p> <p>15 of April. We had a chance to go through them,</p> <p>16 ask any questions of Ms. Lane, our finance</p> <p>17 officer. Are there any additions, deletions,</p> <p>18 or questions to those disbursements? Hearing</p> <p>19 none, the chair moves that they also be</p> <p>20 accepted with unanimous consent.</p> <p>21 Next item on your agenda, Council, you</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: So moved.</p> <p>2 MR. LESHHER: Second.</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Callahan, seconded</p> <p>4 by Mr. Leshher. Any comment or any further</p> <p>5 discussion on the minutes?</p> <p>6 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call</p> <p>7 your roll.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>11 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>15 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.</p> <p>17 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>18 MR. PACK: And Council, next on your</p> <p>19 agenda, I don't see Ms. Langrell here with us.</p> <p>20 MS. COLBOURNE: We're here for the</p> <p>21 proclamation. She couldn't make it tonight.</p>
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<p>1 have minutes from our annual meeting supporting</p> <p>2 the counties regarding Chesapeake College</p> <p>3 budget of April 4th. I believe Mr. Callahan</p> <p>4 attended that along with county manager,</p> <p>5 Mr. Hollis. We do have those minutes before</p> <p>6 us.</p> <p>7 Mr. Callahan, do you or Mr. Hollis have</p> <p>8 any comment for Council?</p> <p>9 MR. HOLLIS: I will simply say I was the</p> <p>10 author of the minutes. So they're both</p> <p>11 riveting and highly accurate.</p> <p>12 But other than that, I'd ask Mr. Callahan</p> <p>13 to vouch for their being correct and able to be</p> <p>14 acted on tonight.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Absolutely.</p> <p>16 MR. PACK: Okay. Enough said. Council,</p> <p>17 you do have the minutes in front of us. We do</p> <p>18 have Mr. Hollis' comments and Mr. Callahan's</p> <p>19 confirmation the minutes are accurate as</p> <p>20 introduced. Is there a motion to accept the</p> <p>21 minutes as printed?</p>	<p>1 MR. PACK: There's also a presentation</p> <p>2 also from For All Seasons. So are you --</p> <p>3 MS. COLBOURNE: We'll just kind of do a</p> <p>4 combination.</p> <p>5 MR. PACK: Are you going to --</p> <p>6 MS. COLBOURNE: For the proclamation. Yes.</p> <p>7 MR. PACK: But not for the presentation?</p> <p>8 No, okay.</p> <p>9 So Council, I'm going to ask that we move</p> <p>10 past item five and item six on your agenda and</p> <p>11 hold that over and see if she can make it here</p> <p>12 shortly.</p> <p>13 Let's move down to item number seven,</p> <p>14 then. This is a presentation of the fourth</p> <p>15 annual Chesapeake Children's Book Festival,</p> <p>16 which is going to take place on June the 8th.</p> <p>17 We have with us Mr. Tim Young. Tim, good</p> <p>18 to see you again.</p> <p>19 MR. YOUNG: Good seeing you.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: And also our librarian is here</p> <p>21 with us as well. Good to see you.</p>

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<p>1 MR. YOUNG: Good evening.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Just one moment, Tim. I guess</p> <p>3 she felt that she should be able to come up.</p> <p>4 MR. HOLLIS: They're free to come up for</p> <p>5 the proclamation, if you'd like to go ahead</p> <p>6 with that. There won't be everyone else</p> <p>7 coming, Mr. Pack.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: Thank you very much,</p> <p>9 Mr. Hollis.</p> <p>10 Tim, the floor is yours, sir.</p> <p>11 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. First off, I want</p> <p>12 to thank the County Council for their support</p> <p>13 for the third annual Chesapeake Children's Book</p> <p>14 Festival, which was last year.</p> <p>15 Four years ago, five years ago, Marie</p> <p>16 Uren and I talked about the possibility of</p> <p>17 having a children's book festival here in town.</p> <p>18 We approached the library about their interest</p> <p>19 in working with us on this event, and they said</p> <p>20 yes.</p> <p>21 Since then, we've had three highly</p>	<p>1 summer. Jonathan Roth Gualu, who lives in</p> <p>2 Baltimore and is a recent graduate of MICA and</p> <p>3 now has two published books and a number of</p> <p>4 others in the works.</p> <p>5 We also, I'm very excited personally, that</p> <p>6 we have Doreen Cronin this summer, who is the</p> <p>7 author of Click Clack Moo. And if any of you</p> <p>8 have children from the last decade, you're</p> <p>9 probably familiar with that book. It's called</p> <p>10 a Caldecott honor book. And I'm excited that</p> <p>11 she's agreed to come.</p> <p>12 Along with the library, our partners are</p> <p>13 The Judy Center, the University of Maryland</p> <p>14 extension master gardeners, the Midshore</p> <p>15 Community Foundation, Shore United Bank,</p> <p>16 Friends of Talbot County Free Library, Maryland</p> <p>17 529, and the Imagination Library.</p> <p>18 And this year, in keeping with our theme,</p> <p>19 we have Storm Troopers from Star Wars coming as</p> <p>20 part of the 501st Legion to entertain the</p> <p>21 children who will be present.</p>
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<p>1 successful events. And we are going to have</p> <p>2 the fourth one this summer on June 8th.</p> <p>3 Down here, I have the poster for this</p> <p>4 year's event. In keeping with the theme of the</p> <p>5 summer reading program for the Talbot County</p> <p>6 Free Library, it is a universe of stories. And</p> <p>7 so we have kind of a space theme on our poster</p> <p>8 with our crab character that we've had on many</p> <p>9 of our posters.</p> <p>10 And so we're also this year honoring Susan</p> <p>11 Kehoe, who was our fundraiser last year.</p> <p>12 Sadly, she passed away at the end of the</p> <p>13 summer. And so we're honoring her on all of</p> <p>14 our materials, and we'll have information on</p> <p>15 our website and at the festival.</p> <p>16 So this year we have 25 authors coming in</p> <p>17 from all over the place. We've had authors in</p> <p>18 the past from as far away as Los Angeles and</p> <p>19 Boston and Syracuse, New York, come down.</p> <p>20 We have authors from Maryland, Laura Gell,</p> <p>21 who is premiering three brand new books this</p>	<p>1 So I wanted to thank the Council</p> <p>2 personally from all of us. So last year, you</p> <p>3 donated to our festival, and I was very happy</p> <p>4 about that. But it came too late to put it on</p> <p>5 the poster. So I made sure that you're on the</p> <p>6 poster this year, the county logo, whether you</p> <p>7 give or not. We hope you will. But I framed</p> <p>8 last year's poster and put a thank you from us.</p> <p>9 The Chesapeake Children's Book Festival,</p> <p>10 sincerely thanks the Talbot County Council for</p> <p>11 their generous support. Hang this wherever</p> <p>12 you'd like.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: Thank you, Tim. Appreciate</p> <p>14 that.</p> <p>15 And Dana, let me hear from you.</p> <p>16 MS. NEWMAN: Sure. I'm only going to say</p> <p>17 a few things.</p> <p>18 Last year we had such a wonderful event.</p> <p>19 We had over 1,800 children and families attend</p> <p>20 the event, and we had it side by side with the</p> <p>21 other festival.</p>

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1 MR. YOUNG: Juneteenth.
 2 MS. NEWMAN: Juneteenth, thank you.
 3 And it made such a great festival. We
 4 really just had a lot of synergy between the
 5 two festivals.
 6 But what really, really speaks to the
 7 importance of this festival is all I did that
 8 day was go around and take pictures. So I
 9 really got to see the interactions between the
 10 children and the authors and between the
 11 children and everybody else who was there.
 12 But what really spoke highly is the joy in
 13 these children's faces when they get to meet an
 14 author, when they get to really realize what
 15 goes into a book. Just those brief
 16 conversations or listening to an author present
 17 their work, talk about their work, the
 18 importance of their work, they really get to
 19 understand what goes into putting a book
 20 together. And I think they start to appreciate
 21 really the work behind the book.

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1 But it sparks their imagination. It gets
 2 them on the pathway to literacy. We have a lot
 3 of little ones that come to this festival. And
 4 it just puts a spark into them and then we see
 5 them throughout the whole summer reading
 6 program. It's not just they come and then
 7 they're done. It really is a pathway into the
 8 school system, into getting their imaginations
 9 going.
 10 So I will just say that that is really the
 11 importance of this festival.
 12 MR. YOUNG: And if I might just add. A
 13 big part, most of our fundraising goes towards
 14 purchasing books ahead of time so that we know
 15 how many we can give away. We give children
 16 who sign up for the summer reading program a
 17 voucher, and they can walk up to any author,
 18 get a signed book, and walk out with it.
 19 In the past, we've given away 350 books at
 20 each of the festivals, and we're going to try
 21 to continue that through this year.

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1 MR. PACK: That's wonderful. I know at
 2 the Talbot County Resource Day last week, I
 3 picked one of these brochures up off the table
 4 with my granddaughter. And she was so excited
 5 about it, kept it on the refrigerator.
 6 So June 8th, she will definitely be there.
 7 MS. NEWMAN: Thank you. That's great.
 8 MR. PACK: Council, anymore comments or
 9 questions about the event?
 10 There should be a lot happening that day.
 11 I'm sure you're going to be advertising. Is
 12 this going to be on the library website?
 13 MS. NEWMAN: Oh, it's going to be all over
 14 the place, yeah. I mean we are really
 15 promoting this heavily.
 16 We see not just in attendance from Talbot
 17 County, but there are people coming here. We
 18 had somebody from the University of Virginia
 19 come back several times. She's in a children's
 20 literature class, and she came back several
 21 times. So we're pulling people from all over

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1 the region, and this is really an economic
 2 driver, too. We're hoping to build this and
 3 really make it something that people come into
 4 town for.
 5 MR. PACK: Excellent.
 6 MR. YOUNG: We promote it on Facebook as
 7 well as locally and set the region for at least
 8 100-mile radius around. And we've had people
 9 as far as Ohio come in specifically.
 10 A whole family came because they planned
 11 to come to the national book festival that week
 12 and the date was changed. And since they were
 13 already coming this way, they came to our
 14 festival instead.
 15 MR. PACK: Did they say how they heard
 16 about the festival?
 17 MR. YOUNG: On Facebook.
 18 MR. PACK: On Facebook, okay.
 19 MR. YOUNG: They're big fans of children's
 20 literature. So some of our search terms that
 21 we use, our hash tags work to get their

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1 attention.

2 MR. PACK: Right. Link them to it, right.

3 MS. NEWMAN: And we spread the word

4 through the eight-county library systems on the

5 Eastern Shore.

6 MR. PACK: Sure, right, yeah.

7 Well, fourth annual. June the 8th. It's

8 going to run from ten a.m. to three p.m. right

9 here at the library.

10 Are we blocking off streets that day?

11 MS. NEWMAN: Not for this one, no.

12 MR. PACK: Not for this one. Okay, great.

13 So any other comments from any members of

14 Council?

15 MR. LESHER: I've been there every year

16 with my family and look forward to this one

17 again.

18 MR. PACK: And we do have some money

19 slated for this year. And we'll see how things

20 go once the budget is introduced, but I just

21 want to share that with you that Council has

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1 once again put money aside for this. So we'll

2 see if it makes it through.

3 MR. YOUNG: Great. Thank you very much.

4 MS. NEWMAN: We really appreciate your

5 support. Thank you.

6 MR. LESHER: Thank you.

7 MR. YOUNG: Who should I give that to?

8 MR. PACK: Mr. Hollis will take that from

9 you.

10 MR. HOLLIS: Thank you very much.

11 MR. LESHER: Appreciate it.

12 MR. PACK: Just put that right there. All

13 right.

14 I'm sorry, is there a proclamation?

15 MR. HOLLIS: Yes.

16 MR. PACK: I'm sorry. Yeah. Let's go

17 back to the proclamation. My understanding is

18 that we have persons here for the proclamation

19 on this is going to be for Sexual Assault

20 Awareness Week, which is taking place in the

21 month of April.

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1 I don't have a list of who is here.

2 SPEAKER: Lots of people.

3 MR. PACK: Well, if you're here for the

4 proclamation, please come up. And whoever your

5 spokesperson is, if you wouldn't mind

6 introducing yourself to Council, we appreciate

7 it.

8 MS. FLAGLER: Where am I going?

9 MR. PACK: Have a seat, please.

10 MS. FLAGLER: I can sit on this.

11 MR. PACK: We want to hear a little bit

12 about what is happening before the proclamation

13 is read. Introduce yourself to the audience.

14 MS. FLAGLER: I'm Diane Flagler. I'm on

15 the board. I'm not speaking. She is.

16 MR. PACK: Which board are you on?

17 MS. FLAGLER: Behavioral Health and Rape

18 Crisis Center at For All Seasons.

19 MR. PACK: Great. Thank you.

20 MS. COLBOURNE: And I'm Stella Lee Colbourne.

21 I'm director for the sexual assault programming

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1 at For All Seasons for the rape crisis center.

2 MR. PACK: Thank you. You want to

3 introduce your other ladies here.

4 MS. COLBOURNE: Oh, I'm sorry.

5 MR. PACK: That's okay.

6 MS. COLBOURNE: You want to introduce.

7 MS. GARCIA: I'm Ivy Garcia. I'm director

8 of victim services at the Rape Crisis Center.

9 MS. BATSON: Erica Batson. I'm the

10 executive assistant at For All Seasons.

11 MS. BODEN: Rashanda Boden, victim

12 advocate for the Rape Crisis Center.

13 MR. PACK: Ladies, thank you for being

14 with us. So tell us about the Sexual Assault

15 Awareness Month.

16 MS. COLBOURNE: So we've got a lot of things

17 we've been doing. We're doing proclamations in

18 all five counties.

19 Our big thing is we're doing Denim Day.

20 And you guys have graciously allowed us to use

21 the court house lawn next week at noon. That

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1 we're encouraging everyone to come out to meet
 2 at the court house. It has to do with a ruling
 3 that happened in 1999 in Italy about a young
 4 lady that was raped. And the ruling was
 5 overturned that she had to help the
 6 participation of being raped because her jeans
 7 were tight. So they started a whole
 8 international organization around that.
 9 So we're actually trying to encourage as
 10 many people to come out. We're going to have
 11 Rita's Ice, we're going to do some raffling.
 12 We've got Addie Eckardt is coming to give us a
 13 citation, and Governor Hogan is going to send a
 14 proclamation for us, and mayor of Easton is
 15 going to give us a proclamation.
 16 MR. PACK: And what date is that again?
 17 MS. COLBOURNE: That is next Wednesday at
 18 noon. 24th, I'm sorry, at noon. Noon to one.
 19 And we're giving away T-shirts as well.
 20 We were hoping to have one for you guys tonight
 21 because we want you to wear those next week.

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1 And so that's one of our big events that we're
 2 having.
 3 We do this every day. So it's just an
 4 opportunity to make more awareness in the
 5 community, and we're hoping next year that
 6 maybe we can expand this one day into the other
 7 counties as well.
 8 MR. PACK: Will there be any speakers that
 9 will be --
 10 MS. COLBOURNE: Yeah. Don McPherson will be
 11 there. He is actually working with us with the
 12 bystander program. Like I said, Addie Eckardt
 13 is going to speak, the mayor is going to speak,
 14 and of course Beth Anne will kick off the event
 15 for us. And it's just really kind of getting
 16 together and collaborating and just showing the
 17 support of the community.
 18 MR. PACK: Will anyone from our law
 19 enforcement, our State's attorney be there?
 20 MS. COLBOURNE: Yes. State's attorney, Joe
 21 Gamble will be there. We've invited all the

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1 state agencies, law enforcement, State Police.
 2 Is your husband coming? Her husband is
 3 Maryland State Police. He'll be there,
 4 Mr. Garcia, Lieutenant Garcia.
 5 We hope y'all can come out and join us.
 6 MR. PACK: So Council, that's going to
 7 take place here on the lawn here in front of
 8 court house on the 24th of April.
 9 MS. COLBOURNE: Yes.
 10 MR. PACK: From noon to one p.m. Going to
 11 have speakers.
 12 MS. COLBOURNE: Yes.
 13 MR. PACK: And T-shirts.
 14 MS. COLBOURNE: Free Rita's Ice. She's
 15 making a special flavor for us. It's going to
 16 be teal color.
 17 MR. PACK: Is that the color for?
 18 MS. COLBOURNE: Sexual Assault Awareness
 19 Month, yes.
 20 MR. PACK: I didn't know that.
 21 MS. COLBOURNE: And thank you, Andy, for

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1 allowing us to do that.
 2 MR. HOLLIS: Council.
 3 MS. COLBOURNE: Thank the Council, yes.
 4 MR. PACK: Anyone else wish to say
 5 anything?
 6 MS. FLAGLER: Do you have a proclamation
 7 that talks about sexual awareness?
 8 MR. PACK: That we do have. But did you
 9 want to say anything further about the event or
 10 events that are taking place during the month?
 11 MS. FLAGLER: No. I'm just saying I went
 12 to another --
 13 MR. PACK: We're going to move this right
 14 along quicker then.
 15 With that being said.
 16 MS. COLBOURNE: They put me on the hot seat.
 17 MS. FLAGLER: I went to another county for
 18 a proclamation, and they read parts of the
 19 proclamation to make people aware of the
 20 reoccurrence of sexual.
 21 MR. PACK: We're going to do one better.

