



Deposition of:  
**Talbot County Council Meeting**

*December 10, 2019*

In the Matter of:  
**Talbot County Council Meeting**

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

December 10, 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

Page 2

1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

2

3 MR. PACK: Good evening, everyone. If you

4 wouldn't mind standing for the opening prayer

5 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

6 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance)

7 MR. PACK: Thank you all. Good evening.

8 Thank you for being with us.

9 The Council does have an agenda. The

10 chair would ask if there's any additions,

11 deletions, or corrections to our agenda?

12 Hearing none, the chair would move that it be

13 accepted with unanimous consent.

14 We also have disbursements from -- I'm

15 sorry. We have minutes from October the 22nd

16 and November the 12th. We had a chance to

17 review them. Are there any additions,

18 deletions, or corrections to those minutes?

19 The chair would also move that they be accepted

20 with unanimous consent.

21 Moving on, we do have disbursements from

Page 3

1 our November 26th, December the 3rd,

2 December the 10th. We had an opportunity to

3 speak to Ms. Lane, our fiscal officer. Are

4 there any additions, deletions, or corrections

5 to those disbursements? Hearing none, the

6 chair move that they also be accepted with

7 unanimous consent.

8 Council, next you have a presentation

9 proclamation for Mr. Bill Peak, the Library

10 Guy, here in Talbot County Free Library.

11 And is Mr. Peak with us? There he is.

12 Bill, why don't you come forward if you

13 wouldn't mind.

14 MR. PEAK: I'm scared.

15 MR. PACK: Have a seat. Have a seat

16 because we want to hear from you for a little

17 bit.

18 We do have a proclamation. I'm going to

19 pass this over to my left to Mr. Leshar, our

20 library rep, to present that to you when the

21 time is there.

Page 4

1 Hello, Dana.

2 So why are we here today to honor this

3 great guy?

4 SPEAKER: Dana has asked me to speak

5 because she has laryngitis.

6 MR. PACK: Oh, is that right?

7 SPEAKER: If I can just do a brief

8 statement before we get going?

9 MR. PACK: Absolutely, absolutely.

10 SPEAKER: Wonderful. If I could

11 characterize Bill's incredible work to our

12 community and library patrons over the past 13

13 years, I would say that Bill truly embodies a

14 caring spirit.

15 Bill has a wonderful way of listening to

16 patrons and getting just the right information

17 needed or to a book that speaks to that reader.

18 He has an infectious personality that puts

19 people right at ease.

20 You can see the relationship that he has

21 built with patrons sometimes over the course of

Page 5

1 years. Bill has patrons who regularly ask for

2 his help. He adds the personal touch and makes

3 sure they get what is needed.

4 His fellow staff always regularly ask him

5 for his feedback and remark on his supportive

6 spirit.

7 Bill has a can-do attitude. He leads by

8 example. He treats all individuals with

9 dignity and has helped to create a culture of

10 learning at the library. People rave about his

11 programs and book talks.

12 He has truly been a wonderful ambassador

13 to the library.

14 MR. PACK: And I would certainly concur

15 with that, Bill.

16 SPEAKER: These are Dana's words.

17 MR. PACK: So retiring after how many

18 years now with the library?

19 MR. PEAK: It's 13.

20 MR. PACK: Thirteen seasons.

21 MR. PEAK: Yeah. Unlucky number, but it's

Page 6

1 been a very lucky time for me. I'm very  
 2 fortunate.  
 3 And I want to thank you all and the people  
 4 of Talbot County for giving me the opportunity  
 5 to work in this beautiful library you created  
 6 and maintain.  
 7 I've learned so many good lessons there.  
 8 Probably the best one is just how amazing a  
 9 community this is and how wonderful it is to  
 10 help people. At the end of my life, I've  
 11 learned that it's more important to help people  
 12 and just forget about yourself, and God is  
 13 good.  
 14 I'll miss it terribly. Thank you all very  
 15 much.  
 16 MR. PACK: Any plans ahead of you in  
 17 retirement?  
 18 MR. PEAK: I'll probably write. And my  
 19 wife's health hasn't been good. So I'll be  
 20 able to take care of her. That will be nice.  
 21 And I'll probably spend a lot of time walking

Page 7

1 the dog.  
 2 MR. PACK: Well, Bill, I have read some of  
 3 your articles in the paper. And been a  
 4 pleasure to work with you over these number of  
 5 years with the Library board.  
 6 As Dana said, you certainly have been an  
 7 asset to this community in the way that you go  
 8 about handling yourself and just to distinguish  
 9 the way in which you represent the library. So  
 10 we certainly appreciate all that you've done  
 11 with that.  
 12 MR. PEAK: Thank you.  
 13 MR. PACK: Council, why don't we have  
 14 Madam Secretary read the proclamation and we'll  
 15 ask you all for comments and Mr. Leshner can  
 16 present.  
 17 SECRETARY: Certificate of recognition to  
 18 Bill Peak, the Library Guy.  
 19 Whereas, Bill Peak, better known as the  
 20 Library Guy, began working at the Talbot County  
 21 Free Library in 2006 and will retire on

Page 8

1 December 31, 2019, after a successful career of  
 2 library service.  
 3 And whereas, Bill 385 has served  
 4 tirelessly, sharing his wisdom and passion for  
 5 libraries through his work as the library's  
 6 communication manager, expertly promoting  
 7 Talbot County Free Library services and  
 8 programs by writing the library press releases,  
 9 acting as a speaker for the library, and  
 10 editing library documents, producing its  
 11 newsletter, and by being a library ambassador  
 12 in our community.  
 13 And whereas, for the last 12 years, he has  
 14 written a monthly library column for the Star  
 15 Democrat, sharing generously of his wit,  
 16 wisdom, and life experience to illustrate  
 17 through his natural storytelling talent very  
 18 unique and exceptional stories that have  
 19 brightened many a reader's day.  
 20 And whereas, in 2015, as a part of the  
 21 90th anniversary of Talbot County Free Library,

Page 9

1 the Library Foundation published a collection  
 2 of his columns and essays titled Adventures in  
 3 Shelving.  
 4 And whereas, during his years of  
 5 enthusiastic service, Bill Peak ran a wide  
 6 range of very creative and educational programs  
 7 and outreach services that enriched lives and  
 8 strengthened the value of the literary arts.  
 9 And whereas, library patrons have  
 10 complimented Bill Peak on making a personal  
 11 connection with them and providing remarkable  
 12 reference assistance by going above and beyond  
 13 to find an answer or assist with a research  
 14 project, characterizing his work as especially  
 15 helpful, supportive, and uplifting. Further  
 16 demonstration of his outstanding customer  
 17 service to help make the Talbot County Free  
 18 Library an even more wonderful, welcoming  
 19 place.  
 20 And whereas, during his years of dedicated  
 21 service, he has served on the various

Page 10	Page 12
<p>1 professional and community committees, 2 including the Frederick Douglass Honor Society, 3 the Talbot County Arts Council, as well as a 4 longstanding member of the One Maryland One 5 Book Committee for the Maryland humanities. 6 Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, 7 the County Council of Talbot County, do hereby 8 recognize Bill Peak for his dedication and 9 service to the Talbot County Free Library, its 10 patrons, and the entire Talbot County community 11 and wish him well in his retirement.</p>	<p>1 MR. PEAK: Thank you. 2 MR. PACK: Mr. Leshner, you want to make 3 your comments here or down there? 4 MR. LESHNER: It was outside these duties, 5 but anytime there is one door closes, another 6 one opens. And this hopefully will afford you 7 another opportunity to write the next great 8 novel.</p>
<p>12 MR. PACK: Thank you, Madam Secretary. 13 The chair would entertain a motion. 14 MS. PRICE: So moved. 15 MR. PACK: By Ms. Price. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Second. 17 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Callahan. 18 Madam Secretary, please call your roll. 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 20 MR. PACK: Aye. 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p>	<p>9 MR. PACK: Absolutely. 10 MR. PEAK: Let's hope. 11 MR. LESHNER: He's got one under his belt 12 already. 13 MR. PACK: I bet he does. 14 So Bill, can we invite you and Dana and 15 anyone else from in the audience from the 16 library want to come up and join you. We 17 welcome them as well. 18 Bill, congratulations, congratulations. 19 Thank you so much. 20 MR. PEAK: Thank you. 21 MR. LESHNER: Come on up.</p>
Page 11	Page 13
<p>1 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 5 MS. PRICE: Aye. 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 7 MR. LESHNER: Aye. 8 MR. PACK: Any Council comment before our 9 presentation? 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Bill, we really appreciate 11 all you've done. And I'm sure there's been 12 hundreds and hundreds and probably thousands of 13 people that know you and are going to miss you 14 a lot. So don't go too far. We need you. 15 MR. PEAK: I shan't. I love this place. 16 MS. PRICE: We always have these people 17 come back as consultants, right. Thank you. 18 MR. DIVILIO: Reading and education is so 19 important, and anybody who makes it exciting 20 for somebody to come into the library, I 21 greatly appreciate it. So thank you.</p>	<p>1 MR. PEAK: Try to make me look tall. 2 MR. PACK: Could you all join me in a hand 3 of applause for Bill, please? 4 Council, you next have on your agenda an 5 update from the Talbot County Watermen's 6 Association. We're going to invite Mr. Jeff 7 Harrison, president of Talbot County Watermen's 8 Association to the table. 9 Jeff, good to see you. 10 MR. HARRISON: Good to be here. 11 MR. PACK: Thank you, sir. 12 MR. HARRISON: I'm also bringing 13 Mr. Newberry, Captain Newberry. 14 MR. PACK: Captain Newberry, good to see 15 you. 16 MR. HARRISON: Delmarva Fisheries 17 Association. 18 CAPT. NEWBERRY: How are you doing? 19 MR. HARRISON: Robin, would you come here? 20 I'm not very computerized. 21 CAPT. NEWBERRY: He just got a smart</p>

Page 14

1 phone. So he's way ahead of the curve.  
 2 SPEAKER: Are you going to do the  
 3 PowerPoint? Oh, okay. I'm trying to open it.  
 4 MR. HARRISON: There we go.  
 5 MR. PACK: There we go.  
 6 MR. HARRISON: Next page. Can you do  
 7 that?  
 8 That's my boss, by the way. I wouldn't be  
 9 able to do anything without her.  
 10 MR. PACK: You might want to put that on  
 11 full screen when she gets a chance.  
 12 SPEAKER: Do you want me to forward the  
 13 slides?  
 14 MR. HARRISON: Yeah. You know, every time  
 15 I come in here, I've been asked to give an  
 16 update like the Farm Bureau does. And I'm so  
 17 tickled to be here today to be able to do that.  
 18 Do I have to say my name? Jeff Harrison,  
 19 Talbot Watermen's Association.  
 20 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Captain Newberry,  
 21 chairman, Delmarva Fisheries.

Page 15

1 MR. PACK: Good to see you, captain.  
 2 SPEAKER: It's a PDF. It's not the  
 3 PowerPoint.  
 4 MR. HARRISON: So there are 505 commercial  
 5 license holders in Talbot County, and that's as  
 6 of November 20th of this year. This  
 7 information comes from the DNR. And that's  
 8 roughly about 20 to 22 percent of the total  
 9 licenses in the State of Maryland. I'm going  
 10 to break that down just a little bit and give a  
 11 little bit of what each one of them does.  
 12 There's 45 razor clammers, clam licenses  
 13 issued. Those are probably, some of them have  
 14 the softshell, too. Their season usually  
 15 starts the first of March, maybe into the  
 16 second week of March. They catch bait clams  
 17 for crabbers. They first start selling bait  
 18 down in Virginia.  
 19 Also eelers start that time of year, eel  
 20 pods. We have two or three of those in Talbot  
 21 County. They had a decent season. There was a

Page 16

1 lot of rain the year before, and then the first  
 2 part of this year was rain. So they lost about  
 3 half of the clams. The year before was much  
 4 better.  
 5 But anyway, they still made out. Even  
 6 through the season, they had to leave the  
 7 normal areas that they work and they had to go  
 8 to the western shore to catch the bait.  
 9 Next, the crabbers. The crabbers,  
 10 April 1st is the beginning of the season. We  
 11 were very fortunate this year. We had a mild  
 12 winter. We started out right at April 1st  
 13 catching crabs. The price was good. It was  
 14 \$140 a bushel off the boat.  
 15 The crab potters started maybe the second  
 16 week. They had to run down the Bay. They were  
 17 actually running 20 miles down the Bay setting  
 18 their pots and fishing them each day. But they  
 19 did well also.  
 20 As the season went on, it seemed to be  
 21 more and more crabs. So we had a great season

Page 17

1 crabbing. The price did go down by the end of  
 2 the season. It was \$70.  
 3 We had a lot of complaints about how come  
 4 crabs are so high. Well, it's not on our end.  
 5 That's all we got to say.  
 6 Also, the oyster surcharges, there's 200  
 7 oyster surcharges. There's 800 so far in the  
 8 state of Maryland. So that's 25 percent of the  
 9 oyster surcharges are in Talbot County.  
 10 MS. PRICE: What does that mean, oyster  
 11 surcharge?  
 12 MR. HARRISON: An oyster surcharge, what  
 13 they do is we pay \$300 in. That money, what is  
 14 done, and I'll talk -- switch to the next  
 15 slide.  
 16 The Talbot County Oyster Shell Committee,  
 17 we've been -- what we do with that money, and  
 18 that's part of the money, we take that money  
 19 and we buy seed and shell with it the next year  
 20 to replenish our stock.  
 21 This is one of the three boats in Talbot

Page 18

1 County that does that. There's only maybe five  
 2 of these boats left altogether. They're an  
 3 integral part of what we do as far as  
 4 restocking our beds.  
 5 That money does not come from tax payers.  
 6 It comes from the surcharge, which right now we  
 7 have 200. And that number can change. It will  
 8 probably go up a little bit. So there's 60,000  
 9 for next year that we'll have.  
 10 There's also the MDOT money, which is  
 11 Maryland Department of Transportation. That's  
 12 kind of connected to Poplar Island while  
 13 they're dredging the channel. They put that  
 14 there. We get 2 million. We used to get  
 15 \$2 million a year. That's spread out over the  
 16 whole industry of the 13 counties on the water  
 17 that receive that money. When it's broken  
 18 down, we get about \$78,000 of that.  
 19 We're actually in the process of changing  
 20 that because what happens is Baltimore County  
 21 has one oysterman, and they get \$78,000. We

Page 19

1 have 200, and we get \$78,000. So we're in the  
 2 process of trying to get that changed up a  
 3 little bit so we can end up with a little bit  
 4 more money.  
 5 MR. PACK: Let me go back to Ms. Price's  
 6 point. Can you explain who is paying that  
 7 surcharge? Are the restaurants who are buying  
 8 the oysters paying it?  
 9 MR. HARRISON: The watermen. That's part  
 10 of our pay. In order to go oystering, you have  
 11 to pay the surcharge. You can hold an oyster  
 12 license. Like a lot of people hold an oyster  
 13 license, but they might not go.  
 14 We're also in the process of making it so  
 15 that if you have an oyster license, you have to  
 16 pay that surcharge because what we found out is  
 17 that people will wait until it's good, go four  
 18 or five years until it's good. And then  
 19 they'll jump in and get in while it's good.  
 20 While the people for the four or five years who  
 21 were paying their \$300 surcharge to make it

Page 20

1 good, didn't benefit from that. They end up --  
 2 these guys come in and take what you've done.  
 3 So we're in the process of changing that also.  
 4 MR. PACK: I'm a little slow this evening.  
 5 So you have a license.  
 6 MR. HARRISON: I have a license.  
 7 MR. PACK: And if you don't use the  
 8 license, if you don't go out and oyster, you're  
 9 not paying a surcharge?  
 10 MR. HARRISON: You don't have to pay the  
 11 surcharge, but you cannot go oystering.  
 12 MR. PACK: Well, who is going to know?  
 13 CAPT. NEWBERRY: NRP, Natural Resources  
 14 Police.  
 15 MR. HARRISON: We have law men. People  
 16 are there to watch. Not only out on the water,  
 17 but also --  
 18 MR. PACK: So I'm going to use your  
 19 example. So you decide it's a nice day, you  
 20 haven't been out in a couple of months, you're  
 21 going to go oystering.

Page 21

1 So what, are you going online and putting  
 2 in your number and paying this surcharge  
 3 online?  
 4 MR. HARRISON: The surcharge you pay at  
 5 the beginning of the year.  
 6 MR. PACK: To your point, then if you have  
 7 a license, then you're paying the surcharge  
 8 when you get your license?  
 9 MR. HARRISON: No. You don't have to pay  
 10 it.  
 11 MR. PACK: You don't have to pay it.  
 12 SPEAKER: You should.  
 13 MR. HARRISON: If you're not going to go  
 14 oystering this year, you still have to buy your  
 15 license because if you don't buy your license,  
 16 you lose it.  
 17 Right now --  
 18 SPEAKER: Can't get them.  
 19 MR. HARRISON: Yeah. You cannot get  
 20 another license. You can't get any kind of  
 21 license. You have to buy one from somebody --

Page 22	Page 24
<p>1 MS. PRICE: -- limited number?</p> <p>2 MR. HARRISON: It's a limited number.</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: So you can't pay this surcharge</p> <p>4 electronically? If you just decide on Monday</p> <p>5 you want to go oystering, you have to go to</p> <p>6 Annapolis and pay this surcharge?</p> <p>7 MR. HARRISON: Yeah. Then you can go.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: Are they stamping your license?</p> <p>9 Are they giving you a receipt?</p> <p>10 MR. HARRISON: Yes. You get a license</p> <p>11 that says you paid that surcharge.</p> <p>12 CAPT. NEWBERRY: What it is, you have a</p> <p>13 TFL, which is your Tidal Fishing License.</p> <p>14 Incorporated in that license is clams,</p> <p>15 crabs, oysters, everything you want to do.</p> <p>16 This is basically an intent fee so that</p> <p>17 when you go and you say I'm going to oyster</p> <p>18 this year, you go into like Centreville is the</p> <p>19 closest area, you go in, you pay \$300 plus</p> <p>20 your -- it roughly comes out for the total a</p> <p>21 little over \$1,300 for everything if you have</p>	<p>1 same. It goes, like Baltimore County gets a</p> <p>2 certain amount. Like I say, we're working on</p> <p>3 that.</p> <p>4 But anyway, this past year we spent</p> <p>5 \$163,940 reseeding our (inaudible). We</p> <p>6 concentrated mostly in Broad Creek because</p> <p>7 that's where we get the biggest bang for the</p> <p>8 buck. We are limited with funds.</p> <p>9 We usually spend around \$200,000. This</p> <p>10 year, though, we held back \$50,000 that we were</p> <p>11 going to spend for some Virginia seed that</p> <p>12 we've been buying the past three years. It was</p> <p>13 not available to us in the spring. They said</p> <p>14 we might be able to get it in the fall. It was</p> <p>15 not available to us in the fall.</p> <p>16 Horn Point had problems all through the</p> <p>17 spring until late in the summer. So we just</p> <p>18 sat on that money and we'll spend more this</p> <p>19 year.</p> <p>20 We were fortunate, though, that Queen Anne</p> <p>21 County, who was running into the same problems,</p>
<p>1 all your cards.</p> <p>2 And it's records on your license. So when</p> <p>3 the DNR comes to your boat and they say let me</p> <p>4 see your paperwork, if you don't have the \$300</p> <p>5 surcharge paid --</p> <p>6 MR. HARRISON: You throw your oysters</p> <p>7 overboard.</p> <p>8 CAPT. NEWBERRY: You throw your oysters</p> <p>9 overboard and you'll never go oystering again.</p> <p>10 MR. HARRISON: -- a fine.</p> <p>11 CAPT. NEWBERRY: You're done.</p> <p>12 MR. HARRISON: There are also other</p> <p>13 monies.</p> <p>14 MR. PACK: So there's no way for them to</p> <p>15 pull that remotely? You have to carry that</p> <p>16 paperwork with you on your boat?</p> <p>17 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Correct.</p> <p>18 MR. HARRISON: There's also other monies</p> <p>19 that go into our reseeding program. And that's</p> <p>20 \$1.35 tax on each bushel call it. That's</p> <p>21 wacked up. The formula is pretty much the</p>	<p>1 they wanted the Virginia seed, they have some</p> <p>2 extra money. So they threw \$50,000 our way to</p> <p>3 buy shells to put in Broad Creek, which we</p> <p>4 really appreciate.</p> <p>5 MR. PACK: Good.</p> <p>6 MR. HARRISON: So let's talk about the</p> <p>7 oyster. The season starts in October and goes</p> <p>8 through March.</p> <p>9 So in 2019, January 2019, it was dismal</p> <p>10 around here. It was very few oysters. What</p> <p>11 happened was it was the same thing. It was the</p> <p>12 water problem, too much rain. The oysters</p> <p>13 didn't grow. We had plenty of little oysters.</p> <p>14 They just didn't grow.</p> <p>15 We were faced with a bunch of bills in</p> <p>16 Annapolis. We were afraid to death they were</p> <p>17 going to close us down.</p> <p>18 Anyway, stock assessment was done. They</p> <p>19 said we were overfishing in areas. And it</p> <p>20 looked pretty gloomy.</p> <p>21 But then here came this year, and I'm glad</p>



Page 26

1 to say that those little oysters did end up  
 2 growing and we're doing extremely well right  
 3 now. I've been. . .  
 4 SPEAKER: It's a blessing.  
 5 MR. HARRISON: Yeah. I've been maybe 25  
 6 days, and I've caught my limit almost every  
 7 day. I missed it two days, and those were  
 8 weather days, bad weather days.  
 9 A little bit about the sanctuary program.  
 10 This is one of the bills that went through last  
 11 year that Governor Hogan vetoed, and it had to  
 12 do with sanctions.  
 13 I just want you to look at this. This is  
 14 a chart of all sanctuaries. The yellow is --  
 15 the green or the darker colors is 25 percent  
 16 sanctuary to the bottom, and the yellow is  
 17 75 percent. When you look at this, and I've  
 18 always said this about this chart, it almost  
 19 looks 50/50 to me. And that's why we've always  
 20 said they took more than 25 percent of our  
 21 bottom.

Page 27

1 When I was on Oyster Futures, they  
 2 actually did a bottom analysis, an accurate  
 3 bottom analysis. And they came up that Talbot  
 4 County has 39 percent of their oyster bars are  
 5 in sanctuaries.  
 6 So we're glad that Governor Hogan vetoed  
 7 this bill, even though it was overridden,  
 8 because part of the bill, it was the five  
 9 sanctuaries that were closed, part of that --  
 10 you can go to the next slide now. Well, hold  
 11 it here. Part of that was I was on Oyster  
 12 Futures, and it had come out that we were going  
 13 to be able to rotate in and out of some of  
 14 these sanctuaries, not the ones that they had  
 15 money on, just some of the other sanctuaries.  
 16 And what they did, after we had gone two  
 17 years of gaining trust with these people, they  
 18 put a bill in that undercut everything that we  
 19 had done.  
 20 And so now we are faced to sit at the  
 21 table with these people again and work with

Page 28

1 them again. So that's kind of the predicament  
 2 we're in with that.  
 3 MS. PRICE: One of the bills was  
 4 permanent. I mean when they had --  
 5 MR. HARRISON: Yeah. They're permanent  
 6 now --  
 7 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Five --  
 8 MR. HARRISON: Two of those sanctuaries  
 9 are in Talbot County. Okay. So we'll never be  
 10 able to go.  
 11 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Three.  
 12 MR. HARRISON: Well, no. The Little  
 13 Choptank is in Dorchester. The third one is  
 14 in -- so anyway, from the stock assessment last  
 15 year, we were told that if we didn't reduce our  
 16 harvest, okay, that they were going to do  
 17 something this year to do something for us.  
 18 So the DNR came in, and they came up with  
 19 a plan to do a 26 percent reduction of our  
 20 harvest. How they did that, they did  
 21 20 percent off of our limits. Used to be able

Page 29

1 to catch 15 hand tonging. Now you can only  
 2 catch 12. Used to be able to catch 12 when you  
 3 were power dredging. Now we can only catch ten  
 4 bushels.  
 5 They also decided that we would take one  
 6 day off a week. We wanted Monday or Friday if  
 7 we had to do any. They came up with Wednesday.  
 8 The reason they came up with that is because  
 9 they determined that's the day over the last  
 10 five years almost everybody works for some  
 11 reason.  
 12 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Busiest workday.  
 13 MR. HARRISON: Busiest workday. And in  
 14 order to get 26 percent reduction in harvest,  
 15 they had to pick that day.  
 16 The problem with that day is this year,  
 17 three of those days it's been the prettiest day  
 18 of the week. So you're sitting ashore and you  
 19 have to go and work when it's really blowing  
 20 and rough.  
 21 I've been two days when I shouldn't have

Page 30

1 went where I've damaged my boat or rig. And  
 2 we're afraid someone is going to get hurt. But  
 3 that's another story.  
 4 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Since the season has gone  
 5 on with the day off, we've had 12 days off  
 6 mandatory, and the total days we've missed  
 7 because of weather is over 31. So we've had  
 8 days where it's been a nice day Monday, Tuesday  
 9 it's blowing, Wednesday it's blowing, Thursday  
 10 it's blowing, and Friday is the only -- we get  
 11 two days a week.  
 12 MS. PRICE: Seems like if there's a  
 13 weather issue, should be able to make it up the  
 14 following week so that you have the net  
 15 reduction of days but you don't miss workdays.  
 16 CAPT. NEWBERRY: We're still doing good.  
 17 I mean we're going to be ahead of the curve  
 18 from last year. We had 137,000 bushels last  
 19 year. We're going to be over that this year,  
 20 even with the reduction because of the amount  
 21 of immature oysters that grew.

Page 31

1 It's like my divers up in Eastern Bay  
 2 here, where they were done last year catching  
 3 three and four bushel a day they're getting  
 4 done in like four hours now. They don't know  
 5 where they came from.  
 6 Every place in the Bay has -- the good  
 7 Lord put it here, the good Lord will take it  
 8 away. When they put that fresh (inaudible),  
 9 everybody thought it was doom and gloom. The  
 10 watermen are doing really good.  
 11 MS. PRICE: But it's where you guys are  
 12 reseeding, correct?  
 13 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Pardon me?  
 14 MS. PRICE: It's where you all are  
 15 reseeding?  
 16 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Well, we've reseeded and  
 17 there have been some phenomenal spat catches  
 18 down the Bay. Where everybody was doom and  
 19 gloom, it wasn't happening, DNR a couple of  
 20 weeks ago found areas 250, 300, 400 in areas  
 21 that we had worked. But it is good to find

Page 32

1 that many oysters.  
 2 Now, north of I would say the Choptank and  
 3 the Choptank North, it's disastrous. It's bad.  
 4 There's very little closed spat cap.  
 5 MR. HARRISON: Yeah. There is an economic  
 6 cost to this, too, of course, because now we're  
 7 only working 32 hours a week, as you know. And  
 8 we're getting \$50 a bushel, ten bushel limit.  
 9 It used to be 12. So it's really \$500 a week.  
 10 Or if we had been able to catch our 12  
 11 bushel, it's \$1,000 a week to each waterman.  
 12 So I don't know of any other business that  
 13 could suffer a \$1000-a-week loss.  
 14 But it's just not that. There's 200  
 15 surcharges, like I said. So it could be as  
 16 much in a month as \$800,000 that doesn't come  
 17 into Talbot County. So this is --  
 18 SPEAKER: Big number.  
 19 MR. HARRISON: -- a big number. And  
 20 that's just one month. I mean the oyster  
 21 season is six months long. So you have to

Page 33

1 remember that.  
 2 MR. PACK: You said it's \$200 worth of  
 3 surcharges each month?  
 4 MR. HARRISON: No. There's 200 surcharge  
 5 licenses. There's 200 oystermen.  
 6 MR. PACK: Oh, okay.  
 7 MR. HARRISON: 200 oystermen. If each one  
 8 of them loses \$1,000 a week, that's \$200,000 a  
 9 week that's not coming into Talbot County.  
 10 Those are Talbot County watermen. Okay.  
 11 So what do we have next? And last I'm  
 12 going to talk about this Oyster Futures. I  
 13 kind of hit on it a little bit. If you see the  
 14 third one down there, it says allow hand  
 15 tonging in some sanctuary areas where no  
 16 restoration efforts are planned, some with  
 17 rotating harvest.  
 18 This is something that we came up with,  
 19 like I said, two years down in Horn Point to  
 20 Oyster Futures.  
 21 Now, as soon as we get out of there, the

Page 34

1 Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and I'll call them  
 2 out, they're the ones that come and they put  
 3 that bill in and they closed those five  
 4 sanctuaries down. The places we were talking  
 5 about was the Little Choptank. That's one of  
 6 those places that got cut.  
 7 It's not only that. Now there's another  
 8 bill that was vetoed, which at the beginning of  
 9 this session will probably be overridden. And  
 10 that's the Oyster Futures bill is what they're  
 11 calling it.  
 12 So we're going to use this format that we  
 13 did for two years down there and then we came  
 14 up with these recommendations that went to the  
 15 DNR. And what happened was someone went to the  
 16 legislature because they can and they undercut  
 17 everything we did for two years.  
 18 Now I have to sit to the table with these  
 19 people again. So I can assure you when that  
 20 happens, it's not going to be as hunky dory as  
 21 it was before.