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1 We're going to read the whole thing.
 2 MS. FLAGLER: You go right ahead.
 3 MR. PACK: Yes, we are.
 4 Madam Secretary, will you please read the
 5 proclamation.
 6 SECRETARY: Sexual Assault Awareness
 7 Month, April 2019.
 8 Whereas, sexual assault is an intolerant
 9 violent crime and a serious public health issue
 10 that affects millions of individuals each year.
 11 And whereas, rape, sexual assault, and
 12 sexual harassment harm our community and can
 13 lead to long-term physical and psychological
 14 health problems, including chronic pain,
 15 headaches, anxiety, post-traumatic stress
 16 disorder, and sexually transmitted diseases.
 17 And whereas, Sexual Assault Awareness
 18 Month calls attention to the fact that sexual
 19 violence is widespread and impacts families,
 20 homes, schools, and workplaces in our community
 21 on a daily basis.

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1 And whereas, child sexual abuse prevention
 2 must be a priority to confront the reality that
 3 one in six boys and one in four girls will
 4 experience a sexual assault before age 18. And
 5 that youth ages 12 to 17 are two and a half
 6 times more likely to be victims of rape or
 7 sexual assault.
 8 And whereas, on campuses one in five women
 9 and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted during
 10 their time in college. And one in five women
 11 and one in 71 men will be raped at some point
 12 in their lives.
 13 And whereas, we must work together to
 14 educate our community about sexual violence and
 15 its prevention, support survivors, speak out
 16 against harmful attitudes and actions and take
 17 action to create a safer environment for all.
 18 And whereas, working to prevent sexual
 19 assault in our communities is the best gift we
 20 can give to survivors, and prevention is
 21 possible when everyone gets involved.

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1 And whereas, Talbot County supports the
 2 experts who work to identify, decrease, and
 3 prevent sexual violence and is dedicated to
 4 providing services and alternative avenues for
 5 survivors to seek proper care and treatment.
 6 And whereas, Sexual Assault Awareness
 7 Month is an opportunity to stand with sexual
 8 assault survivors, to celebrate progress in
 9 combating these crimes, and to recommit to
 10 reducing sexual violence in Talbot County.
 11 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of
 12 Talbot County, do hereby recognize April 2019
 13 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Talbot
 14 County and call this observance to the
 15 attention of our citizens.
 16 Given under our hands in the great seal of
 17 Talbot County this 16th day of April in the
 18 year of our Lord 2019.
 19 MR. PACK: Thank you, Madam Secretary.
 20 The chair would ask for a motion to accept
 21 the proclamation.

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1 MS. PRICE: So moved.
 2 MR. PACK: By Ms. Price.
 3 MR. LESHER: Second.
 4 MR. PACK: Second by Mr. Leshler. Any
 5 further comment?
 6 Let me just say before I call for the vote
 7 that I know we had some moments of levity here
 8 just a while ago, but this is a very serious
 9 subject and a subject that this Council takes
 10 as an important measure. And we support you in
 11 your campaign wholeheartedly.
 12 In my prior employment with the State, we,
 13 as part of parole and probation, always took
 14 time to work with victims of crime, sexual
 15 assault and other violent crimes. And I know
 16 in working with those victims how vulnerable
 17 they are, even after the offense. And one
 18 thing we always tried to do is to advocate for
 19 them and make sure that they weren't being
 20 victimized a second time through the system, if
 21 you would.

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1 So we certainly applaud you in your
 2 efforts, and we are with you as go forth
 3 recognizing victims of crime of sexual assault
 4 and how to help them get over the healing
 5 process that's involved with that and live
 6 productive lives in our community.
 7 So we thank you, ladies, very much for
 8 being with us.
 9 MS. FLAGLER: Thank you.
 10 MS. COLBOURNE: Thank you so much.
 11 MR. PACK: If there's no further comment
 12 from Council members, Madam Secretary, please
 13 call your roll.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 15 MR. PACK: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 17 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 21 MS. PRICE: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
 2 MR. LESHES: Aye.
 3 MR. PACK: And we're going to invite you
 4 all to come to the front of the podium.
 5 Ms. Price is going to come down to join you to
 6 present the proclamation to you all.
 7 MS. FLAGLER: I'm not supposed to be the
 8 leader here.
 9 MS. PRICE: Good to see you.
 10 Well, thank you for working on what is a
 11 very difficult subject and helping people
 12 through a very traumatic time in their lives.
 13 We thank you very much.
 14 MS. COLBOURNE: Thank you.
 15 MS. FLAGLER: Wow. That was 42 pictures
 16 and they'll all be in your mailboxes tomorrow.
 17 MS. PRICE: Thank you.
 18 MR. PACK: Thank you for what you're
 19 doing.
 20 MS. FLAGLER: Thank you so much.
 21 MR. PACK: Council, next up, introduction

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1 of legislation. This is Bill 1387. This is a
 2 bill on the 2018-2019 annual budget and
 3 appropriation ordinance.
 4 We have with us our fiscal officer,
 5 Ms. Lane, and also Alex is here with us. Good
 6 to see you both.
 7 MS. LANE: Thank you.
 8 MR. PACK: Before you get started, I'm
 9 going to ask Madam Secretary to read the title
 10 of the bill.
 11 SECRETARY: Bill Number 14 -- I'm sorry.
 12 A bill to amend Bill Number 1387, the 2018-2019
 13 annual budget and appropriation ordinance, to
 14 make additional appropriations from
 15 unanticipated revenues to certain departments
 16 in the current expense budget, to amend the
 17 current expense budget through fourth quarter
 18 transfers and supplementary appropriations.
 19 MR. PACK: Thank you, Madam Secretary.
 20 Ms. Lane, I'll turn it over to you for
 21 those changes.

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1 MS. LANE: Thank you. Good evening,
 2 Council.
 3 This bill is to amend Bill Number 1387,
 4 which is our current budget that we're
 5 operating on in this fiscal year that ends
 6 June 30, 2019. Section 615 of the Talbot
 7 County Charter authorizes the County Council to
 8 make transfers between departments and agencies
 9 only in the last quarter of the fiscal year,
 10 which is why I'm coming to you now.
 11 The proposed amendments are as follows,
 12 and I will read them into the record. All of
 13 these are from the appropriation budget of the
 14 general fund.
 15 This bill will amend the State's Attorney
 16 capital outlay line item from zero to \$2,540,
 17 an increase of \$2,540.
 18 In the Finance Office, it will amend the
 19 operating expense line item from \$288,100 to
 20 \$272,100, a decrease of \$16,000.
 21 In the Assessment Office Department, it

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<p>1 will amend the operating appropriation line</p> <p>2 item from \$275,000 to \$164,944, a decrease of</p> <p>3 \$110,056.</p> <p>4 Planning and Zoning, it will amend the</p> <p>5 capital outlay line item from zero to \$24,950,</p> <p>6 an increase of \$24,950.</p> <p>7 In the county building maintenance, it</p> <p>8 will amend the capital outlay line item from</p> <p>9 \$85,500 to \$99,395, an increase of \$13,895.</p> <p>10 Information Technology Department, the</p> <p>11 capital outlay line item will be amended from</p> <p>12 \$122,350 to \$128,000, an increase of \$5,650.</p> <p>13 In the Office of the Sheriff, the capital</p> <p>14 outlay line item will be amended from \$241,140</p> <p>15 to \$259,140, an increase of \$18,000.</p> <p>16 In the Emergency Services Department, the</p> <p>17 capital outlay line item will be amended from</p> <p>18 \$132,578 to \$241,578, an increase of \$109,000.</p> <p>19 The Emergency Management Department</p> <p>20 capital outlay line item will be amended from</p> <p>21 \$22,069 to \$145,575, an increase of \$123,506.</p>	<p>1 In library administration, the capital</p> <p>2 outlay line item will be amended from \$9,541 to</p> <p>3 \$31,492, an increase of \$21,951.</p> <p>4 Reserve for contingencies will be amended</p> <p>5 from 600,000 to 75,000, a decrease of \$525,000.</p> <p>6 Miscellaneous will be amended from</p> <p>7 \$307,111 to \$207,000, a decrease of \$100,111.</p> <p>8 The total changes of these items will</p> <p>9 change the appropriation budget from, of these</p> <p>10 line items which total \$5,856,958, to</p> <p>11 4 million.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Yes.</p> <p>13 MS. LANE: Sorry. Let me read that all</p> <p>14 over again.</p> <p>15 The total appropriate budget will change</p> <p>16 from, of these line items, will change from</p> <p>17 \$4,856,958 to \$4,856,958. A change of zero.</p> <p>18 As you will note, most of these are in the</p> <p>19 capital outlay line item, and that is to</p> <p>20 purchase equipment that these departments have</p> <p>21 identified as needs. So we are moving funds</p>
Page 31	Page 33
<p>1 In the Roads Department, the operating</p> <p>2 expense line item will be amended from</p> <p>3 \$1,298,850 to \$1,218,850, a decrease of</p> <p>4 \$80,000.</p> <p>5 The capital outlay line item in the Roads</p> <p>6 Department will be amended from \$695,000 to</p> <p>7 \$1,010,500, an increase of \$315,500.</p> <p>8 In the Recycling Solid Waste Department,</p> <p>9 the operating expense line item will be amended</p> <p>10 from \$585,800 to \$756,000, an increase of</p> <p>11 \$170,200.</p> <p>12 Parks and Recreation Department, the</p> <p>13 operating expense line item will be amended</p> <p>14 from \$156,419 to \$166,419, an increase of</p> <p>15 \$10,000.</p> <p>16 In the same department, the capital outlay</p> <p>17 line item will be amended from \$37,500 to</p> <p>18 \$47,475, an increase of \$9,975.</p> <p>19 In the Public Landings Department, the</p> <p>20 capital outlay line item will be amended from</p> <p>21 zero to \$6,000, an increase of \$6,000.</p>	<p>1 around where we have available funds to</p> <p>2 purchase some of these items in the last</p> <p>3 quarter of the fiscal year.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Council, we went through all of</p> <p>5 these capital expenditures previously with</p> <p>6 Ms. Lane and Mr. Hollis. I don't assume anyone</p> <p>7 has any additional questions. But if you do,</p> <p>8 please ask Ms. Lane those questions at this</p> <p>9 time.</p> <p>10 Hearing none, the chair would ask for a</p> <p>11 show of hands who wants to introduce this bill</p> <p>12 tonight.</p> <p>13 Madam Secretary, it's introduced by</p> <p>14 Council. A bill number is going to be 1409.</p> <p>15 We'll set this in for public hearing on May the</p> <p>16 7th. That's our first meeting in May.</p> <p>17 It will take place at two p.m.; is that</p> <p>18 correct, Madam Secretary? May 7th, two p.m.?</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Yes.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: So May 7th, two p.m. for those</p> <p>21 who want to come for the public hearing on Bill</p>

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1 1409 for those capital outlay projects.
 2 Thank you very much, Ms. Lane.
 3 MS. LANE: Okay.
 4 MR. PACK: Don't move. Next matter,
 5 Council, you have before you now an act to
 6 establish our 2019-2020 annual budget and
 7 appropriation.
 8 Ms. Lane has a nice slide show for us.
 9 MS. LANE: Okay. This bill will establish
 10 the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020 for
 11 the Talbot County general fund, the capital
 12 projects fund, the development impact fund, the
 13 grants fund, grants and special revenue funds,
 14 the recreation fund, which includes the Talbot
 15 County Community Center and the Hog Neck Golf
 16 Course, the sanitary districts, the Easton
 17 Airport, and the Talbot Family Network.
 18 My comments and the associated charts will
 19 focus primarily on the proposed fiscal year
 20 2020 general fund budget.
 21 The general fund is the general operating

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1 fund of the county. All revenues and
 2 expenditures, except those required to be
 3 accounted for in other funds, are included in
 4 the general fund. Most county taxes and fees
 5 and most county services are included in the
 6 general fund.
 7 As you can see from this slide, the fiscal
 8 2020 general fund totals 91,913,000. And the
 9 current fiscal 2019 general fund budget is
 10 92,000 -- no. \$92,038,750. I hope I made the
 11 first one right. 91,913,000.
 12 MR. PACK: You did say that correctly,
 13 yes.
 14 MS. LANE: Okay. Having trouble with my
 15 numbers tonight.
 16 MR. PACK: That's okay.
 17 MS. LANE: This first slide is just a
 18 general overview of the budget. The County
 19 Council received funding requests for operating
 20 and capital outlay expenditures of \$98,962,440,
 21 which is \$6.9 million more than the current

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1 fiscal 19 budget and \$7 million less than the
 2 proposed 2020 budget. So during this process,
 3 almost \$7 million was reduced from requests
 4 that the county received.
 5 The fiscal 2020 budget reflects a slight
 6 decrease from the current general fund budget.
 7 And this budget is funded in part with revenues
 8 of almost \$5 million from prior year fund
 9 balances.
 10 Great effort was taken in the development
 11 of the budget, which maintains current services
 12 for our citizens while continuing to maintain
 13 two of the lowest tax rates in the state.
 14 Those are property tax and income tax.
 15 MR. HOLLIS: Angela, second bullet is
 16 4 million, right, not 5 million?
 17 MS. LANE: It's 4 million. Did I say
 18 five? I'm sorry, I'm having trouble with
 19 numbers tonight.
 20 In order to fund expenses associated with
 21 the Talbot County Public School System, the

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1 Talbot County Council is proposing to override
 2 the voter imposed property tax revenue cap.
 3 This override is authorized under State law to
 4 fund education expenses only. This budget
 5 proposes to override the tax cap by \$1,345,500,
 6 which correlates to an increase of 1.8 cents in
 7 the real property tax rate.
 8 As you can see, this is a chart of county
 9 property tax rates for all the counties in the
 10 state. Talbot County is the lowest in the
 11 state under this proposed budget. Under the
 12 proposed budget, the county rate will be
 13 63.22 cents, which is approximately 20 cents
 14 lower than the next lowest rate in Worcester
 15 County. And the other county rates are their
 16 current tax rates. There could be changes in
 17 those during their budget process.
 18 And this is our income tax rates for all
 19 the counties. Again, Talbot County at
 20 2.4 percent remains unchanged in this budget,
 21 and we are the second lowest. We have the

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1 second lowest income tax rate in the state.
 2 Only Worcester County is lower.
 3 Now, I want to go through some budget
 4 highlights. Talbot County Public Schools is
 5 the largest segment of our budget. So we will
 6 spend a fair amount of time discussing their
 7 budget components.
 8 The Talbot County Public School's
 9 operating appropriation is \$936,300 above the
 10 required maintenance of effort level.
 11 Maintenance of effort did increase by \$907,897
 12 for fiscal 2020. So this is resulting in a
 13 total operating increase of \$1,844,227 from
 14 fiscal 19 of county funding to the Talbot
 15 County Public School System.
 16 In addition, the county is also funding
 17 \$409,170 for expenditures that are not included
 18 in the maintenance of effort or in the
 19 operating appropriation funding.
 20 In addition, we are funding \$3.7 million
 21 in debt service in the fiscal 2020 budget.

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1 Debt service is increasing by over a million
 2 dollars from the current fiscal year to pay for
 3 half of the annual debt service on the new
 4 elementary school system. The county's share
 5 of that project is \$30 million.
 6 Again, as I had just stated, the county
 7 appropriation increase of \$1,844,227 to the
 8 Talbot County Public School System is a 4.63
 9 increase from the current year county operating
 10 appropriation.
 11 In addition, the Talbot County Public
 12 Schools will receive \$665,518 in State funding
 13 that was added by the State legislature during
 14 their budget session, generally referred to as
 15 the Kirwan funds. And that will also be added
 16 to the \$672,986 of increased State funding that
 17 was included in their budget request.
 18 So the total increase of State funding to
 19 the Talbot County Public School System will be
 20 \$1,138,500. And that's the State component of
 21 their funding for their general operations.

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1 MR. PACK: Can I have that number again,
 2 please?
 3 MS. LANE: The State funding, the increase
 4 is \$1,338,504. That includes the funding that
 5 they had already expected to get and was
 6 included in their budget request plus the
 7 additional Kirwan funding.
 8 And our 2020 capital projects budget
 9 includes \$11 million to be funded by long-term
 10 debt for the Easton Elementary School. And
 11 that is bringing the total county contribution
 12 for the Easton Elementary School up to
 13 \$30 million.
 14 Now we have additional budget highlights
 15 from the rest of the county. There are no
 16 change in the number of full-time positions in
 17 the county departments. That is significant.
 18 It's the first year in several years that we
 19 haven't added any additional full-time
 20 positions.
 21 There are salary scale adjustments for the

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1 sheriff's deputies and correctional officers to
 2 address recruitment and retention issues. This
 3 budget includes the hiring of a part-time
 4 housing coordinator. We did have a housing
 5 position many years ago, and that was
 6 eliminated from our budget I believe back in
 7 fiscal ten or 11. So we are adding a part-time
 8 position to start addressing some of those
 9 needs.
 10 The budget does include a step increase
 11 and a one percent cost of living adjustment for
 12 all full-time county employees.
 13 This slide shows the history of the
 14 education supplemental. As I had stated
 15 earlier, the county can override the county tax
 16 revenue tax cap for education. These funds do
 17 have to go to the public school system for
 18 their expenses. And this is actually the fifth
 19 year that the county will have used this
 20 provision.
 21 Over the five years, these supplements

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1 have increased tax payer property tax rates by
 2 9.35 cents and have added an additional
 3 \$6.9 million to the Talbot County Public School
 4 budget.
 5 You will notice that the first time we
 6 used this option was in fiscal 13. But since
 7 fiscal 17, the county has used this option in
 8 every budget to provide additional funding to
 9 the Talbot County Public School System.
 10 I will also note that we cannot use this
 11 for debt service. Debt service on county
 12 school buildings is the total responsibility of
 13 the county, and the education supplement cannot
 14 be used to raise any funds to help with that
 15 cost.
 16 This slide is just an overview of the
 17 revenue sources for the county budget by broad
 18 categories. All revenue categories, except
 19 transfer from other funds and prior year fund
 20 balances, are increasing in fiscal 2020. And
 21 again, our total budget is going down slightly.

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1 And this is a graph of the general fund
 2 budget. Property taxes are the largest revenue
 3 source for the county. Property taxes make up
 4 47.5 percent, or 43.6 million, of county
 5 revenues in this budget.
 6 The proposed budget includes a county real
 7 property tax rate of 63.22 cents. This rate is
 8 an increase of 2.61 cents from the current
 9 year, and that 2.61 cents does include the
 10 1.8 cents education supplemental.
 11 The county does continue to grant tax
 12 differentials to the incorporated towns in this
 13 budget. So the county property tax rates
 14 within the municipalities will be less than the
 15 63.22 cents.
 16 The next largest revenue source is income
 17 taxes, which generates 28.5 percent of our
 18 budget, or \$26.5 million. The county income
 19 tax rate is remaining at 2.4 percent of
 20 Maryland taxable income and has not changed in
 21 many, many years. This has been our rate for a

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1 number of years.
 2 The two revenues, property tax and income
 3 tax revenues, account for 76 percent of the
 4 total funding of the county budget. The next
 5 largest revenue source is other local taxes,
 6 which makes up 11.5 percent, or \$10.5 million.
 7 And that's primarily recordation and transfer
 8 tax in that category. This budget, the rest of
 9 the revenues come from federal and State
 10 grants, permits and licensing, and other fees.
 11 Now, this budget does include a transfer
 12 from unexpended funds from prior years of
 13 \$3,963,460.
 14 I do want to point out that in the current
 15 fiscal year, fiscal 19, we had included
 16 \$7,775,000 of unexpended funds from prior
 17 years. Of that amount, 3,570,000 was for
 18 operating expenses in the general fund and
 19 \$4,205,000 was to be transferred to the capital
 20 projects fund for the Easton Elementary School
 21 project. We are going to transfer the

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1 \$4.2 million, in fact, it has been done, for
 2 the Easton Elementary School project.
 3 But based on current revenue and
 4 expenditure projections, I do not believe the
 5 3.6 million will be needed to fund the general
 6 fund operating expenses in the current fiscal
 7 year. So that is part of those funds that will
 8 be going into the next year budget.
 9 And this is an overview of our
 10 expenditures. This is showing major
 11 expenditure categories and the percentages that
 12 they are increasing or decreasing in this
 13 budget. Again, the largest decrease is
 14 obviously the transfer to other funds, but
 15 that's because we aren't transferring
 16 \$4 million to the capital projects fund in
 17 fiscal 2020.
 18 MS. PRICE: And here is a graphic of the
 19 major expenses. The majority of the budget
 20 does go to education. A total of 51.9 percent
 21 of the county's budget goes to education.

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<p>1 29.8 percent, or \$45.8 million, goes to the</p> <p>2 Talbot County Public School, and that does</p> <p>3 include debt service. And 2.1 percent, or</p> <p>4 \$1.9 million, is budgeted for Chesapeake</p> <p>5 College.</p> <p>6 The next largest segment of the</p> <p>7 expenditure budget is public safety. Public</p> <p>8 safety includes the Sheriff's Department, the</p> <p>9 Department of Corrections, volunteer fire</p> <p>10 departments, the Department of Emergency</p> <p>11 Services, which is the 911 Dispatch Center, and</p> <p>12 Emergency Medical Services, which is the county</p> <p>13 funded paramedic and ambulance service which</p> <p>14 provides 24-hour services at five locations in</p> <p>15 the county. Public safety accounts for</p> <p>16 23.4 percent, or \$21.5 million, of the fiscal</p> <p>17 2020 budget.</p> <p>18 This budget does allow for the</p> <p>19 continuation of county services at an adequate</p> <p>20 level for the citizens of the county, as well</p> <p>21 as preserving financial stability of the county</p>	<p>1 emergencies and leaving that rainy day fund</p> <p>2 intact, which is something the Council has</p> <p>3 always made sure that the rainy day fund isn't</p> <p>4 used unless it is a dire, dire emergency.</p> <p>5 We've never used it.</p> <p>6 Pretty much through this point, I've only</p> <p>7 discussed the general fund. I'd like to just</p> <p>8 outline a few of the capital projects fund</p> <p>9 proposed projects. We don't have very many</p> <p>10 this year.</p> <p>11 We are setting aside some land acquisition</p> <p>12 funds. That will be funded through debt</p> <p>13 service. That's really just to start</p> <p>14 addressing future needs of the county. We</p> <p>15 don't have anything specific in mind at this</p> <p>16 point, but it's to allow us to start that</p> <p>17 process and identify potential properties for</p> <p>18 future county needs.</p> <p>19 Then we have some minor projects for the</p> <p>20 Senior Center parking, recycling station for</p> <p>21 the St. Michaels Bay Hundred area, some</p>
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<p>1 going forward.</p> <p>2 This chart shows you our fund balance,</p> <p>3 where we've gone over the past several years.</p> <p>4 As I said earlier, we are including funds from</p> <p>5 our fund balance to balance this budget, but</p> <p>6 this budget is still leaving the full rainy day</p> <p>7 fund intact to be available for fiscal 2021 and</p> <p>8 beyond.</p> <p>9 The rainy day fund is \$12.2 million, which</p> <p>10 is not included in this. That's separate.</p> <p>11 This is just the discretionary balance of our</p> <p>12 fund balance, which we've always allowed this</p> <p>13 to be discretionary for Council use. We've</p> <p>14 always said rainy day fund is only to be used</p> <p>15 in truly dire emergencies.</p> <p>16 But if you look back at the end of fiscal</p> <p>17 13, we had \$6 million of a discretionary fund</p> <p>18 balance. Even with using almost \$4 million in</p> <p>19 the fiscal 2020 budget, we will still have over</p> <p>20 \$10 million available in the discretionary fund</p> <p>21 balance for operations and any other minor</p>	<p>1 additional roadwork at Goldsborough Neck,</p> <p>2 Airport Road. Several dredging projects;</p> <p>3 Knapps Narrows, Dogwood Harbor, and Tongers</p> <p>4 Basin, as well as our regular public landings</p> <p>5 maintenance program is included in this budget.</p> <p>6 And finally, \$11 million for our final segment</p> <p>7 of the Easton Elementary School project. And</p> <p>8 that \$11 million will be funded by debt</p> <p>9 service.</p> <p>10 Up until this point I've discussed what is</p> <p>11 included in the proposed budget. I'd like to</p> <p>12 take a few minutes now to discuss the items</p> <p>13 that are not in the budget because they're a</p> <p>14 long list and they've been on our list for many</p> <p>15 years, most of these items.</p> <p>16 It does not include any additional</p> <p>17 positions for the Sheriff's Office. The</p> <p>18 sheriff, when he made his presentation,</p> <p>19 identified two positions that he felt he needed</p> <p>20 immediately to address the needs of the</p> <p>21 citizens of the county. However, he also</p>

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1 recognized that retaining his current staffing
 2 was a higher priority than expanding the level
 3 of his department. This has been a theme that
 4 has come up year after year. Retention in the
 5 law enforcement area has been very difficult
 6 for this county, and we lose literally hundreds
 7 of thousands of dollars when we have deputies
 8 leave and go to other jurisdictions.

9 The other thing that is not in this is a
 10 25-year retirement system for law enforcement
 11 personnel.

12 We do not have an EMS station for the
 13 northern part of the county to address response
 14 time concerns in that area of the county.
 15 There is not an EMS station relocation of a new
 16 or any EMS station to address response time
 17 concerns in the Bay Hundred area.

18 There is not a new facility for the
 19 Sheriff's Office. There is not a facility for
 20 county storage that is currently located at the
 21 Talbot County Business Center. We know that

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1 the Talbot County Business Center will become
 2 unavailable in the next few years. These items
 3 do need to be addressed in the very, very near
 4 future.

5 This budget does not include any funding
 6 for a new facility for the Health Department.

7 It does not include all of the equipment
 8 requests made by the Roads Department. The
 9 Roads Department in their fiscal 2020 budget
 10 request requested \$2.4 million of equipment.
 11 This budget includes \$435,000 of that request.

12 Again, we are not adding any full-time
 13 county positions. And I think many departments
 14 have identified needs. Most departments did
 15 not even ask because they had already been
 16 advised that it wouldn't be a possibility.

17 It does not include the full year's debt
 18 service for Easton Elementary School. It only
 19 has half a year's debt service. So in fiscal
 20 21, we will have to pick up a full year's debt
 21 service for the Easton Elementary School. And

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1 as I stated earlier, we can't use the education
 2 supplement for that.

3 It does not fully fund the Talbot County
 4 Public Schools budget request.

5 It does not have any -- it is not in any
 6 way acknowledging the impact of the minimum
 7 wage increasing to \$15 over the next few years.
 8 That's something that will have to be addressed
 9 going forward.

10 It does not include any funding for the
 11 replacement of the 40-year-old irrigation
 12 system at the Hog Neck Golf Course, which has
 13 been brought up many times.

14 None of these items on this list are new.
 15 I think it's important that we don't lose sight
 16 of the number of items that we are not
 17 addressing in our budgets due to funding
 18 constraints.

19 Just to recap, public safety is the
 20 highest priority in this budget. We are
 21 providing some additional enhancements to

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1 retain and recruit staff in the public safety
 2 arena, but obviously that's an area of
 3 continuing concern.

4 It does increase funding for the Public
 5 Schools of \$1.8 million and the additional
 6 funding for expenses not included in that
 7 maintenance of effort or in the operating line
 8 item of \$409,000. It does include the first
 9 semi-annual debt service payment of \$1 million
 10 for the new Easton Elementary School.

11 It does not include any full-time county
 12 positions.

13 General fund balance is available, but it
 14 is starting to shrink and it is something that
 15 we need to be conscious of and we need to
 16 develop long-term sustainability plans.

17 There will be two public hearings on this
 18 budget, on May 7th at two p.m. in this meeting
 19 room and at seven p.m. at the Easton High
 20 School cafeteria.

21 These documents will be available on our

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1 website in the next day or two, the budget that
 2 will be introduced and PowerPoint and some
 3 additional budget documents.
 4 MR. PACK: Thank you, Ms. Lane, for your
 5 budget presentation to Council and to the
 6 public.
 7 Any members of Council have any question
 8 of Ms. Lane or any comment on this year's
 9 budget?
 10 MS. PRICE: I do have just a couple of
 11 preliminary comments. To me, it's a little
 12 misleading for the budget to show as almost the
 13 same as last year.
 14 So I do want to point out that last year's
 15 budget really was about \$4 million less because
 16 of the down payment on the school, the
 17 \$4.205,000 that we set aside was a one-time
 18 transfer to pay down the debt service on the
 19 \$30 million school.
 20 So if you really wanted to know what our
 21 operating budget was last year, it was more in

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1 the 87 to \$88 million range. So the increase
 2 this year is about \$4 million if you take out
 3 the down payment on the debt service for the
 4 school.
 5 And while we all agree public safety is
 6 the highest priority, and that's what has
 7 increased. I think when I first came on the
 8 Council, it was probably 16 or 17 percent of
 9 the budget. Now it's 23 percent?
 10 MS. LANE: It's in the 20s.
 11 MS. PRICE: It's up there. It's gone up
 12 quite a bit. And we've done salary scale
 13 adjustment the last couple of years.
 14 The problem is we don't have an ongoing
 15 revenue source to pay for it. So if you notice
 16 that we are using, again, about \$4 million in
 17 unexpended funds, that's a savings account.
 18 That is the discretionary fund balance.
 19 And so while yes, there's 10 million in
 20 there. If you do the math, and we're
 21 overspending by about \$4 million -- now, grant

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1 it, some of it is gotten through the revenue
 2 cap adjustment for the schools, about half or
 3 so since their budget is going up 2 million.
 4 MS. LANE: Two, yeah.
 5 MS. PRICE: \$2.5 million total. Some of
 6 that is done through the tax increase for
 7 education, but we're still overspending by a
 8 couple of million dollars a year.
 9 So that discretionary balance isn't going
 10 to last forever. So when you make permanent
 11 adjustments to salaries, even though our county
 12 employees deserve it, we need to retain them,
 13 it's a scary thing to do when after a couple of
 14 years, we're not going to have a way to
 15 continue to pay for those salary adjustments.
 16 When we do things in capital or capital
 17 outlay, those are decisions we can make from
 18 one year to the next. But the permanent
 19 increases in salaries are very difficult
 20 because they're not sustainable in the long run
 21 because we can't use anything on the property

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1 tax to pay for that.
 2 And as much as I don't like increasing
 3 taxes, Ms. Lane pointed out a couple of times
 4 in the presentation we can't use that education
 5 supplement to pay for the new school.
 6 And I almost wish that we could because
 7 that would make a big difference because you
 8 don't get school projects very often,
 9 especially in a small rural county like that.
 10 They might only happen every 15 or 20 years.
 11 And I'm almost tempted to go to the legislature
 12 and ask and see if that's something that we
 13 could do because we are stuck. We don't have a
 14 way, which is why we put it on the ballot last
 15 year, to pay for the other half of county
 16 government.
 17 I think it's significant that when you add
 18 up all of the education supplements that we
 19 have done over the last six years, it's nearly
 20 \$7 million that we've raised in y'all's taxes.
 21 And for the average homeowner, I think I did

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1 the math, it was 9.35 cents. On a \$350,000
 2 home, that's about \$350 that your taxes have
 3 gone up. That's about a 20 percent increase or
 4 so. That's significant. And it's all for
 5 education. So we have supported it, but we're
 6 still stuck on the other half of county
 7 government, and we can only do this for so
 8 long.
 9 So we really want your feedback. We know
 10 we're going to hear from the schools. We hear
 11 from the schools every year, but we hear from
 12 very little from the public. And we need to
 13 know what you're thinking with this increase.
 14 Do you not want us to use any of the savings
 15 and make some cuts to this budget? And if
 16 you're okay with us using savings, then you
 17 need to recognize that the next time this goes
 18 on the ballot, you need to vote yes to keep it
 19 sustainable.
 20 So this is kind of the test balloon this
 21 year. We either cut the budget and don't use

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1 the savings. But if you let this budget go
 2 through for the second year in a row using
 3 savings, that's not going to happen for very
 4 long. So I really hope that we hear from the
 5 public on subjects other than education this
 6 year.
 7 MR. PACK: Anyone else? Mr. Leshner,
 8 Mr. Divilio, Mr. Callahan, on your budget?
 9 MR. LESHER: Well, this is our first
 10 budget as a new Council, my first one as a new
 11 Council member.
 12 And budgets are an expression of policy,
 13 and this Council has made an important
 14 statement by seeking to treat all staff
 15 equally. A step plus one percent cost of
 16 living adjustment below the rate of inflation.
 17 All staff, including what is being proposed for
 18 the school board to allocate for our sworn
 19 officers, for our emergency personnel, and for
 20 the rest of county staff.
 21 Equal treatment is an important policy

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1 statement, and I stand behind it.
 2 MR. PACK: Thank you, sir.
 3 Mr. Divilio.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Again, this is also my first
 5 budget cycle to go through. It's very eye
 6 opening.
 7 And as Ms. Price said, public input is
 8 very important. Our e-mails are on the
 9 website. Love to hear ideas, recommendations.
 10 We're going to have to get creative over
 11 the next few years to continue down this road.
 12 Anyone with great ideas or any tidbits on
 13 recommendations, I'm open to hearing them.
 14 MR. PACK: It's not your first one.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: No. A lot of things,
 16 though.
 17 I want to commend you guys on hard work
 18 for the last several months, Angela, and your
 19 staff and Andy. And Council, we spent a lot of
 20 time looking at this.
 21 Ms. Price, you're right. There's a lot of

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1 things. This has been tough decisions for us.
 2 The piggy bank, so to speak, rainy day, it's
 3 not going to last forever. We will have to in
 4 the next several years really rely on the
 5 public on trying to help us out.
 6 I think it's very, very important in the
 7 next couple of years that we get the word out
 8 that we're going to need some help on this.
 9 Last time we were close, but we just didn't get
 10 it done.
 11 And we want to be able to fund a lot of
 12 these departments. We want to be able to fund
 13 the school. I come from public school, and
 14 I've been here. I know what it's all about. I
 15 want to be able to fund it.
 16 I'm sure we'll have some people not like
 17 what we've done, but we're doing the best we
 18 can with the funding we have. So we're trying
 19 to spread it around so everybody gets sort of
 20 somewhat what they need.
 21 And to us, public safety is huge.

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1 Ambulance, the sheriff, the correctional. And
 2 there's just so many moving parts to this
 3 budget, we're just trying to make it all work.
 4 But like Ms. Price said, there's going to
 5 come a day after this Kirwan Commission next
 6 year with the school stuff, it's going to be a
 7 big deal with us. So everybody is going to
 8 have to prepare themselves and understand some
 9 of these things that are going to come in the
 10 future for us that we're going to have no
 11 choice to do some cutting.
 12 So I really appreciate the hard work, and
 13 I hope everybody understands the hard work that
 14 we've done. I hope everybody appreciates us
 15 going out on a limb on a \$30 million school
 16 with money that we are trying to find to get.
 17 So there's a lot. When you see this,
 18 there's a lot to it. And it's not just one
 19 thing, it's dozen of things that we've tried to
 20 make work.
 21 And I'm proud to work with this Council.