Page 35

1 I almost look at it as being unethical,  
 2 even to the point of being unethical.  
 3 CAPT. NEWBERRY: The one problem with that  
 4 bill, and you'll be familiar with it. It's  
 5 Senate Bill 830. And you were nice enough to  
 6 give us a letter on it.  
 7 The big issue with that is they want to be  
 8 able to go into closed session to discuss  
 9 regulations on the industry. And that's  
 10 definitely violations of the Open Meetings Act.  
 11 And that is going to be what we are  
 12 working with the legislators right now. We met  
 13 with a bunch the other day and explained to  
 14 them that if it does go and it is overridden,  
 15 the next day DFA will have them in court for  
 16 violations, constitutional violations of the  
 17 Open Meetings Act. Because if they want to  
 18 just put it on hold or let the bill go for a  
 19 little while and see what we can work through  
 20 that, then that's fine. But if they're going  
 21 to go through with this override, then it is

Page 36

1 definitely a constitutional issue. Because it  
 2 would be just like the only time that you're  
 3 designated to have a closed session is to  
 4 discuss personnel matters, financial matters,  
 5 legal matters.  
 6 MR. PACK: Trust me, we know about that.  
 7 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Oh, I know. So these  
 8 people are going to be advising the governor  
 9 and the DNR in closed session. We're not  
 10 playing with that.  
 11 MS. PRICE: So this was late enough in  
 12 session that --  
 13 MR. HARRISON: And it was overridden.  
 14 CAPT. NEWBERRY: No, it wasn't. 830 was  
 15 not overridden.  
 16 MS. PRICE: Right. So that's going to be  
 17 one of their first points of business at the  
 18 beginning of this legislative session, is to  
 19 override because it was so late in session.  
 20 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Yes. And we met with the  
 21 new president of the Senate day before

Page 37

1 yesterday, and saying there's -- Ferguson, real  
 2 nice guy.  
 3 And he was just amazed. I mean he was --  
 4 we were talking to him up in Kent Island. He  
 5 had no clue what's going on with the watermen.  
 6 He had no clue we didn't work Wednesdays. He  
 7 was flabbergasted. He had no clue we had a  
 8 reduction in bushels, no clue that we weren't  
 9 going to get Man O'War Shoals for dredging and  
 10 all these different groups that were opposed to  
 11 it.  
 12 And he goes why are they opposed to it, it  
 13 puts more oysters in the water. I said because  
 14 you know why, it's real easy, it works.  
 15 SPEAKER: They're not doing it.  
 16 CAPT. NEWBERRY: They're not doing it and  
 17 it works.  
 18 So hopefully we've got a fighter in that.  
 19 So he might do a little shuffle and pull that  
 20 bill aside and let it sit during session so  
 21 that we can work through this. Because we're

Page 38

1 willing to work with people, but when people  
 2 want to come in and (inaudible) livelihood,  
 3 certain people do, it's bad.  
 4 MS. PRICE: Don't worry. They're also  
 5 focused on Kirwan, including him. Maybe it  
 6 will get set aside.  
 7 CAPT. NEWBERRY: That's what everybody is  
 8 saying. They're saying they want to hear the  
 9 oyster bills because they got Kirwan bill  
 10 coming up and they're like whoa.  
 11 MR. HARRISON: And next we have a current  
 12 situation going on where they are remapping  
 13 SAVs. And the charts that we got, which are  
 14 the next page. You want to go back to this  
 15 one.  
 16 MS. PRICE: SAV, which --  
 17 MR. HARRISON: SAV, which is submerged  
 18 aquatic vegetation.  
 19 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Big grass.  
 20 MR. HARRISON: Big grasses.  
 21 Anyway, when we got these charts, they

Page 39

1 said this is the proposed areas where we saw  
 2 grass within the last three years. Or I never  
 3 did get an honest answer on exactly how these  
 4 were made. I don't know.  
 5 But anyway, when the clambers seen them,  
 6 they said well, this is basically everywhere we  
 7 clam, so this puts us out of business. All  
 8 right.  
 9 The clams, you have no idea how connected  
 10 the crabbing industry is to clamming. If this  
 11 happens --  
 12 SPEAKER: It's the bait clam.  
 13 MR. HARRISON: If this happens, the price  
 14 of crabs, if you think it was high last year,  
 15 you wait until this year because you're going  
 16 to see a difference in harvest. The razor  
 17 clam, without a doubt, is the best bait. If we  
 18 have to go back and use chicken necks, you  
 19 won't catch any in April or May. You may catch  
 20 some in June, July, and August. This is  
 21 serious.

Page 40

1 Go back to the other one. When we  
 2 asked -- this is the good one. This is the  
 3 good news at the end. If you look at the red  
 4 places, we're in the red there. And so in  
 5 2017, say here it says in Harris Creek there  
 6 were 17 acres or I don't know what HA means.  
 7 And then in 2018, it was six acres.  
 8 So what happened was all the rain killed  
 9 the grass basically. So it was runoff. It  
 10 wasn't the clambers. It was runoff that killed  
 11 the grasses.  
 12 And then this past year, because of the  
 13 early rain, it even decreased even more. But  
 14 what we're doing is we're getting ready to go  
 15 by the old maps.  
 16 SPEAKER: 2017.  
 17 MR. HARRISON: So it could hurt the  
 18 clambers.  
 19 But another point is our understanding,  
 20 there's also another bill going in from the  
 21 Shore Riverkeepers or whoever they are, Shore

Page 41

1 Rivers. And it's to --  
 2 SPEAKER: Put a moratorium.  
 3 MR. HARRISON: To put a moratorium on  
 4 clamming, hydraulic clamming, until they come  
 5 up with a management plan.  
 6 Clamming is the most regulated of any of  
 7 our industries. They clam on less than  
 8 one percent of the Bay bottom. All right.  
 9 They don't have a management plan because  
 10 in order to have a management plan, you have to  
 11 do a stock assessment. And since the clams are  
 12 under the bottom, the only way to do the stock  
 13 assessment is to go out there and dig them.  
 14 SPEAKER: Gig them up.  
 15 MR. HARRISON: And they don't have enough  
 16 money to do the stock assessment.  
 17 So I don't know if that bill is going to  
 18 go in or not, but we've heard rumors that it  
 19 is. If it is, we want your help to try to  
 20 fight that.  
 21 And we can come back in January, of

Page 42

1 course, when we do find out any bills. We have  
 2 heard absolutely nothing out of the Chesapeake  
 3 Bay Foundation. Last year they (inaudible)  
 4 preview of their upcoming legislative session.  
 5 There's been none of that this year. So we  
 6 don't know what to expect.

7 CAPT. NEWBERRY: And just on this  
 8 clamming. My staff at the office for the past  
 9 two weeks has been going through, and we've  
 10 been working with the Beacon Institute down at  
 11 Salisbury University and going over the  
 12 financials of what this would cost.

13 And just on the razor clams, if there was  
 14 a ban put on razor clams just in the mid Bay  
 15 region, it would be almost a \$10 million hit to  
 16 the boats, not the long-term effect. That  
 17 would be 10 million to the boats.

18 If you threw in the white clams, if and  
 19 when they do come back, it would be another  
 20 \$8.7 million. So you're talking almost  
 21 \$20 million hit.

Page 43

1 When you added it into the clamming  
 2 industry into bait for crabs, which is the  
 3 number one bait, and for the eel industry,  
 4 you're knocking on the door of \$70 million  
 5 negative impact.

6 So if this goes on the fiscal note for  
 7 that bill, whoever drops that bill is probably  
 8 going to have to have a bulletproof vest  
 9 walking onto the Senate or the House floor --

10 MR. PACK: No. Don't say that.

11 CAPT. NEWBERRY: They're going to get  
 12 hammered because --

13 MR. PACK: Let me ask you two questions,  
 14 then.

15 On the one with the SAVs, you're talking  
 16 about the heavy rainfall caused the. . .

17 MR. HARRISON: Loss of grasses.

18 MR. PACK: Grasses to die. Is there any  
 19 Horn Point study or is there any independent  
 20 study to show that?

21 MR. HARRISON: The interesting thing is

Page 44

1 all these studies are done in Virginia.

2 CAPT. NEWBERRY: They're done by VIMS.

3 MR. HARRISON: -- does it. Virginia  
 4 Institute of Marine Science does it.

5 MR. PACK: Okay.

6 MR. HARRISON: So we don't even have any  
 7 scientists to fool with grasses.

8 SPEAKER: There's no ground (inaudible)  
 9 for the mapping either, which is supposed to be  
 10 by law once they do the aerial, the drone.

11 MR. HARRISON: Yeah. They do drones and  
 12 aerials to look at it.

13 SPEAKER: -- which is the actual.

14 CAPT. NEWBERRY: And satellite.

15 MR. HARRISON: Yeah. And then actually  
 16 what they also do is if they can't see with all  
 17 that rain, there's a lot of runoff, the water  
 18 was muddy. They actually go in and they look  
 19 at certain areas. They don't look at all the  
 20 areas. But that's how they come up with that  
 21 66 percent reduction in our area. So but they

Page 45

1 did go and look at it.

2 MR. PACK: This is the DNR you're  
 3 referring to?

4 MR. HARRISON: It's Virginia Institute of  
 5 Marine Science.

6 MR. PACK: As far as the mapping and all,  
 7 is that Virginia?

8 MR. HARRISON: That's DNR.

9 MR. PACK: That's DNR.

10 MR. HARRISON: They are obligated every  
 11 three years to remap.

12 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Using the information  
 13 from VIMS.

14 MR. HARRISON: Yes.

15 MR. PACK: My second question is I've  
 16 heard that when the government is asking  
 17 farmers not to farm a particular crop, that  
 18 they could go and get reimbursed for that,  
 19 whatever that acreage would be.

20 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Right.

21 MR. PACK: Is there anything where

Page 46

1 watermen can go in? If you're saying that you  
 2 cannot clam for a season --  
 3 CAPT. NEWBERRY: No.  
 4 MR. PACK: There's nothing set aside for  
 5 you to go in --  
 6 CAPT. NEWBERRY: No.  
 7 MR. HARRISON: They're not saying you  
 8 can't clam. You can't clam there, where the  
 9 clams are.  
 10 MS. PRICE: Where they are.  
 11 MR. PACK: Wait a minute. If you can't  
 12 clam where the clams are, then come on now.  
 13 Then you can't clam.  
 14 MR. HARRISON: Here is the truth about  
 15 watermen. What you do is you have to go to  
 16 work, and they'll go somewhere and they'll find  
 17 some clams somewhere somehow. It might not be  
 18 as many as they could catch, but they will go  
 19 look.  
 20 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Being you're dealing with  
 21 a natural resource, it's not like a farmer. A

Page 47

1 farmer has the ability the plant the corn,  
 2 fertilize it, and harvest it. And it's his own  
 3 doing.  
 4 Dealing with a natural resource, that's  
 5 where the problem lays. You're very seldom,  
 6 unless there's a disaster declared, then you  
 7 have no economic reimbursement whatsoever.  
 8 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you.  
 9 MR. HARRISON: And so lastly, if you get a  
 10 chance, we were so fortunate that the Ravens  
 11 did a commercial, and it combined them and the  
 12 watermen. And you really have to go see this.  
 13 It's only 20 seconds or 30 seconds long.  
 14 But we were so tickled with it that we  
 15 called them up to thank them. We're sending  
 16 them all of the 4X T-shirts that we can't seem  
 17 to get rid of.  
 18 CAPT. NEWBERRY: The whole box.  
 19 MR. HARRISON: And we're trying to invite  
 20 them to our Watermen's Appreciate Day this  
 21 year. I don't know if that's going to happen

Page 48

1 or not, but we're hoping so, and invite them  
 2 down to thank them.  
 3 You really need to look at this. It's a  
 4 crab potter, and just the way they go back and  
 5 forth, it's really good. And we were so  
 6 fortunate to have this.  
 7 And also, if we do hear of some bills, we  
 8 would hope that we could do another work  
 9 session like we did last year and come in.  
 10 And we hope that everyone comes. We  
 11 welcome an open discussion between every group  
 12 down here. We have nothing to hide.  
 13 And we do -- today I worked on a place of  
 14 what we call the (inaudible) shells, which is  
 15 the shells that we're trying to get dug up, Man  
 16 O'War. It was planted there 34 years ago, and  
 17 it's still producing oysters. So when you hear  
 18 that stuff, oh, the shell dissolves in seven  
 19 years, don't believe that.  
 20 There's another place on the Stone Rock  
 21 that was planted 34 years ago too, same time.