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1 We've all done a great job. It's been a great
 2 consensus of us working together in the back
 3 room. And I want to commend everybody.
 4 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Callahan.
 5 MS. PRICE: Can I get a clarification on
 6 the definition of maintenance of effort?
 7 MR. PACK: If you would like, sure.
 8 MS. PRICE: Maintenance of effort
 9 terminology I don't think is a very accurate
 10 definition anymore. It used to be maintenance
 11 of effort really was the same exact amount from
 12 year to year to year with the slight up and
 13 down based on student enrollment and the same
 14 per pupil.
 15 This year is the first year now that we
 16 talked about what is called an escalator way
 17 back when this law was passed in 2012. We are
 18 now on the escalator. What I mean by that is
 19 it's a two and a half percent increase now
 20 every year. So it's not maintenance of effort.
 21 It's not the same amount per pupil. It is the

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1 same per pupil now plus two and a half percent
 2 every year, which that alone was about a
 3 million dollars.
 4 So I just want people to understand when
 5 they come and speak to us on maintenance of
 6 effort, maintenance of effort is not the same
 7 thing. It is now an increase every year. And
 8 then on top of that, we have done the education
 9 supplement. So that two and a half percent is
 10 going to be very significant. Surprised it
 11 took this long for it to kick in, but I think
 12 we're probably stuck on it now forever, which
 13 is another million dollars a year, and the only
 14 way to pay for that is an annual tax increase.
 15 So just clarify that terminology now.
 16 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 17 Angela, Alex, again, thank you for all
 18 your hard work in getting this year's budget
 19 together. I know you spent many hours not just
 20 in the back room, as Mr. Callahan alluded to,
 21 but many hours next door in your own offices

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1 getting all the paperwork and going through all
 2 the numbers. So thank you both for that, as
 3 well as Mr. Hollis and Ms. Morris for all their
 4 long nights and dealing with Council.
 5 Scheduling is almost a nightmare during budget
 6 time because you got five of us up here with
 7 five different agendas and five different
 8 things that we have to do. And some of us are
 9 still working second jobs, first jobs. And
 10 just trying to organize all this sometimes is a
 11 nightmare. So thank you all for all your hard
 12 work.
 13 Just touch on a few things. Ms. Price is
 14 correct. The discretionary funds that we use
 15 to supplement this budget and previous budgets
 16 is not a proper way to do business in using
 17 that supplement fund as a resource.
 18 Prior Councils tried to put an item on the
 19 ballot last November. It was not successful.
 20 We were trying to educate our neighbors and
 21 other residents here in the county that the

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1 current revenue cap, property tax cap that is,
 2 is not sustainable for the other 43 percent, 40
 3 something percent of our budget. We can't
 4 continue operating without additional revenue.
 5 I was on this Council back when when we
 6 had to do layoffs. It is not a pretty picture
 7 to go to someone and have them removed from
 8 their position. Certainly don't want to go
 9 back down that road again.
 10 We're going to try again in 2020 to
 11 introduce another ballot question to the
 12 citizens to make an adjustment on that revenue
 13 cap so that we will get the additional funds in
 14 that we need to operate your county government.
 15 Not just on public safety, but Mr. Clarke
 16 is sitting in the front row. Public Works, the
 17 demand on our infrastructure, it's increasing
 18 day by day. This Council put me as their
 19 liaison on the Public Works Advisory Board, and
 20 we have a list of at least 20 projects that we
 21 go through. From anywhere from culverts to new

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1 piping to just the sanitary districts and new
 2 proposals for expansion of our wastewater
 3 treatment plant in the Bay Hundred area.
 4 And these projects cost money. Mr. Clarke
 5 has done a yeoman's job in finding grant funds,
 6 but even they are becoming scarce. And these
 7 infrastructure projects are important from a
 8 public safety standpoint, also from a public
 9 health standpoint because you have to get items
 10 done and you have to get materials moved from
 11 one part of the system to the other part of the
 12 system. So not just from the public safety
 13 standpoint does this Council need additional
 14 funding, but also from the public works
 15 standpoint.
 16 You heard that we weren't able to fund
 17 Mr. Edwards' full request from the Roads
 18 Department. Again, the number of roadways we
 19 have here in the county that need to be paved
 20 or graded or the substructure of those roadways
 21 have to be stripped away and recompact, they

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1 take money, they take material, they take man
 2 hours. So even from that department,
 3 additional funds are going to be needed.
 4 So we're trying to keep the other
 5 50 percent of this county funded with the
 6 available finances that we have. We can't
 7 continue going into our discretionary fund. We
 8 try to be very careful in doing that. Ms. Lane
 9 is a very good steward of making sure that we
 10 only take out what we need to make the budget
 11 balance as best we can.
 12 But we're going to need your help. I
 13 think you heard it from Mr. Callahan, you heard
 14 it from Ms. Price. We're going to need your
 15 help to put the word out to your fellow
 16 citizens to look seriously at the ballot
 17 question when it comes about in 2020.
 18 I think this budget goes a long way in
 19 addressing the requests of our department
 20 heads, Mr. Hollis and his department. We
 21 couldn't give everybody everything they wanted,

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1 but we tried to come pretty close in addressing
 2 those most crucial needs in county government.
 3 So to this Council, new members of the
 4 Council and most senior members, I thank you
 5 for your hard work in getting this done. I
 6 think it's a budget you can be proud of. It's
 7 not a perfect budget by any stretch of the
 8 imagination, but I think it does address all
 9 those crucial needs in those departments. And
 10 I'm very satisfied with it at this point.
 11 Of course, we do have several public
 12 hearings that we're going to go through. As
 13 previously, we sometimes discuss those comments
 14 that come back from the public. There may be
 15 some adjustments, there may be some movement of
 16 shifting around of funds. And we'll see how
 17 that goes during the public hearing process.
 18 So at this time, Council, if there's no
 19 additional comment, Madam Secretary, did I have
 20 you read -- you read this already. You did
 21 not. I didn't think so. See, I'm on the ball

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1 today.

2 Madam Secretary, would you please read the

3 title of the appropriation.

4 SECRETARY: An act to establish the

5 2019-2020 annual budget and appropriation

6 ordinance.

7 MR. PACK: Thank you, Madam Secretary.

8 The matter has been read for your hearing,

9 Council. Any additional comment? Hearing

10 none, I will ask by a show of hands of those

11 members of Council wish to introduce this at

12 this time.

13 Madam Secretary, it's going to be

14 introduced by Mr. Divilio, Mr. Leshner,

15 Mr. Callahan, and myself.

16 The public hearings on this -- I'm sorry.

17 The bill number will be 1410, Ms. Lane. 1410

18 is the bill number.

19 We're going to have a public hearing as

20 noted on your slide. Two p.m. hearing. The

21 date is, I'm sorry?

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1 MS. LANE: May 7th.

2 MR. PACK: Thank you. May 7th two p.m.

3 here in the Bradley Room. And then we're going

4 to go at seven p.m. over at Easton cafeteria,

5 Easton High School cafeteria.

6 No other questions or comment, okay.

7 MS. PRICE: The only thing I'll say is

8 they are not separate budget hearings. It's

9 not like you come here at two o'clock to speak

10 on half the budget and you go to the high

11 school to speak on the education budget. I'm

12 going to beg Christina over there to put in

13 this article that we need to hear from people

14 on the other half of the county budget. And

15 either of those budget hearings you can come

16 to, either two o'clock or seven o'clock.

17 Seven o'clock is not reserved just for

18 education.

19 MR. PACK: That has always been the case

20 and so --

21 MS. PRICE: It turns out that way.

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1 MR. PACK: Well, always the case that it

2 is the budget presentation. Same presentation

3 from Ms. Lane at two o'clock that you're going

4 to hear at seven o'clock. You can speak about

5 any portions or parts of that budget you wish

6 to speak about at two p.m. and you can come

7 back and say the same thing at seven o'clock.

8 It's your prerogative.

9 Thank you very much, Ms. Lane. Alex,

10 thank you very much.

11 MS. LANE: Thank you.

12 MR. PACK: Okay. Ms. Verdery is making

13 her way to the table. Council, next matter you

14 have before you is a public hearing on

15 Resolution 271.

16 Madam Secretary, would you please read

17 that title.

18 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 271. A

19 resolution to adopt rules of procedure

20 governing proceedings of the Talbot County

21 Short-term Rental Review Board.

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1 MR. PACK: Ms. Verdery, good to see you.

2 I'll turn it over to you at this time. And

3 coming to the table also is our short-term

4 rental chairperson.

5 MS. VERDERY: I just want to note before

6 the public hearing opens up that the Short-term

7 Rental Review Board rules of procedures are the

8 basic rules of procedures that lay out the

9 meeting rules and how they are to conduct their

10 meetings, how they will make their decisions,

11 how they'll issue the license, how complaints

12 are handled, the appeals proceedings and how

13 the officers are elected and appointed.

14 These are the rules of procedures that

15 were basically put together using the

16 procedures that the Planning Commission and the

17 Board of Appeals use for their rules.

18 Since this is a brand new board, we have

19 put together the basic package associated with

20 rules of procedures. The final rule in this

21 group of rules and procedures is the ability

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1 for the board to come back to you if there are
 2 new things or amendments that they want to
 3 propose. So as we learn from this proceedings
 4 and they have an opportunity to go through the
 5 process, there may be things that they want to
 6 tweak or change or that they learn from, and
 7 they want to have the opportunity to come back
 8 and request that the Council consider some
 9 further amendments to their rules.

10 But at this particular time, we are asking
 11 the Council to consider these particular rules
 12 and procedures that lay out the basic rules for
 13 the Short-term Rental Review Board as a new
 14 board.

15 MR. PACK: Thank you, Ms. Verdery.

16 SPEAKER: I would second those comments
 17 and statement and just say to you that the
 18 Short-term Rental Review Board has actively
 19 considered the proper procedures, spent some
 20 time on them, spent some time with staff, spent
 21 some time with the legal staff of the county to

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1 make sure that we've got things right. They
 2 know more than we know about these kind of
 3 things.

4 So what you have before you is everyone's
 5 best effort. And as Mary Kay has said, we
 6 think we've got it right, but we know that
 7 we're going to be facing different situations.
 8 As a matter of fact, as we've gone through the
 9 last set of hearings that we've had, we've
 10 noticed things that we may have to tweak
 11 slightly, change things slightly to make sure
 12 that we're fully transparent, to make sure that
 13 we listen to all citizens, and to make sure
 14 that everybody has a chance to present what
 15 they have to present for their application and
 16 also in rebuttal and get full satisfaction that
 17 they received a good hearing in front of our
 18 review board.

19 So that's the purpose of these rules, and
 20 I commend them to you for your adoption.

21 MR. PACK: Thank you, sir. And thank you

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1 for serving as chairperson on this newly
 2 created commission. First one that this board
 3 jumped in and took after our swearing in. So
 4 thank you very much for serving.

5 Ms. Verdery, you are correct on the last
 6 section, section 14. That this commission is
 7 not just an arbitration commission as they
 8 weigh out the applicant and whether or not the
 9 short-term rental should be approved or not,
 10 but also through the course of time, to also
 11 work as an advisory body.

12 As does the Planning Commission. They
 13 also bring back different changes or things
 14 that they wish to see implemented. They bring
 15 it back to this body for us to consider.

16 So over time, this commission should work
 17 the same way, as an advisory commission back to
 18 the Council for us to look at different ways we
 19 can change the ordinance, if that need be.

20 So if there's nothing else from the two of
 21 you, I'll ask you to stand down and then we'll

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1 go ahead and start our public hearing. Thank
 2 you.

3 SPEAKER: Thank you.

4 MR. PACK: We're going to start our public
 5 hearing. Let me go over the ground rules for
 6 the public hearing. They haven't changed, as
 7 they are in any public hearing that we have
 8 here.

9 We'll swing from left to right. If you
 10 come to the table, please give us your name and
 11 your address. If you're speaking for yourself,
 12 we'll allow you three minutes to speak. If
 13 you're speaking for a group, a recognizable
 14 group, give the name of that organization.
 15 We'll allow you five minutes to speak on that
 16 group's behalf.

17 Mr. Callahan will keep the time for you.
 18 And again, we'll swing from left to right on
 19 Resolution 271.

20 We'll start with the first row here.

21 Anyone wish to be heard? On the second row?

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1 Third row?

2 MS. SEWELL: Hi. My name is Monica

3 Sewell, and I live at 6669 Thornton Road.

4 Thank you very much for allowing me to speak

5 before you this evening.

6 MR. PACK: Thank you.

7 MS. SEWELL: Currently where I live, I

8 have eight short-term rentals within 2,000 feet

9 of my home. Most people this summer will not

10 have one new neighbor. And according to my

11 calculations, if all current eight short-term

12 rentals, if they turn over every three days

13 from the period of Memorial Day to Labor Day, I

14 will have 1,989 --

15 MR. PACK: I'm going to stop you right

16 there for just one moment. This public hearing

17 is on the rules of procedure, not the ordinance

18 on STRs.

19 MS. SEWELL: Well, I would like to get to

20 that point, if I could.

21 MR. PACK: Okay. I just want to --

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1 MS. SEWELL: I just want to lay the

2 baseline first.

3 My point in this is could we please put a

4 cap in the Royal Oak area because otherwise

5 it's going to continue?

6 MR. PACK: Once again, this public hearing

7 in on the rules of procedure of the STRs.

8 MS. SEWELL: Could you please allow the

9 board that you have put in place to have that

10 authorization? Because I'm betting that no one

11 except the few neighbors that are here are

12 going to have a summer like I'm going to have.

13 Please. I'm asking for your help, please.

14 MR. PACK: Okay.

15 MS. SEWELL: Thank you.

16 MR. PACK: Anything further?

17 MS. SEWELL: No. I want you to be aware

18 there's a problem in Royal Oak, there's a big

19 problem in Royal Oak.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 MR. PACK: Thank you. Anyone further on

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1 that row? The next row?

2 Swinging over to the right side, anyone on

3 this side of the room, first, second, or third

4 row? Come on up, please.

5 MR. SHIMCO: My name is Steve Shimko. I

6 reside at 225 Madison Avenue in St. Michaels,

7 Maryland. I just have a couple of comments

8 about the proposed rules of procedures.

9 MR. PACK: Yes, sir.

10 MR. SHIMCO: For the Short-term Rental

11 Review Board.

12 I printed this out a week ago. I assume

13 it's still current.

14 My primary comments have to do with

15 paragraphs two and three under section four,

16 which is voting. There's some wording in there

17 that I feel needs clarification in the sense

18 that the way it's currently worded, it leaves a

19 lot of room for ambiguity and interpretation in

20 what the board can do and cannot do.

21 It mentioned family and family members. I

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1 think that what constitutes a family or a

2 family member needs to be better defined. Is

3 it spouse, is it siblings, is it second

4 cousins, third cousins twice removed? The term

5 family itself is rather ambiguous.

6 The first sentence in the second paragraph

7 says a board member shall only participate in

8 matters before the board. I think shall is the

9 right word to use there. It doesn't give

10 really any wiggle room as far as interpretation

11 goes.

12 But there are some other places in that

13 second paragraph where it says a board member

14 should consult the county Ethics Commission

15 concerning any matters of which the board

16 member is uncertain. And another sentence in

17 the third paragraph says each board member is

18 encouraged to recuse himself or herself from

19 participating in any matters.

20 I think these need to be -- this wording

21 needs to be strengthened so as to eliminate the

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1 possibility for misinterpretation and for abuse
 2 of these the way this is worded now.
 3 Thank you.
 4 MR. PACK: Okay, thank you. I'm just
 5 trying to highlight. So the third paragraph,
 6 mine isn't broken up, each board member is
 7 encouraged. You would like that word
 8 encouraged to be strengthened to a --
 9 MR. SHIMCO: Required or shall.
 10 MR. PACK: Require or shall, okay.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Shall.
 12 MR. SHIMCO: That kind of eliminates a lot
 13 of the possibility for --
 14 MS. PRICE: So the shall is good. The
 15 should should be strengthened and encouraged
 16 should be strengthened.
 17 MR. PACK: And encouraged should be
 18 strengthened.
 19 MR. SHIMCO: Yes. And family member
 20 should be better defined.
 21 MR. PACK: Better defined. Thank you.