Page 49

1 They're catching their limit on it still. It  
 2 hasn't been enhanced by anything other than  
 3 natural reproduction.  
 4 So we appreciate all that you did for us  
 5 last year. If you want, I can do this every  
 6 year. If you would like that, we can set it up  
 7 for the second Tuesday in December, if you  
 8 want.  
 9 And like I said, thank you for all that  
 10 you've done for us. The landings. The  
 11 harbor's dug out down in Tilghman. We  
 12 appreciate that.  
 13 And there is one more thing about  
 14 Bellevue, though. It really needs to change  
 15 that one side. There's so much area there for  
 16 the -- I've talked about this a couple of  
 17 times. There's a lot of boats from other areas  
 18 that come here that need a place to tie, and  
 19 they would be able to dock there.  
 20 Right now, if you go down Bellevue,  
 21 there's nobody in those slips because a lot of

Page 50

1 those guys now have gone down the Bay because  
 2 they're catching more oysters down there than  
 3 we are here right now.  
 4 And but that's one thing I would like to  
 5 look at, is Bellevue Harbor.  
 6 MR. PACK: Okay.  
 7 MS. PRICE: What I would like to request  
 8 is that we know all the decisions get made in  
 9 committee. So we might not be able to save  
 10 these up.  
 11 We had kind of gotten to the end of  
 12 session, and our work session wasn't for a  
 13 couple of weeks.  
 14 Once it gets out of committee, it's done,  
 15 it's going to pass on the floor.  
 16 So as you get the bills, if you can send  
 17 us a weekly update, a biweekly update so that  
 18 we're able to familiarize ourselves with it.  
 19 If we need to call a session, we may not have  
 20 time, as we know, things get moved, to meet  
 21 with you. But we also need to be able to do it

Page 51

1 in public, as we now.  
 2 So as these bills get introduced, make  
 3 sure that you're forwarding them on to the  
 4 counties that are affected. And I'm sure  
 5 Dorchester County would feel the same way,  
 6 Queen Anne's County, so that the Councils are  
 7 able to do the research, read the bill.  
 8 And then if we need to make a decision, if  
 9 you're asking us for a letter of support or  
 10 opposition, that we are able to do that in open  
 11 session. We can't necessarily wait until --  
 12 and I know the committee dates change and all  
 13 of a sudden there's a bill hearing in two days,  
 14 and we're going to be a little stuck with some  
 15 of those. But the ones you know about, make  
 16 sure you give us as much advance notice as  
 17 possible so we can help you.  
 18 CAPT. NEWBERRY: We're working with --  
 19 Delmarva Fisheries is now, we're kind of  
 20 partnering up with the Clean Chesapeake  
 21 Coalition. And we were working with the Rural

Page 52

1 County Coalition, Northern County Coalition.  
 2 And Delmarva now represents Kent, Queen  
 3 Anne's, Talbot, Dorchester, Somerset, one  
 4 county on the western shore. We've just picked  
 5 up four more members in New York,  
 6 Massachusetts, New Jersey, Delaware, and North  
 7 Carolina.  
 8 MR. PACK: Wow.  
 9 CAPT. NEWBERRY: And we're growing  
 10 rapidly.  
 11 But the one thing I want to say about what  
 12 you have here in Talbot County, your Talbot  
 13 County Watermen's Association, out of all the  
 14 groups we represent, are the strongest, most  
 15 giving, most -- they're fantastic people. I  
 16 mean what they give back to the community is  
 17 unheard of with any -- I talk to the guys up in  
 18 New York of what Talbot County does, they're  
 19 like you're kidding. I say oh, yeah.  
 20 I go to every meeting on the second Sunday  
 21 of each month and attend all these meetings.

Page 53

1 It's something you guys really need to be  
 2 proud of here. Talbot County is number one in  
 3 the state financially and what they do for the  
 4 community, too.  
 5 MR. PACK: Thanks for saying that, Captain  
 6 Newberry.  
 7 And that goes back to one more question I  
 8 had. Jeff, you were saying early on in your  
 9 presentation that the 500 and some odd license  
 10 holders here in Talbot County, they represent  
 11 22 percent of the total license holders in the  
 12 State of Maryland.  
 13 MR. HARRISON: In the State of Maryland.  
 14 MR. PACK: So nearly a quarter.  
 15 MR. HARRISON: There's 13 counties on the  
 16 water. And we probably produce 25 percent, I  
 17 would say 25 percent of the seafood that comes  
 18 into Maryland.  
 19 SPEAKER: Big number.  
 20 MR. HARRISON: Talbot and Dorchester --  
 21 MS. PRICE: Yeah. Talbot and Dorchester.

Page 54

1 MR. HARRISON: -- 50 percent.  
 2 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Last year, the total  
 3 amount according to Beacon was \$385 million.  
 4 Talbot County produced 26 percent of that.  
 5 MS. PRICE: So Talbot and Dorchester are  
 6 half or more, right?  
 7 MR. HARRISON: Yes.  
 8 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Yes.  
 9 MR. PACK: Did Beacon do a seafood  
 10 dashboard last year that showed that?  
 11 CAPT. NEWBERRY: It breaks it down county  
 12 by county by county.  
 13 And what it is, for instance, the Eastern  
 14 Shore out of this year, 360 some odd million,  
 15 \$370 million, just the Eastern Shore counties  
 16 alone attribute 84.65 percent of the total  
 17 amount, where the rest comes from the western  
 18 shore. So we're producing that down here.  
 19 And on January 16th, Delmarva Fisheries  
 20 will be hosting again the environmental summit  
 21 over in Annapolis. And I'd like to extend an

Page 55

1 invitation to you all to show up for that.  
 2 It's going to be quite a one this year because  
 3 I'm going to tell you, and if I can just take  
 4 one second.  
 5 Jeff has given you some good news. And I  
 6 mean there is a lot of good news. But with the  
 7 good comes the bad.  
 8 And I don't know if you've been reading in  
 9 the paper about the Atlantic States Coastal  
 10 Marine Fisheries, ASMSC, has now put with the  
 11 stripe bass here in Maryland, we've had to  
 12 adopt a "conservation equivalence". And where  
 13 it's going to fall hard on Talbot County,  
 14 there's going to be two weeks off the season  
 15 for stripe bass in the spring, two weeks in the  
 16 middle, and it's going to be the month of July,  
 17 like the eighth until the first of August  
 18 during the vacation time where there will be no  
 19 fishing. Charter boats will be sitting at the  
 20 dock.  
 21 And we have a major, major problem with

Page 56

1 that. And I'm working with the secretary, with  
 2 Jeannie Haddaway-Ricco in trying to figure  
 3 out -- I'm a charter captain myself. And  
 4 trying to figure out how we're going to get  
 5 with this accountability problem because with  
 6 the charter boats sitting in the county here,  
 7 with the amount you have, the average boat is  
 8 going to lose about \$14,000 in those 20 days.  
 9 MR. PACK: And you need to get Ms. Price,  
 10 you all need to get us that information as soon  
 11 as possible so we can have it --  
 12 CAPT. NEWBERRY: We will do -- I mean  
 13 we'll do that. I have no problem in getting  
 14 that to Ms. Price.  
 15 MR. PACK: And Jeff, yes. First of all,  
 16 thank you very much for coming in. The  
 17 presentation was excellent.  
 18 Yes, a lot of high notes. But as you say  
 19 Captain Newberry, with the good comes some of  
 20 the bad.  
 21 And we would like for this to be an annual

Page 57

1 presentation, as we do with our farmers.  
 2 Something, as you know, you and I have talked  
 3 before, that we need to hear from you all on a  
 4 more regular basis than at that 12th hour when  
 5 something is due.  
 6 So if we can schedule you in in December,  
 7 it would be a good time to do it, right before  
 8 we go into session. Therefore, if there's  
 9 anything we need to gear up for and be prepared  
 10 for, we can work with you to do that.  
 11 I'm looking over at Mr. Hollis. He's busy  
 12 writing. So I'm sure that he'll make that  
 13 happen.  
 14 CAPT. NEWBERRY: If I can say one more  
 15 thing, if we could. We reached out to the  
 16 Rural County Coalition. And then also to Kent  
 17 County, Queen Anne's County, and Dorchester  
 18 County are willing to help us financially with  
 19 our environmental summit.  
 20 And I just would like to ask if there's  
 21 any chance that Talbot County might be able to



Page 58

1 maybe kick in a little bit for our  
 2 environmental summit that we do.  
 3 MR. PACK: Send us something in writing so  
 4 we can --  
 5 CAPT. NEWBERRY: I will definitely.  
 6 MR. PACK: -- sit down with --  
 7 CAPT. NEWBERRY: I'll have my staff send  
 8 you a letter.  
 9 MR. PACK: Please do.  
 10 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Just I would like to see  
 11 that Talbot County, being that you guys are  
 12 sitting right in the middle of this, I'd like  
 13 to really see the commission start bolstering  
 14 these watermen.  
 15 MS. PRICE: So the Rural County Coalition,  
 16 for those who don't know, is one of the two  
 17 subgroups of MACo. There's a Large County  
 18 Coalition and a Rural County Coalition, which  
 19 is chaired by Jack Wilson from Queen Anne's  
 20 County.  
 21 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Right.

Page 59

1 MS. PRICE: We have a call every Monday  
 2 night prior to our legislative session on  
 3 Wednesday mornings to go over all the bills.  
 4 And we work from the MACo list of bills that  
 5 we're going to talk about.  
 6 But if you have one that's not going to  
 7 make the overall bill list, again, you need to  
 8 get it to Jack and to Sara (inaudible) from  
 9 Caroline County so that we can discuss it on  
 10 that Monday night call.  
 11 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Did you all get a copy of  
 12 the resolution letter that we had put out?  
 13 SECRETARY: That you sent me today?  
 14 CAPT. NEWBERRY: Yes.  
 15 SECRETARY: Yes, they have it.  
 16 CAPT. NEWBERRY: That's another big thing.  
 17 That was just mailed last Friday to the Board  
 18 of Public Works.  
 19 And the resolution is to move forward with  
 20 the vote on Man O'War Shoals for dredging  
 21 because we're getting nothing out of the Oyster

Page 60

1 Advisory Committee, and everybody is just tying  
 2 this up.  
 3 And this gives us the ability, just to let  
 4 you know, at Man O'War Shoals, it is now -- the  
 5 problem was the hold-up from Baltimore County  
 6 saying that that's our only place to oyster.  
 7 Now Baltimore County has said there are no  
 8 oysters up there and we only have one  
 9 oysterman.  
 10 We finally found him. He's a mechanic at  
 11 a boat yard. He hasn't oystered in two years,  
 12 but he has paid his intent.  
 13 MR. PACK: Okay. We'll look into that.  
 14 We're going to have to move along. We  
 15 have another presentation right behind you.  
 16 Thanks a lot, Jeff. Captain Newberry,  
 17 good to see you as well.  
 18 MR. HARRISON: Thank you.  
 19 MR. LESHER: One more item. You were  
 20 talking about Bellevue slips, and I might lean  
 21 on staff to make sure we get the facts

Page 61

1 straight.  
 2 But with those slips, you know that it is  
 3 possible to get the slip temporarily  
 4 reassigned.  
 5 MR. HARRISON: Yes. But this wasn't the  
 6 slips. It's the area that's across from the  
 7 slips. It's a long area there. It used to be  
 8 that you could tie to the dock there.  
 9 MR. LESHER: But you were saying that you  
 10 couldn't use the -- that all the slips were  
 11 sitting empty and you couldn't use them and  
 12 we're looking to this other place to tie up.  
 13 MR. HARRISON: Well, yes, yes, yes.  
 14 MR. LESHER: You can use those slips if  
 15 you --  
 16 MR. HARRISON: Well, if you go through the  
 17 process of the 120 days. Some people don't do  
 18 that. See what I mean. Some people have the  
 19 slip and they don't want anybody to be in it.  
 20 These people used to raft, and they used  
 21 to do that years ago. They used to raft. And

Page 62

1 there's a lot of people that come down here  
 2 from the other counties, Queen Anne's, and then  
 3 even come up the Bay to go hand tonging in the  
 4 Tred Avon and Broad Creek.  
 5 And they used to be able to tie there.  
 6 Well, now they can't. There's no reason that  
 7 they shouldn't be able to is what I'm saying.  
 8 MR. PACK: Well, there is a reason I  
 9 believe from what we understand.  
 10 MR. DIVILIO: We'll be addressing that  
 11 later.  
 12 MR. PACK: We'll address it later.  
 13 MR. DIVILIO: Tonight.  
 14 MR. HARRISON: Talk about it another time.  
 15 MR. DIVILIO: It will be addressed  
 16 tonight.  
 17 MR. PACK: It has to do with maneuvering  
 18 in that area, as you know.  
 19 MR. HARRISON: Thank you, guys. I always  
 20 feel at home here. When I go over there, whoo.  
 21 MR. PACK: Thanks, Jeff.

Page 63

1 MR. HARRISON: Thank you.  
 2 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you.  
 3 MR. PACK: Jeri, you can start coming on  
 4 up, please. Thank you.  
 5 Council, next on your agenda, you have an  
 6 update from the Talbot County Elections Board.  
 7 Ms. Jeri Cook is here with us, also members of  
 8 the Talbot County Board of Elections. Joe  
 9 Secrist is here, board chair.  
 10 Anyone who is here for the public hearing  
 11 which was supposed to start at 6:30, we're  
 12 going to probably pick that up around 7:10. So  
 13 if you need to run out to your car to pay the  
 14 meter or whatever, just get back here around  
 15 7:10.  
 16 Jeri, good to see you.  
 17 MR. SECRIST: I'll just start off with  
 18 just a couple of things about what's coming up.  
 19 The only local positions on the ballot  
 20 this time are the three School Board seats;  
 21 district two, five, and six. And they haven't

Page 64

1 had anybody file yet. The filing deadline is  
 2 January 24th.  
 3 And while I'm talking about School Board,  
 4 since next year is the census year, we  
 5 understand the language of legislation, you  
 6 have until December 1st of next year to appoint  
 7 a non-member commission to redraw the School  
 8 Board -- Board of Education seats.  
 9 MR. PACK: Redistrict. I thought we just  
 10 did that about seven years ago.  
 11 MR. SECRIST: It's every ten years.  
 12 MR. PACK: Has it been ten years already?  
 13 We just did that.  
 14 MS. PRICE: You've been around a long  
 15 time.  
 16 MR. PACK: Hasn't been ten years since we  
 17 did that. Okay.  
 18 MR. SECRIST: Well, and the thing is how  
 19 it affects us is that the commission has to  
 20 come to you by the following November so you  
 21 can adopt the new districts.