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1 Great comments.
 2 MR. SHIMCO: Thank you.
 3 MR. PACK: Next on that row?
 4 MS. ODY: Good evening. My name is Monica
 5 Otte, and I live at 229 Madison Avenue in
 6 St. Michaels.
 7 And I just want to comment on one section
 8 of the proposed rules, and that is section one,
 9 the schedule for the meetings.
 10 The board really has, and as I think
 11 Mr. Pack alluded to, there's really two areas
 12 as I see it. One is considering new
 13 applications, which is I think what the board
 14 has done to date, and the other is going
 15 forward there are going to be complaints. And
 16 the board has jurisdiction under the new code
 17 provisions to consider complaints.
 18 And all the meetings are held at
 19 one o'clock on Thursdays, on weekdays. And
 20 this I think is going to pose a problem, and
 21 perhaps already has, for interested people who

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1 want to appear and speak about either an
 2 application or a complaint if they hold jobs.
 3 It's going to be difficult for them to attend
 4 meetings at one o'clock on Thursdays.
 5 And I did notice that the Planning
 6 Commission rules have a similar section about
 7 scheduling meetings, but the Planning
 8 Commission does have the ability to schedule
 9 meeting at seven o'clock at night. And I would
 10 urge the Council to consider including a
 11 provision that would give the board the ability
 12 to schedule meetings outside of working hours
 13 to make sure that everyone on both sides or all
 14 sides of a short-term application or complaint
 15 issue will have a full opportunity to speak.
 16 Thank you for your consideration.
 17 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 19 MR. PACK: Good comments. Thank you.
 20 MR. LESHAR: Would section two, the
 21 ability to schedule special meetings, cover

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1 that concern for you?
 2 MS. ODY: Well, possibly. I think that it
 3 might. I think it's only two days' notice I
 4 believe. And that might be a problem if people
 5 aren't otherwise aware.
 6 But I can foresee situations, and it may
 7 have occurred already, where neighbors just
 8 aren't able to come or other people who have a
 9 point of view either pro or con. If they're
 10 holding down a job, it's just going to be hard
 11 to get to these meetings.
 12 MR. PACK: Ms. Verdery, I'm going to call
 13 you back.
 14 I'm sorry. Go ahead.
 15 MS. PRICE: So I ask the question. So
 16 some things are going to be more controversial
 17 than others.
 18 And how would they know that they need to
 19 schedule something with more than 48 hours
 20 notice?
 21 MS. ODY: That's a good question. I mean

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1 I think what -- I have been to some of the STR
 2 board meetings. Of course, it's new and things
 3 are evolving. But it seems like in some cases
 4 neighbors in particular are submitting written
 5 comments ahead of time. And so that the board
 6 may know ahead of time that there are five,
 7 six, ten, whatever number of neighbors who are
 8 interested or likely to show up and others
 9 there are not any comments coming in from
 10 interested parties.
 11 MS. PRICE: So if someone were feeling
 12 like they need to submit written comment, maybe
 13 by request, saying I really need to speak on
 14 this in person, however, it precludes me. So
 15 something, whether it's in this particular
 16 ordinance or some type of notification that
 17 somebody needs to speak either pro or con and
 18 cannot make the meeting.
 19 And really being in person, I get it. It
 20 means more than doing something in written
 21 form.

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1 So yeah. The ability for the commission
 2 to be able to say you know what, this
 3 particular STR is in a neighborhood with a lot
 4 more people or whatever and we really need to
 5 change this meeting to seven o'clock.
 6 But I'm not sure how you go about
 7 formulating that. Maybe Mary Kay can help us
 8 with --
 9 MS. ODY: And that might be a way to do
 10 it, too.
 11 I mean the other thing I was thinking of,
 12 and again, I don't believe the board has yet
 13 been asked to consider a complaint. But in a
 14 complaint, I mean it's probably likely that
 15 you're going to have multiple people showing
 16 up, neighbors as well as I'm certain the
 17 property owners are going to want to be there,
 18 the rental --
 19 MS. PRICE: And speaking is way
 20 different --
 21 MR. PACK: I hope they haven't had any

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1 complaints yet.
 2 MS. ODY: It's early, yes.
 3 MR. PACK: The season hasn't even started
 4 yet.
 5 MS. ODY: Yeah, yeah. And of course, we
 6 are discussing it's new. But I mean thinking
 7 that one o'clock on Thursdays has got to be
 8 difficult for people who hold down jobs.
 9 MR. PACK: Right. Well, I do appreciate
 10 that. That's a good comment. Thank you.
 11 MS. ODY: Thank you.
 12 MR. PACK: Anyone else on that row?
 13 Please.
 14 MS. DUPONT: Good evening, all. And thank
 15 you for allowing me to speak. I'm Susan
 16 duPont. Address, 6870 Travelers Rest Circle.
 17 Either my husband or I has attended all
 18 the short-term rental board meetings. And the
 19 first thing I want to do is thank the board
 20 members for their conscientious diligence and
 21 their patience with this startup as they work

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1 to identify their processes and their
 2 authority.
 3 The STR issue, as we all know, is complex
 4 and nuanced and important, and their decisions
 5 will impact our county now, significantly, and
 6 in the future. I admire their dedication, the
 7 time, and care that they have already given to
 8 this.
 9 My question about the procedures is would
 10 someone explain to me in section two the
 11 meaning of special meetings in the context of
 12 STRs?
 13 And I know Monica and Laura brought up the
 14 idea of using that as a way to address a
 15 particular sticky complaint.
 16 My concern about it is how does that
 17 impact the important emphasis that we all have
 18 been placing on more than 48 hours notice and
 19 is that necessary to have that language in
 20 there?
 21 MR. PACK: Ms. duPont, I think you were

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1 right on the point that I was on. I was going
 2 to ask Ms. Verdery do we need to define what a
 3 special meeting is or what would be needed to
 4 call a special meeting. I think you're on the
 5 same point that I'm on.
 6 I'm just trying to think what the board
 7 chair would need to consider to call a special
 8 meeting. I'm looking over your shoulder to the
 9 board chair.
 10 We need -- yeah. I think that's something
 11 we need to maybe define a little bit more.
 12 MS. DUPONT: Okay. Thank you.
 13 MR. PACK: What items have to exist for
 14 such a meeting to be called, is it because
 15 someone can't make it, is it because I guess
 16 you don't have a quorum.
 17 MS. PRICE: Or yeah. It's going to get to
 18 the complaints. That's going to be where
 19 people need to be there in person.
 20 MS. DUPONT: And given the deadlines that
 21 are much tighter, and there are two of them for

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1 notifications of the interested people. It
 2 might be helpful to limit or expand a little
 3 bit from 48 hours.
 4 MS. PRICE: Yeah.
 5 MR. PACK: I agree, I agree, I agree.
 6 Okay.
 7 MS. DUPONT: Thank you.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 9 MR. PACK: We need to probably sit, huddle
 10 back down and go over these comments.
 11 Anyone further?
 12 MS. O'DONNELL: I can just really quickly.
 13 MR. PACK: Yeah.
 14 MS. O'DONNELL: Generally in the
 15 definitions used here, generally on these rules
 16 of procedure what is intended is that a regular
 17 meeting is a meeting held one o'clock on a
 18 Thursday. A special meeting is anything else.
 19 So obviously you could add in provisions
 20 about when you can call a special meeting. But
 21 this, the way it's drafted, is as broad as

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1 possible to interpret what else, what other
 2 kinds of meeting could be held.
 3 And there's nothing in there that says
 4 what happens at a regular meeting. It just
 5 says that the regular meeting is one o'clock on
 6 Thursday.
 7 So just adding that into your thought
 8 process related to this.
 9 MR. PACK: Well, you know, when we call a
 10 special meeting for a legislative item that we
 11 have to consider, we'll call a special
 12 legislative day because we have to address that
 13 particular item.
 14 So as this is a new board and we're trying
 15 to be as transparent with our dealings, I'm
 16 wondering if we need to kind of define what
 17 items have to take place for the chairman to
 18 call a special meeting.
 19 Just a thought. We can talk about it a
 20 little bit more offline and maybe talk with the
 21 board chair as well. Okay.

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1 Anyone else? I know that those guys in
 2 the fifth row are here for another matter, so
 3 we'll go past those guys.
 4 MS. PRICE: But I mean not just the board
 5 chair, but I mean one on one, the STR Rental
 6 Review Board, if you're listening, hear what
 7 we're saying and please pass your thoughts,
 8 what you all think would constitute necessity
 9 for a special meeting more than 48 hours and
 10 please pass that on to either Mary Kay or your
 11 board chairman so we can incorporate their
 12 thoughts as well.
 13 We put them there for a reason.
 14 MR. PACK: Absolutely.
 15 MR. LESHAR: In my experience on other
 16 boards, just providing the flexibility to the
 17 chair simply means that, one, if somebody can't
 18 make that meeting, an applicant or somebody who
 19 is an interested party in the matter, you've
 20 got the flexibility to schedule a special
 21 meeting. Or if there's an urgency, we can't

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1 address that tonight or this afternoon, but we
 2 need to address it before our next regularly
 3 scheduled meeting. Those are typically the two
 4 reasons why you would schedule a special
 5 meeting.
 6 MR. PACK: Right.
 7 MR. LESHER: I think empowering the chair
 8 to have the flexibility to do that is entirely
 9 appropriate here.
 10 MR. PACK: I agree, I agree that the
 11 chair, he needs that power.
 12 MS. PRICE: Why did we pick Thursdays at
 13 one o'clock? That does seem like a terrible
 14 time for anybody to show up. Where did that
 15 one come from?
 16 MR. PACK: That wasn't us. That wasn't
 17 us.
 18 MS. PRICE: It's fitting it around your
 19 crazy schedule; isn't it?
 20 MS. VERDERY: I mean we have not had any
 21 complaints from anyone who has had to come at

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1 one o'clock for an application.
 2 It fits with our schedules with Councils
 3 on Tuesdays and Planning Commissions and Board
 4 of Appeals on Mondays and Wednesdays and with
 5 staff schedules. Thursdays was the best for us
 6 to have meeting dates. Holidays on Mondays
 7 and --
 8 MS. PRICE: I guess we'll see what happens
 9 as we go through the season and people -- let
 10 us know, let the board know if this doesn't
 11 seem to be a good time, if a few hours later in
 12 the day would be better.
 13 MS. VERDERY: Right. We've not had anyone
 14 complain to us that that was inappropriate with
 15 their schedules.
 16 MS. PRICE: Just got started.
 17 MS. VERDERY: At this point.
 18 MR. PACK: It's something to think about.
 19 I mean if the board needs that flexibility to
 20 go later in the day, if you want that power,
 21 then maybe we add that in that you can move a

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1 meeting later in the day if you need it.
 2 So we're trying to make this process as
 3 open to persons to come and attend. But also,
 4 we're not trying to be overly labor some in it
 5 as well. So just food for thought as we try to
 6 help you out with this.
 7 MS. VERDERY: And I think that's another
 8 reason why we wanted to incorporate the special
 9 meetings, whether it was at the applicant's
 10 request or the public's request or whomever
 11 needed to have a meeting at a different time.
 12 It was an opportunity to have flexibility.
 13 MR. PACK: I agree. Again, just me just
 14 speaking out loud is whether those things you
 15 just enumerated should be listed at the bottom,
 16 that a special meeting can be called if a
 17 person can't attend, if the board chair feels
 18 that he needs more information or the board
 19 needs more information. So those kind of
 20 things. That's all. So that we know why the
 21 special meeting is being called.

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1 MS. VERDERY: Okay.
 2 MS. PRICE: Do you have an e-mail list?
 3 Not everybody -- there are obviously
 4 people who are interested that may not be on
 5 the agenda, that may not have a complaint but
 6 are just following this particular process.
 7 Do you have a way for just interested
 8 citizens to sign up to get notifications?
 9 Because we all know that sometimes not
 10 everybody gets the newspaper or they're not
 11 going to go on the website every 48 hours to
 12 check and see if there's a special meeting.
 13 Is there an ability for someone to sign up
 14 for STR notifications or could we do that?
 15 MS. VERDERY: We don't really have that at
 16 this time.
 17 We have people who are following along
 18 very closely. And they're calling us or
 19 checking on the websites, and they are keeping
 20 in communication with us. We're not
 21 necessarily reaching out to them, but they're

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1 following along very closely with us.
 2 MS. PRICE: I'm just trying to figure out
 3 if there's a way that if someone wants to get
 4 on an e-mail list, do we --
 5 MR. PACK: It's not an e-mail list.
 6 Notification of the neighbors within the
 7 applicant's area. So you're not throwing
 8 e-mails out to the entire community.
 9 MS. PRICE: No, not the entire community.
 10 But if someone wanted to sign up for a list
 11 serve, so to speak, for that particular topic,
 12 whether the county has the ability if someone
 13 said if 20 people or two people decide to sign
 14 up, I want to get all the notifications on STRs
 15 if it's a special meeting.
 16 MS. VERDERY: We're keeping our web page
 17 up to date, but we're not sending that out to
 18 anyone when it's updated.
 19 MR. PACK: All right. Thank you,
 20 Ms. Verdery.
 21 I'm going to, Council, leave this public

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1 hearing open through Friday for any written
 2 comment that may come in to Council or to the
 3 board chair, to you, Ms. Verdery. Please pass
 4 those along to us for us to consider.
 5 So at this time I'm not going to close the
 6 public hearing. I'll keep it open through
 7 Friday, the 19th, Good Friday.
 8 And we are closed Good Friday. If you
 9 still send it in on Friday, if you're home and
 10 you're typing and you're sending your e-mails
 11 in to the county manager's office, we'll still
 12 consider those on Friday, although we won't be
 13 here.
 14 MS. PRICE: What is the date of the vote
 15 on this?
 16 MR. PACK: We can pick this up in two
 17 weeks.
 18 MS. PRICE: Two weeks, no.
 19 SECRETARY: It will be either next week,
 20 the 23rd --
 21 MS. PRICE: So I'm asking, because two of

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1 us are going to be out next week, that we do
 2 not vote on this.
 3 SECRETARY: The next time would be the
 4 14th of May.
 5 MR. PACK: Two weeks. Yeah, two weeks.
 6 MS. PRICE: That's okay, then?
 7 SECRETARY: This has no expiration date.
 8 It's a resolution.
 9 MR. PACK: We can do it in two weeks.
 10 We'll keep the -- three weeks, yeah. Three
 11 weeks.
 12 So the public hearing will remain open
 13 until the Friday the 19th, but please send any
 14 comments you have on the rules of procedure, I
 15 just want to stress that, on the rules of
 16 procedure.
 17 I thank you all for your comments tonight.
 18 You pointed out the section and the verbiage
 19 that you wanted us to look at. I really
 20 appreciate that so Council can kind of focus in
 21 on those items as we discuss those. So we

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1 really appreciate that.
 2 So if you are sending in any written
 3 comments, please list whatever section you're
 4 talking about so Council can focus in on those
 5 items.
 6 Thank you, Ms. Verdery.
 7 And next, Council, let me see here, at
 8 number ten Council consideration -- this is
 9 you, okay. Council consideration for matching
 10 funding agreement with Easton Utility
 11 Commission, this Talbot County broadband
 12 project.
 13 We have Ms. Cassandra Vanhooser. I just
 14 was surprised. I didn't know that you were
 15 going to introduce this. I'm sorry. Good to
 16 see you.
 17 MS. VANHOOSER: Good to see you. So Mary,
 18 are you going to -- I'll do it.
 19 MR. PACK: Now, you turn to Mary. You're
 20 here to introduce.
 21 MS. VANHOOSER: Well, thank you very much

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1 for the opportunity to come before you tonight.

2 MR. PACK: And let me introduce

3 Mr. Horner, who is there with you.

4 MS. VANHOOSER: I was introduce him. He's

5 my wing man.

6 MR. PACK: I'm sorry.

7 MS. VANHOOSER: So we have a really

8 exciting project to discuss tonight. And this

9 project, if successful, has the potential to

10 shape the future of Talbot County. So we're

11 delighted to be here tonight to talk about

12 this.

13 Now, the issue before you tonight is

14 you're going to vote on an agreement between

15 Easton Utilities and Talbot County. And if you

16 pass this agreement, if you vote for this

17 agreement, we will submit an application for a

18 USDA grant that will bring broadband to the

19 entire county. So like I said, it's a very

20 exciting project.

21 And we had come to you as a group tonight.

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1 My wing man is John Horner. He's the vice

2 president of operations for Easton Utilities.

3 And we're just really excited.

4 My job is to explain the scope of the

5 project and to explain how we got here and to

6 lay out the steps for you for moving forward.

7 But before I get started, let me introduce

8 my other guest. In addition to John, we have

9 Hugh Grunden, who is the president and CEO of

10 Easton Utilities and you know him well.

11 MR. PACK: Good seeing you.

12 MS. VANHOOSER: We thank him for coming

13 out tonight.

14 MR. PACK: Also sits on our Airport Board

15 as well.

16 MS. VANHOOSER: And sits on the Airport

17 Board.

18 And we have Ted Book, the director of

19 cable and communications at Easton Utilities.

20 And also a very special guest who has to go

21 back to Ellicott City tonight is Rick Gordon,

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1 the director of the Governor's Office for Rural

2 Broadband.

3 And I am pinch hitting tonight for my

4 colleague Mark Cohoon, who is Talbot County's

5 GIS manager, and he could not be here tonight.

6 So I'm here. And I want to be clear that Mark

7 is the lead on this project for Talbot County,

8 John is the lead for Easton Utilities.

9 MR. PACK: Which explains my surprise to

10 see you walk up.

11 MS. VANHOOSER: Which explains your

12 surprise. I am very much a member of the core

13 group that is working on this project, but Mark

14 I guess decided that dental surgery was a

15 little preferable to coming to the Council

16 meeting. So here I am.

17 MS. PRICE: Do you mean someone would

18 rather have a tooth pulled than come in front

19 of us?

20 MS. VANHOOSER: That's right.

21 MR. PACK: I think you better let John

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1 take over from here.

2 MS. VANHOOSER: No, no, no. John is here

3 and Hugh and Ted and Rick to answer any

4 questions that you have and to pull my tail

5 feathers out of the fire if I get stuck.

6 It's often said that the journey of 1,000

7 miles begins with a single step. And the

8 journey to getting broadband for Talbot County

9 citizens has been long, and yet we are still

10 very much in the beginning of this process.

11 You have a complete timeline in your

12 packet, but I wanted to touch on some of the

13 milestones so you can understand how we got to

14 where we are today, so our citizens can

15 understand it.