Page 65

1 And after you adopt the new districts, it  
 2 falls on Jeri and the staff to send new voters  
 3 cards out to everybody that's changed.  
 4 And last time, it was a drastic change.  
 5 It was about 7,000 people had to get new voters  
 6 cards. Hopefully it will be less this year.  
 7 MS. PRICE: Hopefully we got it right last  
 8 time.  
 9 MR. PACK: You caught me by surprise with  
 10 this, Joe. So this redistricting will not take  
 11 place before the 2020 election, correct?  
 12 MR. SECRIST: It's effective at the 2020  
 13 election, but you have to adopt in November of  
 14 '21. And you have to appoint the commission by  
 15 December 1st of '20.  
 16 MR. PACK: Okay.  
 17 MS. PRICE: Now we know --  
 18 MR. PACK: Here we go. Go through this  
 19 again.  
 20 Jeri, any good news from you? We're tired  
 21 of him.

Page 66

1 MS. COOK: I certainly hope so.

2 MR. SECRIST: The only other thing I had

3 was if you have a local question to go on

4 the -- it has to be submitted to the State

5 Election Board no later than July 21st.

6 MR. PACK: We're working on that one.

7 Yeah.

8 MS. COOK: So first I want to thank you

9 for allowing me to come in and just kind of

10 update you on what's going on in the election

11 world.

12 We have -- currently we're taking care of

13 voters registration and updates on a daily

14 basis. We are making sure that everyone who

15 wants to vote has the ability to vote and

16 anybody who's changing their address or party

17 affiliation or whatever, that's being taken

18 care of as well.

19 Also, we get reports from the State, which

20 also we've used to update any information that

21 comes through.

Page 67

1 We are preparing for the 2020 election.

2 We have many meetings, trainings that are

3 taking place across the Bay as well as in

4 different local boards. So we are

5 constantly -- there's a few changes to our

6 election process this time, like same-day

7 registration on Election Day. So we are

8 constantly making sure that we are ready for

9 that push starting probably in about two weeks

10 when we really get very busy.

11 We are going to be able to involve the

12 high school students, which we're really

13 excited about. As a matter of fact, we have

14 one of my staff members is going on Thursday to

15 talk to the students at Easton High School. So

16 we're going to see how -- the teachers are

17 really on board. So we're going to see how the

18 students react to the same information.

19 We've been going around to all the polling

20 places so that we can make sure that the flow

21 for the voters is done with very, very -- just

Page 68

1 ease for the voters to get from one place to

2 the other throughout the polling place, as well

3 as doing site surveys, which makes it easier

4 for the chief judges and the judges in general.

5 We're constantly recruiting election

6 judges. We have got quite a few of our

7 election judges that are coming back, which we

8 are so grateful for because it always helps to

9 have people who have a little bit of background

10 when they get ready to go again. Even though

11 they forget after two years, it comes back to

12 them pretty quickly once they start the process

13 again.

14 And we're always in need of more election

15 judges because of the fact that this election,

16 especially our general election, is

17 historically the highest turnout of any

18 election that we have. Presidential general is

19 always the highest.

20 And then we introduced Facebook. We have

21 a Facebook page now, and it has been amazing,

Page 69

1 the number of people who have reached out and

2 said that they are interested in becoming

3 election judges. So we are really excited

4 about that avenue for them.

5 And then we are processing and updating

6 the -- are in the process of updating the

7 election equipment, either by way of software

8 updates or just updating it to make sure that

9 we're ready, that the equipment is ready so

10 that it goes -- in April we're ready to go.

11 Again, as Joe noted, we do have candidate

12 filing that's taking place with the three

13 districts; two, five, and six. It is nine p.m.

14 on January 24th. We're hoping that we get some

15 folks that are really interested pretty soon

16 because we don't want them all coming in at

17 eight o'clock on the 24th. We'd like for them

18 to come a little earlier than that. But we'll

19 be there. So no worries.

20 We are assigning all the election judges

21 to the 11 polling places as well as early

Page 70

1 voting. So that's something that's going on  
 2 right now, as well as getting ready for the  
 3 training. So we have to update our manuals  
 4 every year. That's being sent to the State so  
 5 that they can at that point send it back to us  
 6 and we can get it together for the election  
 7 judges.  
 8 We are also updating all the documents  
 9 that need to be utilized by the judges on  
 10 Election Day and early voting and preparing the  
 11 training overall.  
 12 We have begun collaborating with some  
 13 local agencies to prepare for the election, and  
 14 I'll talk about that in a little bit, and as  
 15 well as ordering supplies, not only from the  
 16 State standpoint but also locally to make sure  
 17 that the polling places are equipped with  
 18 everything that they need for that, not only  
 19 early voting but Election Day.  
 20 So this is more current and future because  
 21 our voting equipment, we're always charging it,

Page 71

1 we're making sure that it is at 100 percent all  
 2 the time. We're getting ready for logic and  
 3 accuracy testing in the next few months leading  
 4 up to the April primary.  
 5 The allocation to each of the polling  
 6 places have been taking place. That includes  
 7 all of the different equipment. Ordering the  
 8 supplies for the equipment themselves, and  
 9 arranging the delivery of the equipment for  
 10 Election Day and early voting. Updating and  
 11 sending the sample ballots to each voter of the  
 12 two major parties for the primary, as well as  
 13 arranging the nursing home visits. We've  
 14 started by making contact with the nursing home  
 15 in the county, and then we will follow up  
 16 starting in January to set dates and times and  
 17 that so forth.  
 18 Handling the increase in absentee ballot  
 19 applications. We always get a lot more. Once  
 20 people realize that it's -- once 2020, that  
 21 hits, that's when we're going to start seeing a

Page 72

1 big increase in the absentee applications from  
 2 our voters, as well as processing the increase  
 3 in voter registration and updates.  
 4 And also, one thing that I didn't put on  
 5 here is that we also train our citizens through  
 6 a voter registration volunteer program so that  
 7 they can go out and also get our citizens  
 8 registered to vote. So that's all being done.  
 9 So our collaboration that we're working  
 10 closely with are noted here. And for Easton  
 11 Fire Department, we want to make sure that we  
 12 are both on the same page because of their  
 13 concerns and our concerns. So in January, I'm  
 14 going to touch base with them. We're going to  
 15 meet, make sure that we have enough signage,  
 16 make sure that we have enough -- that there's  
 17 no hindrance as far as for the emergency  
 18 equipment. We want to make sure that it's a  
 19 positive process for both sides of what needs  
 20 to be done.  
 21 And just a reminder that it is in the

Page 73

1 bingo hall this time. So voters -- we'll be  
 2 putting it on the sample ballots. We'll be  
 3 trying to make sure that the voters realize  
 4 that it's not in that area that it was in the  
 5 bay areas before.  
 6 MR. PACK: And they're going to be coning  
 7 a section of that parking area off, is that  
 8 correct, Jeri?  
 9 MS. COOK: Correct. And actually I've got  
 10 signs on the way that are going to help with  
 11 big cones that will help to keep that in order.  
 12 MR. PACK: Good. Thank you.  
 13 MS. COOK: And also I'm working with  
 14 emergency management systems. We are going to  
 15 have like a what we call a tabletop exercise,  
 16 for lesser words. That's what we've been doing  
 17 through the election world. But we're getting  
 18 together and we're just going to talk about  
 19 what the roles are for each one of the  
 20 agencies, whether it be fire, police, whatever,  
 21 electric companies, whatever we may have

Page 74

1 happen. We want to have some scenarios  
 2 presented, and then that way we can talk it  
 3 through to make sure that we're all on board  
 4 for the same -- who is doing what so that we  
 5 are prepared for anything that may come up.  
 6 And then the Board of Education, the high  
 7 schools will be closed for the 2020 election  
 8 cycle, which we are very excited about because  
 9 it's going to give the voters the opportunity  
 10 to have a better experience at those two  
 11 polling places at the high schools without the  
 12 students, with the cars and everything. It's  
 13 just going to make it much nicer for the  
 14 voters.  
 15 And it also gives us the opportunity, as I  
 16 spoke earlier, of allowing the students to have  
 17 a part of the process as well. So these are  
 18 some of the opportunities that 16 to  
 19 18-year-olds will have. They can either be  
 20 election judges for Election Day or early  
 21 voting, Election Day field support, which is a

Page 75

1 little bit more of a two-day thing.  
 2 We did talk to the teachers about each one  
 3 of these jobs and also election night support.  
 4 So we're going to reach out to the students  
 5 this week.  
 6 We're going to start with Easton High  
 7 School and then in January we go to  
 8 St. Michael's. And we're going to hopefully  
 9 get quite a few students on board to get --  
 10 because we know word of mouth is what's going  
 11 to help us more than anything to get the  
 12 student excited about doing something like  
 13 this.  
 14 And also, we're going to hopefully by the  
 15 general have 14 and 15-year-olds involved as  
 16 well in the page program. It's a new program  
 17 that legislation just put in. So we're waiting  
 18 for State board to come with the regulations to  
 19 us so that we know what we can and can't do and  
 20 what they can and can't do. So that's  
 21 probably -- it could happen in the primary, but

Page 76

1 we're hoping by the general to definitely have  
 2 it ready to go. So we're really excited.  
 3 I got started when I was very young in the  
 4 election world. And well, political world,  
 5 election world. So I am so excited to think  
 6 that the students will get involved in the same  
 7 type of thing.  
 8 One of the concerns that we wanted to  
 9 bring to you was the fact that -- and first, I  
 10 have to say that we did meet with Jessica and  
 11 Andy about some of the concerns that the  
 12 Election Board had. And we have had such a  
 13 great response from both of you, and I  
 14 appreciate everything that you've done. We've  
 15 had a lot of our concerns addressed. And to  
 16 that, I'm very grateful.  
 17 The only thing that really -- well, one of  
 18 the things that really is a concern now is the  
 19 telephone system. But I did get an e-mail from  
 20 Jessica this morning that said Easton Utilities  
 21 is installing the fiberoptic or fiber to Bay

Page 77

1 Street. So the project should be completed  
 2 within the next two weeks.  
 3 What I'm experiencing right now is I will  
 4 try to get my voice mail, and it will not work.  
 5 And then a few minutes later, I try again and  
 6 it works. And then it's back and forth. And  
 7 then when I try to leave a call for someone  
 8 within the county, it rings rapid busy. So  
 9 what my concern is is that we don't want to  
 10 have that for the voters when they're trying to  
 11 call because we just want to make sure they can  
 12 get to us if they need any questions answered.  
 13 That was why I had brought this to the  
 14 attention.  
 15 So now we had the opportunity -- and  
 16 again, I thank you for allowing us to sit down  
 17 with the architect that is working the process  
 18 of whatever is going to happen with the  
 19 Sheriff's Office and the new buildings and so  
 20 forth. And we know that our warehouse is going  
 21 to go away once Glebe Road Business Center goes

Page 78

1 away.

2 So what our request is is that if you're

3 going to move, when we move, we have to move in

4 2021. We cannot wait to 2022. It takes quite

5 a while for the State to get our secured

6 networks into the area so that it can be

7 utilized.

8 MS. PRICE: The building is probably, at

9 the earliest, not until 2023. So you might

10 have a whole extra election cycle there.

11 MS. COOK: So the building is not going to

12 be razed until 2023? Okay, okay.

13 MS. PRICE: Hopefully you'll have another

14 election cycle over there.

15 MS. COOK: That's the only thing. My

16 concern is that we cannot do it 2022. That's

17 where our concern lies because that whole year

18 is revolved around the elections.

19 MR. PACK: Sure.

20 MS. COOK: But we would ask that you

21 consider that when you do this, that you would

Page 79

1 put us together under one roof.

2 And I had sent you some information from

3 Washington County where they are now doing that

4 in that county, putting everything under one

5 roof for everything; early voting, training,

6 everything. And also St. Mary's County is also

7 following with that same idea. A lot of the

8 counties are putting everything under one roof

9 because of the fact of the security measures

10 and just the logistics of everything. So we

11 would request that you would consider that.

12 MR. PACK: So you're talking about under

13 one roof as far as where you're keeping the

14 machines and also where your office space is?

15 MS. COOK: Correct, yes. So that we can

16 do everything right there. We can train, we

17 can have early voting, we can -- and if it's a

18 multipurpose area, that's fine as long as we've

19 got our security.

20 But we would be able to have everything

21 there. Training for election judges, we could

Page 80

1 have training for our staff, early voting.

2 Because with -- you never know when we may have

3 to have another early voting site. We do have

4 a high turnout for early voting.

5 So as we found out last time, if we have

6 to get a second early voting site, it's about

7 \$115,000 just to get the equipment, the

8 supplies, and the election judges. That's not

9 even including any type of rent cost, whatever

10 that may be.

11 If, when we -- okay. So if -- when the

12 one goes away at Glebe Road, we will have to

13 have a training facility somewhere.

14 Usually what my experience has been

15 previously, not in Talbot, but previously is

16 that we have to work with organizations that

17 have big enough area to train. And it usually

18 ends up being costly because it usually takes

19 us about a month, a full month to -- and we

20 have to be available weekends and weeknights

21 and weekdays.

Page 81

1 So it does end up costing quite a bit for

2 the facility and also moving the equipment back

3 and forth because we have to have certain

4 people move that equipment since it's leased

5 equipment. We can't just use the county to

6 move that equipment at this point.

7 So that is where we -- the fact that the

8 county's getting larger. So additional staff,

9 just additional room for staff, better access.