16 In 2015, Talbot County formed an

17 interdisciplinary task force to decide how to

18 move forward with this issue. We have heard

19 over and over and over again how important high

20 speed Internet access is to our citizens. And

21 not just in our towns, but to every corner of

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1 the county. So we have formed a task force in
 2 2015 to try and work on this problem or this
 3 issue.
 4 In 2017, then we hired a consultant, CTC
 5 Technology and Energy, a company that
 6 specializes in advising local governments on
 7 broadband issues. Now, they came highly
 8 qualified, highly recommended. They were on
 9 the Fiber to the Home Council of the Americas
 10 and also a master contractor for the Maryland
 11 Office of IT. So very well qualified, and they
 12 have been masterful in this process in advising
 13 us on how to move forward.
 14 In July of 2017 with their help, Talbot
 15 County released a request for information, an
 16 RFI. And we were seeking a private sector
 17 partner to help us take broadband to the homes
 18 and businesses and farms of Talbot County.
 19 Those were due September 1, 2017. We got three
 20 submissions to our RFI.
 21 It becomes obvious at this point that this

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1 is going to be a very heavy lift and very
 2 expensive for the county. So this group starts
 3 to look at smaller scale options on what we can
 4 do.
 5 And then something really wonderful
 6 happened. Opportunity and preparation come
 7 together here, intersect on our journey. The
 8 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act is passed
 9 by Congress, which gives \$600 million for loans
 10 and grants to bring rural connectivity. The
 11 project is the Rural eConnectivity Pilot
 12 Program. ReConnect is the short for this. So
 13 now, we're prepared and there are funds to help
 14 us do this.
 15 So at the same time, Talbot County is
 16 getting ready. Of course, the governor of
 17 Maryland understands how important rural
 18 broadband is, and he has formed the Governor's
 19 Office of Rural Broadband, and this was done by
 20 executive order in 2017. And by October, they
 21 have submitted an RFI or released an RFI to

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1 pursue partners to support for this USDA grant.
 2 At the same time, we are beginning to
 3 interview potential partners, including those
 4 three who submitted proposals to our RFI. So
 5 here we go.
 6 So then more really good news. We have
 7 selected Easton Utilities. Now, why Easton
 8 Utilities you may ask. It's very easy.
 9 Experience, performance, and customer service.
 10 This is a company with more than 100 years of
 11 experience in providing utilities to the
 12 residents of Easton and surrounding areas.
 13 They also have a record as a successful
 14 Internet service provider. They also have a
 15 track record of completing projects on time and
 16 within budget, and they've developed a
 17 successful business model for taking Internet
 18 service to outlying areas.
 19 And then, of course, customer service.
 20 Their customer service is second to none. And
 21 when all things are equal, customer service

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1 wins the day. So we feel really confident that
 2 Easton Utilities is a very strong partner.
 3 So Talbot County and Easton Utilities
 4 partnered to respond to the RFI from the State.
 5 And in December 2018, we are awarded the funds
 6 from the State to respond to the USDA ReConnect
 7 Pilot Program grant. So we can spend up to
 8 \$200,000. They've provided up to \$200,000 of
 9 financial support to prepare this application.
 10 Now, here is what you need to know about
 11 this Re-Connect grant. This is a highly
 12 competitive grant. These applications are
 13 going to come in from all over the country. A
 14 lot of rural places are hearing the same things
 15 that we're hearing, people need and want high
 16 speed Internet.
 17 So the two things that are going to
 18 differentiate the successful applicants from
 19 those who are not are the level of partnership
 20 that they can provide. We have a very strong
 21 partnership with Easton Utilities, and we

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1 believe that this sets us apart and we will
 2 score favorably on this level.
 3 Also, they're looking for sustainable
 4 projects. And these are operationally and
 5 financially sustainable projects. So the last
 6 thing we want is to start a project and not be
 7 able to complete it.
 8 So we really feel that we have put
 9 together the strongest possible project team
 10 with Easton Utilities, our highly skilled
 11 motivated Internet service provider, Talbot
 12 County as your public sector partner,
 13 responsible to the citizens of Talbot County
 14 and of course, the Office of Rural Broadband.
 15 I want to introduce our team members as
 16 well. Easton Utilities, of course, we've
 17 talked about Hugh and John and Ted. Steve Osche
 18 is the CFO. Rebecca Saduk is a project
 19 manager. Kelly Simonson and Sharon VanEmburch,
 20 all on the Easton Utilities side. Talbot
 21 County, Andy Hollis, of course, has been a

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1 leader in this for us. Mark Cohoon as well.
 2 And then Tony Kupersmith as legal counsel, and
 3 of course, I am on this team as well.
 4 Now, Office of Rural Broadband. Rick
 5 Gordon, who is here tonight, is really a
 6 credible asset to us. So not only does the
 7 State bring money to this project, but they
 8 have brought personnel as well. And Rick, who
 9 used to work for the USDA, has been an immense
 10 help in getting us to the point where we are
 11 now to apply for this grant. So we can't thank
 12 him enough for his support in this.
 13 So the application process is intense and
 14 prodigious. So in addition to the things we've
 15 already talked about, Ted Book and his team
 16 will design the network. And they must have
 17 their diagram of the project and the project
 18 costs and the build-out ready to go by the time
 19 we submit our application.
 20 Steve Osche, the CFO, is working on a
 21 thorough capital investment workbook. That

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1 includes audited financial returns and a
 2 financial pro forma. And for the environmental
 3 section, in addition to the construction map
 4 that Mark is working on, we will be submitting
 5 an analysis of the market survey we sent to
 6 residential customers in March.
 7 Now, you all saw this and approved it
 8 before it went out, a small booklet that went
 9 out to our residents that had insufficient
 10 service. So we are really pleased to note that
 11 the results have come back really strong for
 12 that, between the 35 and 40 percent range. We
 13 don't have a full analysis of this from CTC
 14 yet, but we expect that by the end of the week.
 15 We will share that when we have that
 16 information.
 17 And of course, we'll also send out
 18 pre-subscription forms to the farms and
 19 businesses. And there are extra points for
 20 farms and businesses on the USDA application
 21 form.

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1 So that's the application process. And
 2 like I said, it's prodigious.
 3 Now, I wanted to make sure that when we're
 4 talking about broadband, that we are all on the
 5 same page. And so the FCC defines broadband as
 6 25 megabits upstream and three downstream. For
 7 the USDA ReConnect program, though, sufficient
 8 access is defined a ten up and one down. So
 9 ten to one.
 10 Only areas with insufficient access in
 11 Talbot County are eligible for this project.
 12 And those are the things that we will be
 13 mapping out and will be part of the network
 14 that Ted is putting together. In Talbot
 15 County, we have about 2,650 total locations
 16 with insufficient access.
 17 So let's talk about the grant itself. So
 18 you can apply for up to \$25 million. Our total
 19 project cost is \$25 million, and that's an
 20 estimate. The grant funds we will be
 21 requesting are \$18.25 million. As with all

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1 grants, you all know that you must provide a
 2 match. So for this grant, this is 75 percent
 3 grant funds, 25 percent match.
 4 If you approve this agreement tonight, you
 5 will be agreeing to partial payment of the
 6 matching funds. So 6.25 million is what would
 7 be required for Talbot County and Easton
 8 Utilities together.
 9 Now, I want to stress this part.
 10 Customers will also be helping with this
 11 build-out, and they will be providing funds in
 12 the form of a contribution in aid of
 13 construction. That doesn't roll off my tongue
 14 as well as it does off of John's. CIAC. But
 15 we want to make clear that customers will be
 16 helping to pay for the build-out on this.
 17 So what we are talking about in terms of
 18 our partnership terms? Well, we're asking for
 19 a \$3 million investment that will be paid out
 20 over six years. No interest to Easton
 21 Utilities. We will be capped at \$3 million,

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1 and we will receive five percent of the revenue
 2 for ten years after the project is completed.
 3 So Easton Utilities, then, their
 4 investment would be 3.25 million. There is no
 5 cap on their expenditures. So let's say the
 6 project goes over 25 million by a small or by
 7 some portion, they would still have to cover
 8 that. But we're capped at 3 million.
 9 They will design, build, own, and operate
 10 this system. We will not do any of those
 11 things. So they are the ones taking the risk
 12 in this regard. And the revenue, they will
 13 receive the revenue minus the five percent for
 14 ten years.
 15 So this is the agreement that we're
 16 looking to have you approve.
 17 MR. PACK: And that's just on the Internet
 18 portion?
 19 MS. VANHOOSER: Excuse me?
 20 MR. PACK: That's just on the Internet
 21 portion?

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1 MR. HORNER: That's correct, Corey.
 2 MS. VANHOOSER: Yes. So the deadline
 3 would be May 31st for this application. And
 4 this is an online application. And like I
 5 said, many, many pages to go to get this done.
 6 We expect to hear whether we won an award
 7 or not by early 2020. So it will be some
 8 months from now before we find out if we're
 9 awarded grand funds.
 10 And then there's a five-year window from
 11 when we must complete this. You've heard this
 12 on all of our projects of this magnitude. But
 13 this project must be completed by 2024. So
 14 we'll have five years to complete it. So by
 15 2025, if we win this grant, all of Talbot
 16 County should have access to high speed
 17 Internet.
 18 So what are the benefits of this? Well,
 19 our rural areas really lack access at this
 20 point. Like we established before, our
 21 citizens have expressed time after time after

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1 time that they need these services. This will
 2 fuel economic development for our rural areas
 3 for many years to come, and it will enable
 4 those technologies that are critical to our
 5 rural areas to flourish. Aquaculture, high
 6 precision agriculture, tourism, these are the
 7 businesses that really need access to high
 8 speed Internet.
 9 And of course, it supports education and
 10 health care. We've heard over and over that
 11 our students need better access in the rural
 12 areas and telemedicine is a growing area as
 13 well.
 14 So there's so many benefits to this that
 15 really we think that this is a win-win.
 16 So I'd like to leave you with one last
 17 thought. The best journeys in life are those
 18 that answer questions you never thought to ask.
 19 So we believe that by pursuing this
 20 project and connecting our rural areas, that
 21 we're going to be providing answers to problems

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1 we've not even dreamed of yet. So we feel like
 2 this is the technology of now and of the future
 3 and we're asking you to approve this
 4 partnership agreement.
 5 Questions?
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job.
 7 MS. VANHOOSER: And it was quick.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: It was quick, too. It was
 9 quick.
 10 MS. PRICE: So my question is since it's
 11 so highly competitive, obviously we can get
 12 nothing and then nothing happens. What is the
 13 provision if they said we got half of what
 14 we're looking for?
 15 I would assume we would have to scale back
 16 the areas or at some point maybe the project
 17 isn't feasible if we don't get X amount of
 18 dollars.
 19 MS. VANHOOSER: I'm going to yield to John
 20 on that one.
 21 MR. HORNER: Sure. That's a great

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1 question, Laura. The answer we received is,
 2 because we've asked that question, there won't
 3 be any partial awards.
 4 There's a forced ranking criteria based on
 5 how you score on your application. That
 6 assumes you have a complete application and you
 7 can demonstrate the sustainability that
 8 Cassandra mentioned.
 9 And then it's a forced ranking. So if
 10 they get to someone at the bottom of the list
 11 and they don't have enough to award them for
 12 their total project, they will do one of two
 13 things, either not award the project or take
 14 funds from another program and award it.
 15 MS. PRICE: So it is an all or nothing?
 16 MR. HORNER: It's an all or nothing.
 17 But just real quick. There is the
 18 potential for it and it's our understanding
 19 there could be future rounds. So this is a
 20 pilot program. There's the potential and
 21 there's been press out there recently where the

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1 president and the FCC have considered putting
 2 additional funding out there.
 3 So we expect to have an A-plus application
 4 and we expect to be extremely competitive. If
 5 for some reason we're not awarded, we can
 6 certainly look at what other future
 7 opportunities may come down the road.
 8 MR. PACK: So there's \$600 million that's
 9 being allocated for this broadband extension.
 10 Each award is capped at 25 million?
 11 MR. HORNER: Yes.
 12 MR. PACK: So about 200 --
 13 MS. PRICE: There's a match. So it's
 14 really \$18 million because the county or
 15 municipality will be funding six or seven
 16 million, that 25 percent. Right?
 17 MR. HORNER: So the maximum grant you can
 18 receive is 25 million.
 19 MR. PACK: 25 million, right.
 20 MR. HORNER: This is a total project of
 21 25 million and a grant of 18.

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1 You could submit a project that's larger
 2 and get a \$25 million grant, but not all
 3 projects that are submitted will be requesting
 4 the top amount. Correct.
 5 MR. PACK: So if they all are 25 million,
 6 then you're looking at about 204 projects
 7 around the nation of 600 million?
 8 MR. HORNER: Well, you would have --
 9 MR. PACK: 25 million per into 600,
 10 roughly.
 11 So do we have any type of insight as to
 12 population size or any criteria that they're
 13 looking for for these projects as far as
 14 service area?
 15 I mean I'm going to assume that our
 16 proximity to the Baltimore, D.C., Philadelphia,
 17 these larger metropolitan areas, may make this
 18 project very desirable for their funding
 19 because of that reason.
 20 MR. HORNER: Right.
 21 MR. PACK: So do you have any insight,

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1 insider tips as to what they may be looking for
 2 for these projects?
 3 MR. HORNER: We know what's most important
 4 is a financially sustainable project.
 5 So they want four years of financial
 6 statements and two years of audited financial
 7 statements. That means companies that don't
 8 already preexist and aren't already doing this
 9 are already out.
 10 MR. PACK: They're out, right.
 11 MR. HORNER: And then additionally, they
 12 want operational sustainability. They want you
 13 to demonstrate positive cash flow every year of
 14 the project and beyond the project. And you
 15 need to withstand 18 years worth of audit
 16 reports on a quarterly basis once the project
 17 is completed to affirm that you have delivered
 18 what you said you would deliver and that you
 19 are signing up customers to the level that you
 20 said you would in your project application.
 21 And then there's a scoring criteria.

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1 That's what the forced ranking is about. Some
 2 of the scoring criteria includes things such as
 3 the level of speeds of service you'll be able
 4 to provide. You get points for that. You get
 5 points for up to 20 farms and up to 15
 6 businesses that are in your proposed funded
 7 service area. And additionally, if you meet a
 8 certain rurality criteria, your density is so
 9 low that you're ending up serving less than six
 10 homes per square mile, you can be awarded
 11 additional points.
 12 There's points for serving health care
 13 centers, for serving educational institutions,
 14 for serving critical care facilities.
 15 So we are looking to gain as many points
 16 as we possibly can with our application so that
 17 we stand up tall and mighty against any other
 18 application that comes in.
 19 MR. PACK: As you listed those list of
 20 weights and criteria, I mean I think that we
 21 can hit nearly all of those. I mean these are

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1 the farms, the industry portion of it.
 2 I'm sure when they look at Easton
 3 Utilities over the 100-plus years of service,
 4 audited returns and your level of revenue, your
 5 level of speed for the Internet service part of
 6 it, I don't have any doubt that you guys are
 7 going to knock it out of the park.
 8 MR. HORNER: Thank you.
 9 MR. PACK: On your end.
 10 And as far as the demographics of Talbot
 11 County, the mixture of farms, businesses,
 12 cities, towns, and villages, I feel really
 13 positive about our application, I really do,
 14 from what you just said.
 15 And from my term on the Council just
 16 ten-plus years, the one thing that I've heard
 17 probably more often than anything else is the
 18 lack of Internet service. And constantly. And
 19 not just from persons buying homes. And
 20 Mr. Callahan is a builder. People are building
 21 homes along the water's edge here, 600 miles of

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1 waterway. Where is the Internet service.
 2 There is none. Not very good for when you're
 3 trying to sell a million dollar piece of
 4 property.
 5 So getting this would certainly put us on
 6 a long way when it comes to developing the
 7 county in other ways. And quite honestly, I
 8 look at broadband as just another utility
 9 nowadays. It goes along with your insignia.
 10 You have the water pipe there. The broadband
 11 is also a part of that sewer, water,
 12 electricity, broadband.
 13 And I think when you're looking at
 14 building subdivisions, that has to go right
 15 into that makeup. The water line, the sewer
 16 line, electricity, the broadband. It has to go
 17 in with it as well.
 18 So I feel good about it.
 19 Anybody else? Am I the only one?
 20 MR. DIVILIO: I'll go out on a limb and
 21 just say I can't remember the last -- I don't

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1 believe I've ever seen an encyclopedia salesman
 2 going around town anymore. And now we're
 3 sending kids home with laptops. That's where
 4 they're getting their information, that's where
 5 they're doing their homework. If they don't
 6 have Internet, might as well not even give them
 7 a computer because it's not worth it.
 8 So I think this is very important for
 9 Talbot County. I think this is better than I
 10 could have ever imagined for an opportunity for
 11 us. I fully expected this to financially fall
 12 on our backs completely. This grant is
 13 amazing, and I hope for a unanimous vote to
 14 show the full support that we want this and
 15 we're willing to back it and do what we can to
 16 get it.
 17 MR. LESHER: Mr. Pack, I just want to
 18 thank the staff for all the work that has gone
 19 to bring us up to this point, for generating
 20 this request for information, for evaluating
 21 the proposals, for negotiating with Easton

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1 Utilities.
 2 I want to thank Easton Utilities for
 3 really being a great partner in this. I want
 4 to thank the State of Maryland for just your
 5 beautiful timing on this whole thing.
 6 This could easily be the most
 7 transformative project that this Council has
 8 the opportunity to do in our term. In fact,
 9 this could be the most transformative project
 10 for the quality of life in Talbot County in the
 11 early 21st Century. We have got to make this
 12 work.
 13 And thank you all for all that you are
 14 doing to make it happen.
 15 MR. HOLLIS: So Mr. President, if I can
 16 just quickly add to that. And I agree exactly.
 17 Mr. Leshner hit it on the head.
 18 MR. PACK: I agree.
 19 MR. HOLLIS: In my 16 years as county
 20 manager, this is by far I think the most
 21 exciting as well as the biggest opportunity the

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1 Council has ever had for the betterment of its
 2 citizens in so many ways.
 3 And that would not be possible today to
 4 even have this in front of us if it wasn't for
 5 the collaboration of Easton Utilities, Hugh
 6 Grunden, and his team who are taking
 7 considerable risk, possibly considerable
 8 benefit, but considerable risk in being
 9 partners with us on this application.
 10 And Rick Gordon with the State of Maryland
 11 has provided a level of customer service that I
 12 have just never seen before. And I cannot
 13 commend him enough for helping us every step of
 14 the way to get this job done.
 15 And I want to compliment your own county
 16 employees, Cassandra, Mark Cohoon, in terms of
 17 stepping up and seeing the legacy project that
 18 this truly is.
 19 And I just fully encourage you to move
 20 forward and unanimously approve.
 21 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Hollis. I

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1 couldn't agree more. And what Mr. Leshner said,
 2 I wasn't here when the wastewater treatment
 3 plant was built down in St. Michael's, but it
 4 had to have the same feeling. I mean you're
 5 talking about something that's going to
 6 transform the quality of life of the citizens.
 7 Again, it's a utility. And we have to
 8 start looking at broadband as a utility, the
 9 same way as you're building a wastewater
 10 treatment plant or a pipe system for sewer.
 11 You have to look at it as a utility now.
 12 Mr. Gordon, I will echo Mr. Hollis' thanks
 13 to you and to the State of Maryland. And also
 14 what Mr. Leshner said. You talk about coming in
 15 at the right time. Thank you. I thank you
 16 tremendously for joining us with this effort.
 17 Truly a public private partnership. And
 18 when you got projects of this size, that's what
 19 it takes, it truly does.
 20 The Office of Law has had a chance to look
 21 over this. And Ms. O'Donnell, I just want to

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1 turn to you for any additional comment that the
 2 Office of Law may have on this document.
 3 MS. O'DONNELL: I think that it's been
 4 pretty well covered. The core of it is the
 5 \$3 million over six years. And then there's a
 6 cap of 48 percent of what the matching funds.
 7 So that there's a way to make sure that it
 8 doesn't go over 3 million.
 9 In addition, for return of revenues, that
 10 will begin three years after completion of the
 11 project to allow the project to be fully or
 12 significantly forward before the five percent
 13 of Internet broadband revenues are repaid to
 14 the county over ten years.
 15 MR. PACK: Okay. And your office had an
 16 opportunity to look at the document. Any
 17 objection on your part at all?
 18 MS. O'DONNELL: No. We were actively
 19 involved in the drafting of the document.
 20 MR. PACK: Thank you very much.
 21 Madam Secretary, of course, I'm not going

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1 to have you read this entire document. It's
 2 some 11 pages. Is there a title that we could
 3 have you just read into the record?
 4 SECRETARY: Yes.
 5 MR. PACK: Okay.
 6 SECRETARY: Matching funds agreement for
 7 Talbot County broadband project.
 8 MR. PACK: Thank you, Madam Secretary.
 9 Council, the matter is now before us for
 10 consideration of this agreement. We've heard
 11 from Ms. Cassandra, we heard from Mr. Horner,
 12 we heard from the Office of Law, and also from
 13 the county manager's office. Any additional
 14 comments that you all may have on this at this
 15 time?
 16 Hearing none, I'm going to call this
 17 matter for a vote, then, on the agreement for
 18 the Easton Utility Commission on the Talbot
 19 County broadband project. Madam Secretary,
 20 please call your roll.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.

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1 MR. PACK: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 3 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 7 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 9 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 10 MR. PACK: Matter passes. Thank you very
 11 much, Mr. Horner. Thank you very much,
 12 Cassandra. Hugh, thank you very much. Ted,
 13 thank you. Mr. Gordon from the State of
 14 Maryland, thank you as well.
 15 Council, we have one more matter before we
 16 get to Mr. Hollis. We have consideration from
 17 our Traffic Advisory Committee for
 18 recommendations of a citizen's request for
 19 speed reduction on Oakwood Park Road and also a
 20 citizen's request of speed reduction on Beaver
 21 Dam Road, citizen's request for fishing

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1 restriction on Kingston Road Bridge over Kings
 2 Creek, and also a citizen's request for
 3 installation of speed cameras on Riverview
 4 Terrace. I believe those are the matters we
 5 have before us today.
 6 Mike, good to see you.
 7 MR. MERTAUGH: Thank you.
 8 MR. PACK: And I'll turn it over to you.
 9 MR. MERTAUGH: Okay. So I'm representing
 10 the county's Traffic Advisory Committee, which
 11 consists of myself, Sheriff Joe Gamble, Warren
 12 Edwards, roads superintendent, and also Clay
 13 Stamp, director of emergency management.
 14 First request we have, as you stated,
 15 Mr. Pack, was a speed limit reduction on
 16 Oakwood Park Road. It's currently posted at
 17 30 miles an hour. We had citizen request to
 18 lower it to 25.
 19 Essentially the road is fairly narrow.
 20 It's a community road. It's not a through
 21 street to any other areas. So with that in

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1 mind, the Traffic Advisory Committee felt that
 2 it was appropriate to lower that speed limit to
 3 25.
 4 MR. LESHHER: And this does meet the State
 5 guidelines in the Manual of Uniform Traffic
 6 Safety Control Devices for a road? It will
 7 meet the warrants?
 8 MR. MERTAUGH: Yes, yes, yes.
 9 MR. PACK: Was this a citizen request or
 10 citizens request?
 11 MR. MERTAUGH: It was a citizen request.
 12 MR. PACK: Was this a request due to
 13 speeding? Was there an incident on the
 14 roadway?
 15 I mean we're talking about five miles an
 16 hour difference.
 17 MR. MERTAUGH: Right.
 18 MS. PRICE: Did anything happen?
 19 MR. MERTAUGH: Not to my knowledge.
 20 MR. PACK: Any close calls reported?
 21 MR. MERTAUGH: Again, not to my knowledge.

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1 Pretty much as you stated, five-mile-an-hour
 2 difference. It's really not that substantial.
 3 But as a matter of policy, any kind of
 4 neighborhood streets that are moderately high
 5 density residential that aren't through roads,
 6 we pretty much yield to the 25-mile-an-hour.
 7 We have some other lower density
 8 developments, maybe in the two-acre range.
 9 Usually it's 30 miles an hour in a neighborhood
 10 street. Again, just because the houses are
 11 usually further away from the roads and there's
 12 usually more elbow room and less parking in the
 13 streets. But it's not a significant
 14 difference.
 15 It does help from a law enforcement
 16 perspective. There's rules of thumb that I
 17 think most law enforcement officer use before
 18 they start stopping people for going over a
 19 certain speed limit. So it makes it a little
 20 easier for them to abide by their rules of
 21 thumb.

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1 MR. PACK: Right.
 2 MR. MERTAUGH: At a lower speed.
 3 MR. PACK: I mean this is a pretty
 4 secluded part of the county.
 5 MR. MERTAUGH: It is.
 6 MR. PACK: I can't see anyone going down
 7 this roadway unless they had a purpose or a
 8 reason, they live there or they're going to
 9 visit a family member or friend. This doesn't
 10 appear to be a roadway to me that's going to be
 11 heavily traveled by visitors or vacationers of
 12 the sort. There may be an STR or two down
 13 there, I don't know.
 14 MS. PRICE: The committee is advising to
 15 reduce the speed.
 16 Do you want to take these one at a time?
 17 MR. PACK: Yes. Let's do one at a time.
 18 MS. PRICE: Do you want a motion to go
 19 with the Traffic Advisory Committee?
 20 MR. PACK: Sure, sure.
 21 MS. PRICE: Motion to concur with the

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1 Traffic Advisory Committee to reduce it to
 2 25 miles an hour.
 3 MR. PACK: We have a motion by Ms. Price
 4 to go with 25 miles an hour, reduction of
 5 five miles an hour on Oakwood Park Road. Is
 6 there a second?
 7 MR. LESHHER: Second.
 8 MR. PACK: Second by Mr. Leshher. Any
 9 further discussion?
 10 Well, you heard my two cents. So that's
 11 all I have to say.
 12 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 14 MR. PACK: No.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 16 MR. DIVILIO: No.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.
 19 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 20 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.

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1 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 2 MR. PACK: Okay. The reduction is at
 3 25 miles per hour. Next.
 4 MR. MERTAUGH: Next project is Beaver Dam
 5 Road. It's also a speed limit reduction
 6 request. Beaver Dam Road, this one is actually
 7 a through road between Barber Road and
 8 US Route 50. It currently doesn't have a
 9 posted speed limit, which in Maryland is a
 10 default speed of 50 miles an hour.
 11 The road characteristics are it's
 12 sufficiently wide for 50-mile-an-hour speed
 13 limit with the exception of a near 90-degree
 14 curve pretty much in the middle of it. The
 15 adjacent land uses are primarily agriculture
 16 with the exception of an enclave of residential
 17 homes, approximately 30 houses, that are about
 18 two-acre lots or larger.
 19 So in this site or this roadway, the
 20 Traffic Advisory Committee was trying to
 21 balance the safety of the local community and

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1 also recognizing the fact that it is a through
 2 road. And so the Traffic Advisory Committee,
 3 considering those factors, recommends reducing
 4 the speed limit on Beaver Dam Road from Barber
 5 Road to a mile and a half past Barber Road,
 6 Barber Road south to within a half mile of
 7 US Route 50.
 8 MR. PACK: So you're not taking it all the
 9 way to 50, you're going to stop it beyond that
 10 bend?
 11 MR. MERTAUGH: Correct.
 12 MR. PACK: Okay.
 13 MS. PRICE: I'll make a motion to go with
 14 traffic advisory recommendation to go to
 15 40 miles an hour for that road.
 16 MR. LESHHER: Second.
 17 MR. PACK: Okay. Motion made by Ms. Price
 18 to go with the advisory commission and seconded
 19 by Mr. Leshher. Any comment from Council?
 20 This one makes more sense to me because as
 21 you're going through this section of

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1 residential, much smaller lots, much smaller
 2 lots, and it is a through road, as you said.
 3 And it has a wicked bend there.
 4 MR. MERTAUGH: Yes.
 5 MR. PACK: I mean so doing 50 and coming
 6 down there, and that roadway probably is
 7 probably no more than, what, 22, 24-foot wide?
 8 MR. MERTAUGH: If even, yes. That's
 9 20-ish. Right.
 10 MR. PACK: Twenty-ish. So I can see the
 11 sense in knocking this down to -- and you're
 12 doing 25 at the turn, at the curve?
 13 MR. MERTAUGH: Right. That's existing.
 14 But that's also going from 50 to 25 is pretty
 15 extreme.
 16 MR. PACK: It is.
 17 MR. MERTAUGH: So 40 actually works with
 18 that.
 19 MR. PACK: This one makes more sense. So
 20 we're not taking the 40 all the way down to
 21 Route 50?

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1 MR. MERTAUGH: We weren't proposing to do
 2 so. It's still the better part of a mile, that
 3 stretch of road.
 4 MR. PACK: And they're going to open it
 5 there.
 6 MR. MERTAUGH: Well, essentially. People
 7 tend to drive a speed they feel comfortable at.
 8 So sometimes it can actually be
 9 counterproductive to safety to post a road too
 10 slow where there's no logical basis for it.
 11 MR. PACK: Okay.
 12 MR. DIVILIO: And you wouldn't want to
 13 stop it at Money Maker instead of?
 14 MR. MERTAUGH: We thought about that. And
 15 it could be. The alignment of it is certainly
 16 adequate for 50 miles an hour. But Barber
 17 Road, I'm trying to remember what Barber is
 18 posted down at that end. It might be up to 50
 19 by then.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Yeah. Barber Road goes up
 21 and down.

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1 MR. MERTAUGH: Yeah, it does.

2 MR. PACK: I can see your point that if

3 you kept it at 50 from Barber down to Money

4 Maker, I know we got a motion on the floor, and

5 then took it from 40 the rest of the way.

6 MR. DIVILIO: Then you've got two sets of

7 signs telling them to slow down.

8 MR. MERTAUGH: Let me back pedal a little

9 bit.

10 The reason we ended up -- I had to think

11 about it for a second. The reason we did 40 at

12 Barber Road is really you try and keep the

13 speed limit the same in both directions. So

14 sort of like we talked about down at the far

15 end of Beaver Dam when we take it back up to 50

16 because it's about a mile long.

17 From Money Maker to Barber Road if you

18 were heading north towards Barber, you have a

19 40-mile-an-hour speed limit and all of a sudden

20 you jump it up to 50 for maybe a quarter of a

21 mile or so. That's the logic behind it.

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1 MR. PACK: So Money Maker is already 40?

2 MR. MERTAUGH: Money Maker is already 40.

3 MR. PACK: It's already 40.

4 MR. MERTAUGH: Right.

5 MR. PACK: So if you're coming down Money

6 Maker, you make that left turn, you don't want

7 to jump up to 50 only to go back down to 40 at

8 Barber.

9 MR. MERTAUGH: Come to a stop sign, right.

10 MR. PACK: And then go back down to

11 Barber, it's at 40 already?

12 MR. MERTAUGH: It may be 50, but it's a

13 stop condition. So they're going to have to

14 make a complete stop there.

15 MR. PACK: And then pump it back up.

16 MR. MERTAUGH: Right. It's a tough call

17 for that part.

18 MR. DIVILIO: Yeah. I was just thinking

19 if you add one more sign, anybody coming from

20 like Jamaica Point, far out that way through

21 Cambridge would see that other sign.

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1 MR. PACK: Okay. This one sounds more

2 reasonable to me.

3 So we have a motion and a second to go

4 with the reduction to 40 miles an hour from

5 Barber Road all the way through to beyond the

6 bend, okay, on Beaver Dam Road.

7 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.

8 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.

9 MR. PACK: Aye.

10 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.

11 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.

12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

14 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.

15 MS. PRICE: Aye.

16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

17 MR. LESHER: Aye.

18 MR. PACK: Okay.

19 MR. MERTAUGH: Okay. So the next one is

20 Kingston Road. Specifically we had a citizen

21 request to post no fishing signs on the

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1 Kingston Road Bridge over Miles Creek.

2 So this bridge, so Kingston Road, again,

3 doesn't have a posted speed limit. So by

4 default it's 50 miles an hour throughout that

5 whole corridor. The road, there are homes

6 along the road, but the predominant traffic use

7 is through traffic. High Banks is at one end

8 of this road and Dover Road at the other. So

9 the bridge location, there's some switchbacks

10 in the road, there's some distance issues.

11 Anyhow, the Traffic Advisory Committee was

12 of the opinion that people do fish off of this

13 bridge, but it's very infrequent. So we

14 weren't sure if it was really appropriate to

15 post no fishing on the bridge.

16 But through this effort looking at it a

17 little further, the conclusion we did come to

18 is that in the vicinity of the bridge, probably

19 the eastern third of this roadway, 50 miles an

20 hour speed limit is not appropriate. There's

21 some horizontal and vertical curves with poor

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1 sight distance. The approach curves leading to
 2 the bridge are very small radius, high angle
 3 curves. We felt that a lower speed limit in
 4 that area would be appropriate.
 5 And so the Traffic Advisory Committee is
 6 recommending 40 miles per hour through there
 7 and then some enhancements of the already
 8 posted advisory speed signs at the bridge. So
 9 the thought would be is that we're addressing
 10 safety for the traveling public, but also if
 11 there are pedestrians or people fishing from
 12 the bridge, they would also benefit from this
 13 additional signage and speed limit reduction.
 14 MR. PACK: I mean this roadway looks like
 15 a former race track. I mean 50 miles per hour,
 16 wow. Forty.
 17 And you say you're not concerned about the
 18 signage on the bridge?
 19 MR. MERTAUGH: Right. I think that we'll
 20 certainly keep an eye on it, but there just
 21 haven't been that many observations of fishing.