10 Right now our voters have a hard time,

11 especially if they're new to the area, they

12 have a hard time finding our facility since

13 it's so far in the back on Bay Street. There's

14 really not any signage out on Bay Street. That

15 would be helpful for now if we could get

16 something that at least would be there so

17 people would see it. And also, we have the

18 challenge of people who need accessibility

19 issues because it's kind of odd the way that

20 people have to get into the building.

21 So that is another reason why if we're all

Page 82

1 under one, we can take care of all of it at one  
 2 time.  
 3 We could host regional meetings and  
 4 trainings that would save the cost of us having  
 5 to go across the bridge all the time, which are  
 6 the local boards, in order to be at these  
 7 meetings or trainings that take place.  
 8 And then, of course, with early voting,  
 9 canvassing and training, it just gives the  
 10 public a better chance of being able to attend  
 11 any of these (inaudible) if we're under one  
 12 roof.  
 13 So what I would like to do is invite all  
 14 of you to come to the warehouse so that you can  
 15 kind of see what our challenges are, what's  
 16 going on in our warehouse right now so you can  
 17 see that we are actively working and that we --  
 18 it won't take long because it's not a very big  
 19 space. But we would love to have you come out  
 20 just so that you can kind of see we have a  
 21 problem with getting our public in. And we

Page 83

1 want to make sure that we get into like the  
 2 canvassing that takes place with the absentee  
 3 and the provisional votes.  
 4 So I would love to set up a date if you  
 5 all are available or whoever may be available  
 6 to come over. So that way you can kind of see  
 7 what we're doing on that side of it.  
 8 And this is just my quick reminder to  
 9 everybody. When the election is this time, I  
 10 don't want anybody to forget when it might be.  
 11 So this is when it's taking place. We look  
 12 forward to everybody coming out in April. And  
 13 for that, I thank you. We look forward to it.  
 14 MR. PACK: Jeri and Joe, thank you so much  
 15 for coming and giving us the update.  
 16 Jeri, I must admit, you're absolutely  
 17 right when you're talking about a building  
 18 space for the Election Board and all the hubbub  
 19 and shuffle with the Sheriff's Department, the  
 20 new Health Department, and other capital  
 21 expenditures. I think I kind of forgot in the

Page 84

1 back of my mind that yeah, we got to provide  
 2 space for our Election Board as well. That's  
 3 one of our mandates as a county government,  
 4 that we provide space for you all.  
 5 So now we have to continue ringing this  
 6 bell to our citizens that these capital  
 7 expenditures over the next five years or so are  
 8 going to be adding up.  
 9 MR. HOLLIS: We have included them in the  
 10 space needs analysis that will be seen shortly.  
 11 I feel that I should apologize to you for  
 12 having to listen to her complain about a phone  
 13 system. We're handling that at staff level.  
 14 Within two weeks, it will be rectified. Beyond  
 15 our immediate control.  
 16 And I'm sorry that you're so frustrated  
 17 about the existing space over at Bay Street. I  
 18 didn't realize just how challenging it was for  
 19 your users to come. It's really a shame that  
 20 you're not able to make the space work.  
 21 MR. PACK: We'll certainly continue

Page 85

1 working with you all as best we possibly can.  
 2 But yeah. With the space analysis that we  
 3 have done, but again, just to verbally say it  
 4 to the public. Hey, these things have to be  
 5 paid for. We have to provide housing for you  
 6 all as well as for the Sheriff's Department and  
 7 also for our Health Department.  
 8 So again, thanks for coming out and  
 9 speaking to us about it. And we'll certainly  
 10 be in contact with you.  
 11 MS. COOK: Thank you. I appreciate your  
 12 time.  
 13 MR. PACK: Thank you, Jeri.  
 14 I said 7:10. It's now 7:15. We're still  
 15 not there yet.  
 16 MS. PRICE: I love how we always put 6:30.  
 17 No matter how many things are in front of it on  
 18 the agenda, we always say 6:30.  
 19 MR. PACK: I try to stay -- we're going to  
 20 start the public hearing sometime around 7:30.  
 21 So if you got to go pay the meter.

Page 86	Page 88
<p>1 We have a couple of matters here for                  2 introduction. This shouldn't take that long.                  3 But let's go through these.                  4 The first matter for introduction, Madam                  5 Secretary, is dealing with Walkers Turn Road.                  6 If you wouldn't mind reading that, please.                  7 SECRETARY: A resolution to formally                  8 abandon and authorize conveyance of a certain                  9 portion of Walkers Turn Road, formerly Maryland                  10 Route 451 in McDaniel, Maryland. Said portion                  11 of roadway consisting of 0.05 miles, more or                  12 less. Located astride two parcels of land held                  13 in common ownership with an address of 22641                  14 Walkers Turn Road, McDaniel, Maryland 21647.                  15 Further described as tax map 22, parcels 167                  16 and 234, collectively the property. To                  17 establish certain conditions precedent to such                  18 abandonment and conveyance, including a survey                  19 of the area to be abandoned and revision plat                  20 at the owner's expense, and to authorize                  21 conveyance of the county's interest in such</p>	<p>1 with a weight limitation on Black Dog Alley.                  2 Madam Secretary, if you wouldn't mind reading                  3 that.                  4 SECRETARY: A resolution to establish a                  5 vehicle weight limit on Black Dog Alley                  6 pursuant to section 25-102A11 of the                  7 Transportation Article, Annotated Code of                  8 Maryland, and Chapter 134 of the Talbot County                  9 Code, roads ordinance, in order to re-route                  10 heavy truck through traffic.                  11 MR. PACK: Thank you, Madam Secretary.                  12 We did have a brief discussion on this. I                  13 see Mike is in the back. Does any Council                  14 member need to hear from staff on this before                  15 introduction? No, we're good. By a show of                  16 hands, who wants to introduce?                  17 Madam Secretary, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Price,                  18 and myself. And you have a bill number for                  19 that?                  20 SECRETARY: It will be known as Resolution                  21 280.</p>
Page 87	Page 89
<p>1 abandoned portion of the roadway by quitclaim                  2 deed for no monetary consideration to the                  3 underlying fee simple owner of the property.                  4 MR. PACK: Thank you, Madam Secretary.                  5 Council, we did have a brief work session                  6 on this. Does any member need to hear from                  7 staff on that before introduction? By a show                  8 of hands, who wish to introduce please?                  9 Madam Secretary, by Council. And I'll                  10 wait for your resolution number please.                  11 SECRETARY: It will be known as Resolution                  12 Number 279.                  13 MR. PACK: Thank you.                  14 SECRETARY: And the public hearing will be                  15 on Tuesday, January 14th, at 6:30.                  16 MR. PACK: Thank you. Anyone who is                  17 interested in that, please come on 1/14 at                  18 6:30.                  19 MS. PRICE: 6:30 sharp, right?                  20 MR. PACK: Round about that. Okay.                  21 Next matter for introduction is dealing</p>	<p>1 MR. PACK: 280, thank you.                  2 SECRETARY: And the public hearing will be                  3 held on Tuesday, January 14th, at 6:30.                  4 MR. PACK: Thank you.                  5 We do have one more matter for                  6 introduction. This is dealing with county                  7 authorization to borrow funds. If you wouldn't                  8 mind reading that, please.                  9 SECRETARY: A bill to authorize Talbot                  10 County, Maryland, the county, to borrow not                  11 more than \$222,000 in order to finance and                  12 refinance improvements to certain wastewater                  13 facilities in the county and to effect such                  14 borrowing by the issuance and sale of one or                  15 more series of its general obligation bonds,                  16 payable from ad valorem taxes to be levied by                  17 the county, exempting the bonds from the                  18 provisions of sections 19-205 and 19-207 of the                  19 Local Government Article of the Annotated Code                  20 of Maryland, authorizing the consolidation of                  21 separate series of bonds into one or more</p>



Page 90

1 bonds, authorizing the refunding of such bonds  
 2 and relating generally to the issuance and sale  
 3 of such bonds for such purposes.  
 4 MR. PACK: Thank you, Madam Secretary.  
 5 Ms. Lane is here to give us a quick  
 6 preview.  
 7 MS. LANE: Good evening, Council.  
 8 In September of 2019, just a few months  
 9 ago, Talbot County and USDA, US Department of  
 10 Agriculture Rural Development entered into an  
 11 agreement that would allow the county to borrow  
 12 \$222,000 and accept a grant of \$1,278,000 from  
 13 Rural Development for additional improvements  
 14 to the St. Michael's wastewater collection  
 15 system.  
 16 This bill will enable the county to  
 17 actually borrow the \$222,000. This bill is  
 18 part of our borrowing requirements under the  
 19 Charter.  
 20 MR. PACK: Okay. Any questions of  
 21 Ms. Lane? Can I have a show of hands for

Page 91

1 introduction? By Council, Madam Secretary.  
 2 Ms. Lane, you mind clicking that off for  
 3 me, please.  
 4 I have Bill 1440. Is that right, Madam  
 5 Secretary?  
 6 SECRETARY: That is correct.  
 7 MR. PACK: Okay. And same hearing date,  
 8 the public hearing date as the other two?  
 9 SECRETARY: Yes. January 14th at 6:30.  
 10 MR. PACK: Thank you, Ms. Lane.  
 11 MS. LANE: Thank you.  
 12 MR. PACK: Okay. Does anyone need a break  
 13 before we go into public hearing?  
 14 We're going to go ahead and start our  
 15 public hearing now, then. We do appreciate  
 16 your patience. As you can see, we had several  
 17 matters to take care of.  
 18 We're going to start the public hearing  
 19 with Bill 1436. And let me go over the ground  
 20 rules before we do that. If you're coming for  
 21 yourself, we'll give you three minutes. If

Page 92

1 you're coming representing a group or body,  
 2 we'll give you five minutes. We'll ask that  
 3 you please make clear which group or body  
 4 you're speaking for so that Mr. Callahan can  
 5 address your time accordingly. And please give  
 6 us your name and your address when you come to  
 7 the table as well. Thank you.  
 8 With that being said, Bill 1436, Madam  
 9 Secretary.  
 10 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1436, a bill to  
 11 amend Chapter 121 of the Talbot County Code,  
 12 public landings, to temporarily grandfather for  
 13 a period of one year certain slip holders who  
 14 currently hold more than one county slip,  
 15 thereby delaying the effect of the prohibition  
 16 on renting more than one boat slip established  
 17 by the Talbot County Bill 1407 and giving such  
 18 qualifying slip holders additional time to find  
 19 alternative affordable slip accommodations.  
 20 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you, Madam  
 21 Secretary.

Page 93

1 Mr. Peper is here, our parks director.  
 2 Preston, we'll hear from you.  
 3 MR. PRESTON: So this was legislation that  
 4 was passed about a year ago that limited each  
 5 individual to only basically lease one slip at  
 6 a time.  
 7 There were approximately 11 people at the  
 8 time that had two. They were told at the end  
 9 of 2018 that they would be given 2019. They  
 10 would be able to basically retain their second  
 11 slip for 2019 in order to find an alternate  
 12 site for that.  
 13 And now, obviously we have new legislation  
 14 trying to grandfather three of those  
 15 individuals.  
 16 I guess my concern is that there's a  
 17 precedence that could be set here, and I think  
 18 there's some repercussion that could come to  
 19 this. For example, eight people that have  
 20 already vacated their slips, if they want their  
 21 second slip back, I'm not sure what's going

Page 94

1 to -- if we grandfather three of them, why are  
 2 we are not grandfathering the other eight  
 3 through.  
 4 And at the same time, with the waiting  
 5 list the way it's done, if somebody comes up  
 6 for the waiting list and they have a slip  
 7 somewhere else, they're basically offered one  
 8 of those two slips. They are not given a  
 9 second slip. So in essence, everybody that has  
 10 come through the waiting list that has  
 11 basically been turned away for a second slip  
 12 could come back and basically it's going to be  
 13 in the same boat. So I just think --  
 14 MS. PRICE: No pun intended.  
 15 MR. PRESTON: -- there's a certain  
 16 precedence and a certain flood gate that may  
 17 open if this is actually passed.  
 18 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Peper.  
 19 Appreciate it. Okay.  
 20 We're going to go ahead and start the  
 21 public hearing, then. We're going to go to my

Page 95

1 left. Again, when you come to the table,  
 2 please give us your name and your address. If  
 3 you're speaking for a group, let us know which  
 4 group you're speaking for. And Mr. Callahan  
 5 will put your time in accordingly.  
 6 First row, anyone on 1436? Second row?  
 7 Jim, good to see you. 1436. Third row, 1436.  
 8 MR. COLE: I've not signed up.  
 9 MR. PACK: This is the public hearing.  
 10 This is not public comment.  
 11 MR. COLE: I'm one of the two that have a  
 12 slip holder. I'm Bruce Cole, 5 (inaudible)  
 13 Avenue, Easton, Maryland.  
 14 I'm one of the two people, one of three, I  
 15 think it's two, if I'm correct, that have a  
 16 slip holder. I've been having one for 40 years  
 17 in Bellevue, probably another one for 25, 30 in  
 18 Newcomb.  
 19 And the way all this started, it didn't  
 20 seem it was fair. We weren't notified of this  
 21 until it's already been passed that they were

Page 96

1 doing it.  
 2 But I would like to keep my slip. I need  
 3 it. It's a hardship for me. And right now,  
 4 they're empty. Like when Mr. Harrison said,  
 5 all that down the side in Bellevue is wasted  
 6 area that could be tied there. Been doing that  
 7 for 40 years that I know of, three to four  
 8 boats deep. And it's really hurting the  
 9 watermen that we can't tie there and taking up  
 10 extra room for slips. I don't see what the  
 11 problem is. Hasn't been changed.  
 12 I have not received my documents for my  
 13 new slip for this year yet, which I think you  
 14 guys close before Christmas.  
 15 MR. PRESTON: You've already gotten  
 16 paperwork for one, your first slip, right?  
 17 MR. COLE: No.  
 18 MR. PRESTON: I'll double-check, but you  
 19 should have gotten it for the one in Bellevue.  
 20 MR. COLE: I have not received anything.  
 21 Al Foster just received his. (inaudible)