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1 MR. PACK: All right. Is there a motion?
 2 MS. PRICE: Motion.
 3 MR. PACK: By Ms. Price.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.
 5 MR. PACK: Second by Mr. Callahan. Any
 6 further discussion?
 7 Madam Secretary, call your roll. This is
 8 on the Kingston Road over Miles Creek fishing
 9 restriction and speed limit reduction. Okay.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 11 MR. PACK: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 13 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 17 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 19 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 20 MR. MERTAUGH: Okay. Last but not least
 21 is a citizen request for speed cameras on

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1 Riverview Terrace.
 2 So Riverview Terrace is a connecting link
 3 between the residential communities of Bentley
 4 Hay and Rio Vista on the south side of
 5 St. Michael's. This road is I think sort of a
 6 local shortcut to avoid Talbot Street,
 7 Maryland 33 for the community going to and from
 8 St. Michael's.
 9 It also apparently has a fair amount of
 10 use associated with the St. Michael's school
 11 complex. I think at the intersection of
 12 Seymour and Talbot Street, like when school
 13 lets out and whatnot, you've got people
 14 directing traffic. So it's a quick back way I
 15 guess out of that area.
 16 So most of you probably recall that we've
 17 been before you with requests to reduce speed
 18 on this corridor over the years, and we've
 19 just, all the conventional means of traffic
 20 calming just either wouldn't be effective or
 21 they're just not compatible with Riverview

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1 Terrace.
 2 The road is a modest width pavement,
 3 minimal grass shoulders, roadside ditches.
 4 Things like speed humps and features of that
 5 nature, they have a lot of impact on adjacent
 6 properties, they need to have street lighting,
 7 they're not compatible with the pavement
 8 structure that's there. So they've never
 9 really been something that the traffic
 10 committee could support.
 11 The concept of speed control cameras, it
 12 could be effective. And I think that its
 13 impact on the adjacent property owners would be
 14 minimal. So it's something we haven't
 15 considered before and we thought it might be
 16 worth considering.
 17 There's a lot of unknowns that we feel we
 18 would need to look into. The speed cameras are
 19 usually owned and operated by a vendor. And
 20 there are some burdens on the local government.
 21 The local government, the Sheriff's Office,

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1 would have to review each of the violations.
 2 And so there's some things that the traffic
 3 committee felt that needed a little more
 4 research if the Council wants to entertain the
 5 thought of putting speed cameras on that
 6 corridor.
 7 So there is some regulation embedded in
 8 COMAR for speed cameras. And they deal with
 9 the maximum amount of fines, the hours when
 10 they can operate, and a lot of calibration and
 11 qualifications for the folks that work on them
 12 and review them.
 13 But so I think that the Traffic Advisory
 14 Committee thought it would be worth looking
 15 into. And so we recommend doing further
 16 research on this and then maybe coming back
 17 before the Council to discuss it further maybe
 18 in a work session.
 19 I think that there are some citizens from
 20 the community that are in attendance tonight.
 21 I don't know if you want to entertain listening

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1 to them or not, but I just want to point that
 2 out.
 3 MR. DIVILIO: So the trailers that you see
 4 that have the speed limit with the --
 5 MR. MERTAUGH: Right.
 6 MR. DIVILIO: Do those provide any
 7 information, like a tracking, to give you any
 8 numbers?
 9 MR. MERTAUGH: Right. I think the county
 10 has two of them, and I believe one of them may
 11 do that. But it's strictly informative. And
 12 I'm not sure if either of the ones we have
 13 actually do. I'd have to verify that.
 14 MR. PACK: You mean the ones that show
 15 your posted speed?
 16 MR. DIVILIO: Yes. Because I think this
 17 is more of an awareness issue.
 18 MR. PACK: Right. I agree.
 19 MR. DIVILIO: You're not -- it's local.
 20 It's hard to find Riverview Terrace.
 21 MR. MERTAUGH: Right. And you know, those

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1 trailers that tell you how fast you're going,
 2 like I said, I believe the county has two of
 3 them, and they're essentially in constant use.
 4 The sheriff's --
 5 MS. PRICE: Is that really an appropriate
 6 thing? Do you want that type of -- I get it.
 7 I think the awareness would be great. But do
 8 you really want that in that part of
 9 St. Michael's where you've got this big old
 10 trailer sitting there between these two nice
 11 neighborhoods?
 12 MR. MERTAUGH: Right. And they're mobile.
 13 I mean what happens is, they've been in my
 14 community, the folks that are conscientious say
 15 oh, jeez, I'm going too fast and they slow
 16 down. And there's other people, let me see how
 17 high I can make it go.
 18 But I mean the reality of it is that
 19 once they're gone, a week or so after that,
 20 people kind of go back to whatever they were
 21 doing before.

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1 MR. DIVILIO: Hopefully the threat of a
 2 camera being there permanently in somebody's
 3 yard would be another deterrent.
 4 MR. MERTAUGH: Right, right. And there's,
 5 like I said, there's some things we need to
 6 evaluate. There will probably have to be some
 7 parking restrictions that would go with
 8 wherever this location of where the camera is
 9 so it has a good view of the road.
 10 It would actually have to be legislated by
 11 the Council to have one of these.
 12 MS. PRICE: So do you want a motion, then,
 13 to go do some further evaluation and then have
 14 a work session with us later?
 15 MR. MERTAUGH: Yes, ma'am.
 16 MR. PACK: Before you make your motion.
 17 You can make your motion.
 18 But I don't think we're there yet for
 19 speed cameras in Talbot County. We're not a
 20 large metropolitan area like Baltimore City or
 21 some of the other metropolitan areas around

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1 Baltimore that speed cameras. I mean they
 2 bring more problems with them than actual
 3 addressing speeding.
 4 As you said before, Baltimore City had to
 5 take their cameras completely offline for over
 6 a year because the information was inaccurate
 7 they were getting from the vendor. So it's not
 8 as easy as sticking a camera on a pole and
 9 recording the one or two knuckleheads in the
 10 neighborhood who are going down the street.
 11 If we have to post an officer there in
 12 cooperation with St. Michael's PD or the
 13 Sheriff's Office, then maybe we do that for a
 14 while and see if we can grab the guys who are
 15 coming down the street.
 16 I've driven this neighborhood. It's a
 17 residential neighborhood. A lot of children, I
 18 grant you that.
 19 But again, unless you're going to visit
 20 someone at Riverview Terrace, I know you said
 21 kids may cut through to get from the school and

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1 that may contribute to some more traffic flow,
 2 but there's really no reason to go down that
 3 neighborhood. You can't get anywhere once you
 4 go down there. You got the water on one end
 5 and then it's a cul-de-sac on one side of it I
 6 believe. So you can't get out. You got to
 7 come back out to get back onto the main road.
 8 MS. PRICE: You say it connects the two
 9 neighborhoods, though.
 10 MR. PACK: Yeah. There's one neighborhood
 11 on one end, but there's a cul-de-sac on one end
 12 of it. On Riverview?
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, if you go to Beach
 14 End it is, but you can get out each way.
 15 MS. PRICE: Yeah. Each of those two.
 16 MR. PACK: You can't get out that other
 17 end.
 18 MR. MERTAUGH: Like on the Rio Vista side,
 19 you have Lincoln Avenue and I believe Madison
 20 Avenue that go to Talbot Street. And then on
 21 the Bentley Hay side, most people on Rio Vista

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1 don't go to that cul-de-sac. They make a left
 2 or a right to and from Seymour.
 3 MS. PRICE: Would your evaluation include
 4 some other options?
 5 Now, the speed humps and bumps, we know
 6 those aren't ideal for that.
 7 But in making a motion to do an
 8 evaluation, it wouldn't necessarily just be for
 9 the speed camera, you could be evaluating some
 10 others, whether that is saying hey, we're going
 11 to put a sheriff's car down there --
 12 MR. PACK: Sir, we're not taking comment
 13 at this time. You can have a seat.
 14 MR. MERTAUGH: I think, again, posting a
 15 police officer there works while they're there.
 16 And I think that one of the things that
 17 these vendors is that they actually will do a
 18 lot of the study work. And maybe we can get
 19 some speed history, let them do the work on
 20 their dime and just see where we're at.
 21 Because that number, in my world anyhow,

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1 numbers don't lie. And so that would be a way
 2 of --
 3 MR. PACK: Sometimes they do. There was a
 4 camera that was recording violations and people
 5 when no one was going down the road.
 6 MR. LESHER: There are reputable companies
 7 who play by the rules.
 8 MR. PACK: So they do lie at times.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Mike, help me. So why were
 10 you thinking that speed bumps wouldn't work?
 11 MR. MERTAUGH: Well, speed humps, anyhow,
 12 I mean they would work. But they're not
 13 compatible.
 14 For starters, Riverview Terrace, like most
 15 of our county roads, are tar and chip. And
 16 even though it doesn't look that way, they're
 17 somewhat fluid. They move around a little bit
 18 with the weather and traffic.
 19 Speed humps have to be made out of
 20 asphalt. So you would have to build a speed
 21 hump and probably 50 feet in either direction

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1 would have to be reconstructed with asphalt.
 2 MS. PRICE: It's expensive.
 3 MR. MERTAUGH: It's expensive. And for
 4 them to be effective, there needs to be a
 5 series of them.
 6 They are very popular in more urbanized
 7 areas. And some of the problems they have with
 8 them are even though -- there's still noise
 9 associated with them. You have suspensions
 10 compressing and such. They make the switching
 11 noise and whatnot --
 12 MR. PACK: And as soon as you do something
 13 like that, I don't mean to cut you off, Mike.
 14 MR. MERTAUGH: That's okay.
 15 MR. PACK: The sheriff is going to come
 16 back in and say he needs another officer to
 17 review these tapes because, trust me, it's not
 18 as easy as sticking a camera on a pole. And
 19 then we're going to get a request from the
 20 Sheriff's Department saying oh, we need another
 21 officer to sit there and review these fines,

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1 because they have to be signed off by an
 2 officer. So someone has to look at the tape
 3 and sign off on them.
 4 MS. PRICE: So this is not a decision to
 5 put up speed cameras. This is just to --
 6 MR. PACK: Again, I'm going to channel my
 7 old friend again. Don't give folks false
 8 expectations. You start reviewing something
 9 like this and then citizens are going to start
 10 expecting you to start putting up speed cameras
 11 around the county.
 12 And I'm telling you it's not as easy as
 13 sticking a camera up on a pole. There's a lot
 14 more to it than that.
 15 MR. MERTAUGH: So one of the things that
 16 helps with not having them prolific throughout
 17 the county or any jurisdiction is based on the
 18 State regs, it has to be within a half a mile
 19 of a school.
 20 MR. PACK: Right.
 21 MR. MERTAUGH: In fact, in Easton, there's

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1 one down on Peach Blossom and there's also one
 2 up at The Country School on Goldsborough.
 3 MR. LESHER: And North Washington Street.
 4 MR. MERTAUGH: Oh, really? I was unaware
 5 of that.
 6 MR. LESHER: Slow down there.
 7 MR. PACK: What school is on North
 8 Washington Street? Oh, The Country School.
 9 MR. LESHER: No, no, no.
 10 MR. MERTAUGH: It's residential --
 11 MR. LESHER: -- Christian School.
 12 MR. PACK: Okay.
 13 MR. MERTAUGH: So there are -- and I
 14 appreciate what you're saying. Some of the
 15 regulations, though, keep them that they do
 16 have to be within a school campus, a half a
 17 mile or so.
 18 It was something we thought that would be
 19 effective without having to construct or
 20 maintain.
 21 Getting back to the speed humps, one of

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1 the problems is they really need to be on roads
 2 that have curbs because then they become a
 3 safety issue because people start trying to get
 4 around them. And then they need to be marked
 5 and they need to have street lights on them.
 6 MS. PRICE: I don't think we got it in the
 7 budget to do that with the way --
 8 MR. MERTAUGH: Yeah.
 9 MS. PRICE: So I made my motion. So let's
 10 go from there.
 11 MR. LESHER: I'll second. I agree. I
 12 think that it merits, if nothing else, it
 13 merits further study.
 14 MS. PRICE: Right. Just a study.
 15 MR. LESHER: And there are proper ways.
 16 We've seen, as you've said, others at other
 17 schools in Talbot County. These speed zones
 18 exist. They are successful. They are well
 19 run, unlike some of those that were in
 20 jurisdictions on the other side of the bridge.
 21 It can be done right.

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<p>1 And it can actually -- yes, there is labor</p> <p>2 on the part of the sheriff, but it's also a</p> <p>3 force extender for the sheriff because he</p> <p>4 doesn't have to detail a deputy to speed</p> <p>5 enforcement.</p> <p>6 MR. PACK: We have to have someone to read</p> <p>7 the camera, look at the camera, sign off on the</p> <p>8 ticket. That's another body. Okay.</p> <p>9 We have a second and -- no, sir, not at</p> <p>10 this time, sir.</p> <p>11 We have a motion and a second. Any</p> <p>12 further comment for the study of speed cameras?</p> <p>13 Madam Secretary, call your roll.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: No.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>17 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: No.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>21 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p>	<p>1 district.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Okay.</p> <p>3 MR. LESHER: I move to approve.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: A motion to approve Bid 17-08.</p> <p>5 We have a motion by Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>6 MR. DIVILIO: Second.</p> <p>7 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Divilio. Any</p> <p>8 further comment? Mr. Clarke is here from his</p> <p>9 vacation.</p> <p>10 Hearing none.</p> <p>11 MR. CLARKE: I'm fine.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Ma'am Secretary, please call</p> <p>13 your roll.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>17 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>21 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p>
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<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>2 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Okay.</p> <p>4 MR. MERTAUGH: Thank you very much.</p> <p>5 MS. PRICE: Excuse me, y'all. Gentlemen,</p> <p>6 finish it up.</p> <p>7 MR. PACK: Thank you, Ms. Price.</p> <p>8 Next matter. County manager. What do we</p> <p>9 have? County manager report.</p> <p>10 MR. HOLLIS: Yes, sir. Just a few items.</p> <p>11 First is Bid Number 17-08, open ended</p> <p>12 engineering services. Requesting your approval</p> <p>13 for a proposal by Davis, Bowen & Friedel for an</p> <p>14 amount not to exceed \$12,000 to determine the</p> <p>15 best solution for replacing the belt filter</p> <p>16 press to deal with sledge at the region two</p> <p>17 plant.</p> <p>18 Existing system was installed in 1986 and</p> <p>19 is unreliable. We need this report as part of</p> <p>20 any loan grant application process to USDA.</p> <p>21 The proposal will be paid for by the sanity</p>	<p>1 MR. HOLLIS: Thank you, Ray.</p> <p>2 MR. CLARKE: Thank you.</p> <p>3 MR. HOLLIS: Council, next is an annual</p> <p>4 request to approve the transfer of 2019 housing</p> <p>5 bond allocation in the amount of \$1,320,918 to</p> <p>6 Maryland Department of Housing and Community</p> <p>7 Development. They use these housing bonds for</p> <p>8 the financing of the Maryland Mortgage Program.</p> <p>9 MR. LESHER: I'll move to approve.</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: Motion made by Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Second it.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Second made by Mr. Callahan to</p> <p>13 return this money that we return every year.</p> <p>14 MR. HOLLIS: To still be used for the</p> <p>15 benefit of the county but not administered</p> <p>16 locally.</p> <p>17 MR. PACK: Not administered locally, yeah.</p> <p>18 MR. HOLLIS: Not administered by us.</p> <p>19 MR. PACK: Yeah. And until we get our</p> <p>20 housing coordinator on board.</p> <p>21 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.</p>

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 2 MR. PACK: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 8 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 9 MR. HOLLIS: Requesting your approval to
 10 renew the contract with Crowder Gulf for debris
 11 management and removal service. It's been in
 12 place since 2017. In the event we have any
 13 natural disaster materials that we can't clean
 14 up on our own in-house staff.
 15 MR. PACK: Is there a motion?
 16 MR. LESHER: I'll move to approve.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.
 18 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Leshner, seconded
 19 by Mr. Callahan. Any further discussion on the
 20 contract?
 21 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, call your

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1 roll.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 3 MR. PACK: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 9 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 10 MR. HOLLIS: Committee appointment.
 11 Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board,
 12 requesting your approval to submit the names of
 13 Dan Billingsley and David Fike to the governor
 14 for consideration for appointment.
 15 MR. PACK: Excellent.
 16 MR. LESHER: I thank these two gentlemen
 17 for offering to do this so we can get this
 18 appeals board back up and running. And I will
 19 move to submit those names.
 20 MR. PACK: And I also -- there's a motion.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.

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1 MR. PACK: Second by Mr. Callahan.
 2 My comment is yes, we've been trying to
 3 get names for this board for quite some time
 4 now. So yes, thank you to Mr. Billingsley and
 5 Mr. Fike, I ran into him earlier today, for
 6 submitting their application for submission to
 7 the governor.
 8 So we have a motion and a second. Madam
 9 Secretary, please call your roll.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 11 MR. PACK: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 13 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 17 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 18 MR. HOLLIS: Finally, Council, county
 19 offices are closed this Friday, the 19th, in
 20 recognition of the Good Friday holiday. Thank
 21 you.

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1 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Hollis.
 2 Council comment. Mr. Divilio, anything
 3 from you?
 4 MR. DIVILIO: No.
 5 MR. PACK: Nothing. Mr. Leshner, anything
 6 from you?
 7 MR. LESHER: Nothing further.
 8 MR. PACK: Okay. Mr. Callahan, anything
 9 from you?
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: The only thing I want to
 11 highlight on is what everybody was saying. And
 12 Pete, you said it perfectly about the
 13 broadband.
 14 I think that is something that should be
 15 on the front page of the Star Democrat. And
 16 that's huge. It's going to change this county.
 17 And I kind of feel that I'm proud of being up
 18 here and being one of the ones that got that
 19 done. And all five of us will be proud of it.
 20 MR. PACK: Hopefully it will get done. I
 21 mean I think we got a strong team with Easton


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1 Utilities and Cassandra and the State,
 2 Mr. Gordon coming down from the State. So
 3 we're going to put together a mighty fine
 4 proposal, and I hope that we get it. I'm very
 5 confident that we will get it. So it's going
 6 to be great for the county.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: I know we're trying for
 8 them.
 9 MR. PACK: I have no comment. Just want
 10 to wish everyone a very happy and joyous
 11 holiday season as we're going into this Holy
 12 Week on the Christian calendar. Easter coming
 13 up next Sunday. So just want to wish everyone
 14 a very happy and joyous Easter weekend that's
 15 coming up in a few days.
 16 County Council's next legislative meeting
 17 will be held on Tuesday, April 23rd, at
 18 six p.m. The Council will be convening in open
 19 session at 4:30 p.m. and immediately adjoining
 20 into closed session to discuss real estate,
 21 legal, personnel as listed on the statement for

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1 closing the meeting.
 2 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn
 3 this meeting? Do we have close? Is there a
 4 motion to close this meeting?
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: So moved.
 6 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 7 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Callahan.
 8 Seconded by Mr. Divilio.
 9 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 11 MR. PACK: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 13 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshler.
 17 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 18 MR. PACK: Thank you guys.
 19 (Meeting concluded at: 8:39 p.m.)
 20
 21

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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 22nd
 day of April, 2019 at Eastern MD

 Diane Houlihan
 Notary Public
 My commission expires September 16, 2021

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