Page 97

1 that he said he hasn't received it.  
 2 So you guys close on the what? Christmas?  
 3 MR. PRESTON: End of the year.  
 4 MR. COLE: End of the year. Yeah. So I  
 5 don't have many days to get my paperwork  
 6 straight.  
 7 But I'd like to keep both slips.  
 8 And if you have any other questions, I'd  
 9 be glad to answer them.  
 10 MR. LESHER: Have you explored an exchange  
 11 with one of the watermen that's got a vacant  
 12 slip on the other side?  
 13 MR. COLE: See, you're talking about a  
 14 different process. We were having this the  
 15 other day. A guy called, a waterman called me  
 16 and complained that he was in a slip in  
 17 Bellevue for 120 days. He didn't realize it  
 18 was up. 121 days, he got a \$50 fine.  
 19 He called or texted Ms. Dickey about can I  
 20 get a couple days to find a place. She said  
 21 no, you got to get out, according to what he

Page 98	Page 100
<p>1 told me. He said he's got the text. So he got 2 out of the slip. 3 But I mean she's supposed to be working 4 with us, not against us. One day. Give a guy 5 a break. That's the way I look at it. 6 You know, she does not work with the 7 watermen the way I see it. 8 MR. LESHER: But that's not you doing 9 that, that's another waterman? 10 MR. COLE: Yes, that's another waterman 11 that was tied in Bellevue in another guy's 12 slip. He asked me. I said I don't have 13 nothing to do with it. I got enough problems 14 of my own. 15 MS. PRICE: I just want to ask about the 16 notification. 17 We went through a lot with this 18 legislation. So it's not like every waterman 19 didn't know or shouldn't have known because we 20 had public hearings and went through the 21 process like we are now. So --</p>	<p>1 MS. PRICE: Public notices are in the Star 2 Democrat -- 3 MR. COLE: I understand that. 4 MS. PRICE: -- on the website for every 5 piece of legislation that we do. 6 MR. COLE: I understand that. But I'm 7 just saying -- 8 MS. PRICE: -- to do to notify you. 9 MR. COLE: Parks &amp; Recs notified me on 10 everything; the increase in electric, the 11 increase of a slip, about -- 12 MS. PRICE: Legislative public hearings 13 are in the Star Democrat -- 14 MR. COLE: I understand -- 15 MS. PRICE: -- website. 16 MR. COLE: -- exactly what you're saying. 17 But I don't think you guys understand what 18 goes on at the marinas. I mean 40 years I've 19 been there. Understand. 20 Just like what was it, bumps in Bellevue. 21 Guy's supposed to be there for one person</p>
Page 99	Page 101
<p>1 MR. COLE: We weren't notified until we 2 got a letter that we had to renew last year. 3 And that's when I -- 4 MS. PRICE: But we gave everybody a whole 5 extra year to do this. We went through this 6 legislative process over a year ago. So 7 everybody who is in the industry certainly had 8 a -- 9 MR. COLE: And I've been fighting for a 10 year. I mean you've probably seen me up here. 11 MS. PRICE: But we passed the legislation 12 over a year ago. So you had -- 13 MR. COLE: But I mean it was thrown on top 14 of us without us -- you voted on it. You 15 already voted on it. But we had to state our 16 opinion on it. 17 MS. PRICE: No. We had a public hearing, 18 just like we are right now. 19 MR. COLE: I wasn't notified of it. I get 20 a letter from the Parks &amp; Recs about everything 21 there is.</p>	<p>1 complained. And the way I understand it, Town 2 of Bellevue, the church in Bellevue and all 3 that, is like raising Cane. Why do we have 4 those there? Because the one person -- 5 MS. PRICE: We asked him questions. 6 MR. CALLAHAN: That's what I'm saying. 7 MR. PACK: Anything further? 8 MR. COLE: No. I'm good. 9 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Cole. 10 MR. COLE: Thank you. 11 MR. PACK: Anyone else on Bill 1436? Yes. 12 MR. FOSTER: My name is Alan Foster. 13 (inaudible) Old Water Mill Road. 14 MR. PACK: I'm sorry, your name again, 15 sir? 16 MR. FOSTER: Alan Foster. 17 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Foster. 18 MR. FOSTER: I'm like Bruce. I've had a 19 slip in Bellevue for 20 something years and the 20 one at Wye Landing ever since they've had a 21 slip in there.</p>

Page 102

1 And Wye Landing you have no option of  
 2 where to tie. You either tie out on the buoy  
 3 or you tie -- they got four slips there. And I  
 4 was lucky. I got one of them when they put  
 5 them in.  
 6 And it would just be a hardship for me to  
 7 have to give up my slip at Wye Landing, where I  
 8 live five minutes down the road. But it's no  
 9 oystering in Wye. It's all an oyster  
 10 sanctuary, if you looked at the page.  
 11 And Eastern Bay is basically dive bottom.  
 12 I mean you can hand tong it, but it's not  
 13 really productive to hand tong on dive bottom.  
 14 And power dredging, you'd have to run to  
 15 (inaudible) Parsons Island to get on any dredge  
 16 bottom.  
 17 So the Choptank is the only option for me  
 18 to have a slip down somewheres where I can work  
 19 crab in the summertime and oyster in the  
 20 winter. That's the only option for me.  
 21 So I'm going to have to give a slip up

Page 103

1 five minutes from my house. And I do keep -- I  
 2 crab up there in the summertime, but I'm not  
 3 going to be able to now if I got to give up  
 4 that slip. Because you got to put a buoy over  
 5 with the rest of them and paddle out to there  
 6 every day. And I'm getting pretty old to be  
 7 going paddling in a skiff out to a boat.  
 8 Anyway, it's just going to be a hardship for  
 9 me.  
 10 And as far as the ones that have given  
 11 slips up, they had the same option as me and  
 12 Bruce. They could have paid this year and kept  
 13 it another year.  
 14 And I feel like Bruce. We get notified of  
 15 everything going on with the slips, but I never  
 16 knew anything about this bill that was  
 17 introduced to take one of the slips. I heard  
 18 nothing of it. I get the Star Democrat, but a  
 19 lot of that kind of stuff I don't read I guess.  
 20 I'm not interested in all the doings of the  
 21 government and the county. So I guess that's

Page 104

1 my fault for not reading it.  
 2 If I knew it, I would have came and  
 3 expressed my opinion. I'm sure the other  
 4 people that were holding two slips would have.  
 5 And I doubt very seriously any of us showed up.  
 6 MS. PRICE: No. We definitely heard from  
 7 people. We did.  
 8 MR. FOSTER: At that first meeting?  
 9 MS. PRICE: Sure.  
 10 MR. FOSTER: I mean I didn't. I never  
 11 heard anybody talking about it anyway.  
 12 That's all I have to say. I'm not very  
 13 good at speaking.  
 14 MR. PACK: You're doing fine, Mr. Foster.  
 15 MR. FOSTER: It will put a hardship on me  
 16 especially.  
 17 And as far as the rest of them, they had  
 18 the same option to hold their slips until this  
 19 year and they chose to give them up. They  
 20 didn't -- they weren't taken from them. This  
 21 year was the first year we were told we had to

Page 105

1 pick one.  
 2 And I had to call Ms. Dicky and get her to  
 3 send my contract. I just got it last week,  
 4 where most of them had had it by the first of  
 5 November, the first week of November. Because  
 6 (inaudible) asked me if I had gotten about the  
 7 increase in the electric. I said no, I never  
 8 got my contract yet. So then I called her and  
 9 she sent it to me and I got it I think  
 10 Saturday. So I'm like Bruce, I'm going to have  
 11 to push because we have to get it notarized and  
 12 all.  
 13 Anyway, that's all. I appreciate your  
 14 time. Thank you.  
 15 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Foster.  
 16 Anyone on the next row? Okay.  
 17 Moving over to my right. Anyone on the  
 18 right of the room for 1436? No? Okay.  
 19 If that's it, Council, I'll go ahead and  
 20 call the public hearing on 1436 closed.  
 21 Mr. Peper, you have a follow-up statement.

Page 106

1 I'll hear from you.

2 MR. PRESTON: No, I don't.

3 MR. PACK: Okay. Any Council comment

4 before we move along on this?

5 We have two more matters.

6 MR. DIVILIO: So I brought this. We

7 brought this up I guess. We sat, Mr. Callahan

8 and I sat down with the Office of Law and tried

9 to come up with a plan here.

10 Everybody in the room who was here earlier

11 saw the sanctuaries and how much water the area

12 has changed over the last couple of years for

13 watermen.

14 We also learned about how many licenses

15 there are, how many watermen we have in Talbot

16 County. And I think that that is a vital

17 industry for us to protect.

18 I'm in the position right now where the

19 whole Council is, that we're reevaluating the

20 buildings, looking at the Business Center that

21 we have, the Black & Decker, trying to figure

Page 107

1 out what we can do for that.

2 I consider landings one of those that we

3 should also be evaluating and looking at.

4 We had somebody speak earlier about the

5 rafting up at Bellevue. I think that might be

6 the fix. That's what we've been looking for,

7 is better use of the landings. If we can

8 squeeze a few extra more spaces in there or

9 come up with a permitting option where people

10 are allowed to raft up, get a permit, and dock

11 there for a short period of time, for a season

12 while they're working that water.

13 For those who aren't familiar with or are

14 confused by this and don't understand why you

15 need more than one parking spot for your boat,

16 it's kind of like having two cars. One does

17 one thing. Maybe the sports car and the other

18 one is the pickup truck.

19 You're going to one river to catch the

20 crabs where they are in one season, and then

21 you're going to a whole nother river to go get

Page 108

1 the oysters where they are. It's not feasible

2 to run a boat that long of a distance every day

3 in order to make a profit.

4 So I've asked for this legislation to go

5 through or to be written like this. My plan is

6 really just to ask for the stay of enforcement

7 of what we have currently so that we can

8 evaluate these slips, evaluate the landings,

9 the empty spots that are in the landings for

10 people who have boats -- or have slips but

11 don't have a boat and aren't using it. I want

12 to make sure that they are all being used by

13 our watermen because if we push our watermen

14 out of the public landings and then they start

15 going into the private marinas, they're louder

16 and smellier. People complain. And it seems

17 like the county landings are a much better fit

18 for them.

19 So it is my recommendation and what I'm

20 asking of the Council is to pass this so that

21 we can allow and protect the watermen for a

Page 109

1 short period of time of a year while we figure

2 out a better use of these landings and make

3 sure that everybody has the space that they

4 need.

5 MR. PACK: Okay. Any additional comment

6 on 1436?

7 MR. CALLAHAN: I would agree. I

8 understand there was 11, ten or 11 at the

9 beginning. Now we're down to two.

10 I kind of feel that the last two are a

11 hardship. I sort of feel like after 30, 40

12 years with these guys crabbing and oystering,

13 it means a lot to them.

14 So I would ask Council to give that some

15 consideration.

16 I understand the consequences of the other

17 ones losing their slip, but I'm not so sure

18 that the hardship was there or they would have

19 been here fighting. So I would like to see

20 Council make an exception for these two.

21 MS. PRICE: I would say that I've been one

Page 110

1 of the strongest proponents for the watermen's  
 2 industry in how we have looked at different  
 3 pieces of legislation. And I think the  
 4 watermen know that. As we saw, there was 500  
 5 or so in Talbot County. And I'm sure they're  
 6 not 500 unique ones. 500 licenses.

7 And I get it that there is oystering in  
 8 one river and crabbing in another. But all the  
 9 other watermen are figuring out a way to do  
 10 that because I'm sure they're not just fishing  
 11 in one particular area. They do it all and  
 12 they figure out a way to make it work. And  
 13 since we have a limited number of slips, I  
 14 think that we just need to be fair to  
 15 everybody.

16 And I don't think it's good legislation to  
 17 make exceptions for one or two or three people.  
 18 You have to do what is best for the majority of  
 19 the citizens, knowing that there's always going  
 20 to be somewhere there's a hardship or you  
 21 don't make them happy. But if you make

Page 111

1 exceptions for the very few, then what you've  
 2 done is you've created something very unfair  
 3 for the majority.

4 And while I have a lot of sympathy and I  
 5 understand the dilemma, this is something that  
 6 we went through an entire process over a year  
 7 ago. We had the public hearings, and the  
 8 Council voted to limit it to one so that  
 9 everybody, as many as possible could have a  
 10 fair shake.

11 I do hope that regardless of what happens  
 12 with this, that we explore that other option at  
 13 Bellevue. And so that these people, if we can  
 14 figure that tie-ups or rafting or whatever that  
 15 is, so that they can have a place to put their  
 16 boat.

17 But I think that we went through a  
 18 process. I agree with everything Mr. Peper  
 19 said. That you're just really opening a can of  
 20 worms. And I think it's just too late to do it  
 21 at this point.

Page 112

1 But I do want to explore other options so  
 2 that watermen do have ways to fish in different  
 3 rivers, but I don't think that this is the way  
 4 to do it at this time.

5 MR. PACK: Okay.

6 MR. LESHER: I'm kind of disappointed that  
 7 we didn't hear from Talbot Watermen's  
 8 Association. They were here earlier tonight,  
 9 and we didn't hear them testify on this bill.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: I can tell you this. I can  
 11 tell you this. Jeff is on the committee, and  
 12 he voted for it.

13 MR. LESHER: On the Recs Board?

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Parks Board, yeah.

15 MS. PRICE: But that was they voted for it  
 16 after they voted against it. So I mean the  
 17 flip-flopping has been uncomfortable. When you  
 18 start getting pressure from a few, you've gone  
 19 through a process with the majority, and then  
 20 enough people -- get one or two or three people  
 21 who apply a lot of pressure, and people don't

Page 113

1 hold their ground, so to spoke, for what was  
 2 best for the majority.

3 I'm repeating myself.

4 MR. PACK: Anything more?

5 MR. LESHER: Well, the question here is  
 6 one of fairness. The principle that the Parks  
 7 and Recs put forward in the current legislation  
 8 is that these get shared with as many watermen  
 9 as possible.

10 And we've, under this legislation, asked  
 11 other watermen to give up their slips and  
 12 they've gone to other watermen.

13 And we've heard a report tonight, too,  
 14 about available slips in Bellevue for up to 120  
 15 days. I'm just not sure that the respondents  
 16 tonight have explored fully those options.

17 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Leshner.

18 Well, I've heard the word fair and  
 19 hardship used quite frequently on this  
 20 particular bill rewrite.

21 And you have to look at unintended

Page 114

1 consequences when you make certain changes in  
 2 legislation and what it will do to other  
 3 people.  
 4 Ms. Price is correct. The process that we  
 5 went through with the 1407 was quite  
 6 exhaustive, through public hearings, through  
 7 work sessions. I sat on one or two of the work  
 8 sessions myself. They were open to the public,  
 9 as they always are. They were advertised, as  
 10 they always are. I understand people have to  
 11 work.  
 12 But we only can do so much to put it out  
 13 in the public. Hey, we're having a work  
 14 session, you're welcome to come and be heard,  
 15 you're welcome to take a part in it.  
 16 If I remember correctly, there were very,  
 17 very few participants in those work sessions.  
 18 Mr. Harrison, who we heard from today, sits on  
 19 the Parks Board, attended those work sessions.  
 20 It was my understanding that he was the  
 21 ambassador, if you would, to go between the

Page 115

1 Parks Board, this Council, and the watermen to  
 2 convey any possible changes that were about to  
 3 take place.  
 4 I think it's no secret my displeasure with  
 5 some of recent rulings of the Park Board. They  
 6 seem to bend back and forth on themselves quite  
 7 frequently, and that's very troubling to me.  
 8 The board, in their initial finding, was  
 9 that the waiting list was very heavy. There  
 10 were people who can't get into slips because of  
 11 being on this list for so long. They came up  
 12 with a provision, which I thought was a good  
 13 idea, was this transfer provision, taking into  
 14 account the hardship that may be out there, to  
 15 allow people to transfer into another slip  
 16 holder's space for a short period of time to  
 17 continue working. And for the most part,  
 18 that's worked.  
 19 Joanne, our compliance officer, has really  
 20 been treated, in my opinion, poorly in some  
 21 cases. She's doing the job that she was hired

Page 116

1 to do. She's enforcing the rules that this  
 2 body put in place. But I believe she's doing  
 3 it with a degree of temperance. I believe  
 4 she's doing it with a degree of understanding  
 5 and compassion. And she's very generous in the  
 6 way that she comes about in her decisions.  
 7 She'll accept phone calls, she'll accept  
 8 text messages if persons had to stay longer in  
 9 a slip. And she's allowed them to do so. And  
 10 I know that to be true.  
 11 So she's not the tyrant that some persons  
 12 are trying to make her out to be. She's not.  
 13 She has a job to do. She's trying do it to the  
 14 best of her ability. And she's trying to do it  
 15 as fairly, since we want to use that word fair,  
 16 she's trying to do it as fairly as she possibly  
 17 can for all considered.  
 18 I don't believe that the drafting of this  
 19 particular bill has taken into account the  
 20 underlining consequences of something like  
 21 this. I don't think that the drafters have

Page 117

1 taken into account any pending possible  
 2 litigation that will come out of the passing of  
 3 1436. I think you're opening the Council up to  
 4 exposure. I think you're opening the Office of  
 5 Law up to a lot of work defending Council  
 6 unnecessarily. So I think those measures have  
 7 not been weighted out in the drafting of 1436.  
 8 Those other eight or nine slip holders did  
 9 freely and voluntarily turn their slip in a  
 10 whole year early. They could have kept their  
 11 slip up to December 31st of this month and  
 12 continued to have both slips. They voluntarily  
 13 turned them in. Some within a short period of  
 14 time after the bill was enacted.  
 15 And then we've heard stories of person,  
 16 not persons, but person who are using that  
 17 separate slip and subleasing it out, which is  
 18 totally against the rules.  
 19 So when you talk about fairness and you  
 20 talk about hardships, I think we have to look  
 21 at bills, when we weigh these changes, across a

Page 118

1 more broader spectrum as far as how it's going  
 2 to impact other persons in the industry and  
 3 whether or not you're creating additional  
 4 hardships and additional consequences by doing  
 5 this.  
 6 So that's my take on it. I think that we  
 7 tried to basically put provisions in place with  
 8 the transfer mechanism to allow for persons to  
 9 transfer into other slips. I know that our  
 10 compliance officer have been very willing to  
 11 work with people.  
 12 If there's other avenues, other space  
 13 avenues elsewhere in the Council, that's what  
 14 the Park Board and Mr. Peper is for, to try to  
 15 find that availability when and where it's  
 16 possible. So I'll leave that up to the Parks  
 17 Board and parks representative to work with him  
 18 to do that.  
 19 So that's my take on 1436 at this time.  
 20 It is eligible to go to third reader  
 21 tonight. If not, we can pass it onto our next

Page 119

1 meeting for final vote. The public hearing has  
 2 been closed on 1436. The chair would entertain  
 3 now a motion to move to third reader at this  
 4 time.  
 5 MS. PRICE: Make a motion to move to third  
 6 reader.  
 7 MR. PACK: Motion is made by Ms. Price.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.  
 9 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Callahan. Any  
 10 further discussion on 1436?  
 11 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please read  
 12 Bill 1436.  
 13 SECRETARY: Bill Number 14 --  
 14 MS. PRICE: I ask that so much be  
 15 considered a reading.  
 16 MR. PACK: Ms. Price has made a motion.  
 17 Any objection to that motion?  
 18 Hearing none, 1436 is now before the  
 19 Council for final vote. Any additional comment  
 20 by Council before a vote is taken?  
 21 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call

Page 120

1 the vote on Bill 1436.  
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 3 MR. PACK: No.  
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 8 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 9 MS. PRICE: No.  
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 11 MR. LESHNER: Nay.  
 12 MR. PACK: Bill 1436 fails. Thank you.  
 13 Next public hearing we have is for Bill  
 14 1437. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.  
 15 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1437, a bill to  
 16 amend Chapter 190 of the Talbot County Code,  
 17 zoning, subdivision, and land development, to  
 18 alter the setback and road access requirements  
 19 for product recycling when such use is  
 20 established within an active mineral extraction  
 21 site and to require an operation plan as part

Page 121

1 of the process for approving the product  
 2 recycling use in such location.  
 3 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Madam  
 4 Secretary.  
 5 Ms. Verdery, our planning officer is here.  
 6 Mary Kay.  
 7 MS. VERDERY: As noted, the Council  
 8 referred this product recycling amendment to  
 9 the Planning Office and to the Planning  
 10 Commission.  
 11 The recycling, product recycling land use  
 12 allows for the recycling of masonry products,  
 13 as well as material product. That is a special  
 14 exception in certain zoning districts and it  
 15 requires that there be access from a major  
 16 collector highway or arterial highway. And the  
 17 minimum equipment setback is 500 feet from  
 18 property lines.  
 19 We also have a land use of mineral  
 20 extraction, and that also requires a special  
 21 exception in the same zoning districts, but it



Page 122

1 has a 200-foot setback.  
 2 This proposed amendment would allow the  
 3 mineral extraction sites that were approved  
 4 prior to the adoption of this amendment to also  
 5 participate in a product recycling land use,  
 6 with allowing for certain amendments to the  
 7 product recycling to include the reduction of  
 8 setbacks from the 500-foot that's required to  
 9 the 200-foot, which is the minimum that's  
 10 required for the mineral extraction sites.  
 11 MR. PACK: Any questions of Ms. Verdery  
 12 before we go into public hearing?  
 13 Hearing none, thank you very much,  
 14 Ms. Verdery. I ask you to step back for a  
 15 moment.  
 16 Public hearing is now open for Bill 1437.  
 17 I'll start with the left side of my room. The  
 18 ground rules still apply as we heard  
 19 previously.  
 20 Anyone in the second row on Bill 1437?  
 21 Jim, who is behind you? Is that Ms. Lane

Page 123

1 behind you? Okay.  
 2 I'll jump over to the right side on Bill  
 3 1436. Okay. Mr. Showalter, come on up,  
 4 please. Good seeing you.  
 5 MR. SHOWALTER: Thank you, Mr. Pack.  
 6 MR. PACK: How are you?  
 7 MR. SHOWALTER: Members of Council.  
 8 MR. PACK: Good.  
 9 MR. SHOWALTER: Ryan Showalter. I'm  
 10 appearing on behalf of Extreme Enterprises,  
 11 LLC, which is the owner of a sand and gravel  
 12 extraction facility located immediately  
 13 adjacent to the Easton Police shooting range,  
 14 the closed landfill, and it was also the site  
 15 of the dirt bike track that has generated some  
 16 discussion in the past.  
 17 This amendment was originated because sand  
 18 and gravel extraction uses have many  
 19 characteristics that are similar to product  
 20 recycling. They involve heavy truck  
 21 transportation bringing bulk materials in and

Page 124

1 out. They are well screened and have, once  
 2 they're established, they have screening from  
 3 neighbors, they have screening from roads, they  
 4 have dust control, they have access control.  
 5 And they're ideal locations for product  
 6 recycling use because in many cases, the  
 7 companies that use those facilities use  
 8 products that can be recycled.  
 9 You can often have trucks that back haul.  
 10 So from a construction site, you can bring  
 11 concrete rubble into a facility, deposit it to  
 12 be recycled, and then pick up a load of stone,  
 13 pick up a load of sand, take it back to the  
 14 construction site.  
 15 And in order to establish a new product  
 16 recycling use in the county today, essentially  
 17 requires the use of agricultural lands. It  
 18 requires properties that have direct access to  
 19 Route 50 or one of our other State highways,  
 20 requires very significant setbacks so that  
 21 those uses would have to be out in the center

Page 125

1 of parcels 500 feet from the property lines.  
 2 This property is an ideal location for  
 3 this use because it's located in an area that  
 4 has been principally industrial. It's entirely  
 5 screened by existing vegetation. It's an area  
 6 that has already received heavy truck traffic.  
 7 And this use could be conducted there without  
 8 anyone, frankly, noticing a difference.  
 9 So we spent a lot of time with the  
 10 Planning Commission and the planning staff  
 11 working through the benefits and the  
 12 complementary nature of those uses in order to  
 13 find a way so that the handful of existing  
 14 extraction sites in the county could be used  
 15 for this use instead of requiring ag land to be  
 16 devoted to those uses in the future.  
 17 And ultimately, what's before you is a  
 18 draft, is a text amendment that was unanimously  
 19 recommended by the Planning Commission and it  
 20 permits these uses to be established on active  
 21 mining sites. Those sites would have

Page 126

1 reclamation bonds in place with MDE, they would  
 2 have reclamation plans in place with MDE, which  
 3 aren't otherwise required for product recycling  
 4 uses under the county.  
 5 It would still require a special exception  
 6 from the Board of Appeals.  
 7 And the setback that would be imposed  
 8 would be the greater of the setback in this  
 9 draft or the setback established by the mining  
 10 use. So where there's a site plan that  
 11 establishes the setback for the mining use,  
 12 that setback can be honored.  
 13 The Planning Commission also wanted to add  
 14 a requirement that doesn't currently exist in  
 15 the product recycling use, which calls for an  
 16 operations plan. That's not required today  
 17 with this text amendment. It would require  
 18 anyone who applies for this new use to identify  
 19 the amount of truck traffic that's anticipated,  
 20 the type of materials that are going to be  
 21 processed, emergency action response plan to

Page 127

1 deal with any circumstances that arise in  
 2 connection with the recycling use.  
 3 So I think it's a very well thought out  
 4 amendment. It's the result of the consensus  
 5 building between the staff, the Planning  
 6 Commission, and based on feedback they received  
 7 from the public. And we appreciate your  
 8 support.  
 9 MR. PACK: Okay. Anything from you,  
 10 Mr. Bryant?  
 11 MR. BRYANT: Again, I would just like  
 12 y'all to consider what has been presented to  
 13 you this evening.  
 14 Again, it will help me with our business.  
 15 We employ a number of local people here in our  
 16 area and surrounding areas. I believe with  
 17 going green would be a support to our community  
 18 as a whole as well. And I think it will  
 19 benefit your community, it will benefit other  
 20 people with doing projects around here because  
 21 it will be more affordable in order to use

Page 128

1 these products, which I understand, I was here  
 2 earlier tonight when Warren was here. You see  
 3 what it does. It helps a lot of the other  
 4 local businesses here.  
 5 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you very much.  
 6 Anyone else on Bill 1437? Okay.  
 7 With that being said, I'm going to call  
 8 the public hearing on Bill 1437 to a close at  
 9 this time.  
 10 Ms. Verdery, I thought I had a map of this  
 11 site. Are any areas on the site -- Oh, you  
 12 have one. Any areas on the site meeting the  
 13 500-foot setback currently?  
 14 MS. VERDERY: I didn't have (inaudible).  
 15 If you look at the blue lines that are on  
 16 there that are in the area of where the mining  
 17 operation is, you see those two blue lines?  
 18 One indicates the 500-foot and one would be a  
 19 200-foot.  
 20 By the time you applied all of that  
 21 500-foot, there's a small area maybe here that

Page 129

1 would be part of the mining operation that  
 2 would be permitted to have the setbacks. So  
 3 there is a small area there that could meet the  
 4 500-foot setback, but it would limit the area  
 5 associated with. . .  
 6 MR. PACK: The Planning Commission, did  
 7 they have any concern regarding the provision  
 8 regarding a major connector or arterial highway  
 9 not being in place here for this use?  
 10 MS. VERDERY: Because this use would  
 11 require special exception and be required to go  
 12 before the board and also a site plan that  
 13 would come before them, they felt as though  
 14 there were enough opportunities if there were  
 15 any concerns in a particular location, that  
 16 they could be addressed through those  
 17 processes.  
 18 But on this particular site, they did not,  
 19 especially because the landfill and the other  
 20 uses that are in this area. And the current  
 21 use of any of these mining operations already

Page 130

1 has significant truck traffic.  
 2 MR. PACK: Okay.  
 3 MR. DIVILIO: Wasn't that addressed when  
 4 Dutchman's Lane was redone? Didn't we limit  
 5 the truck traffic on that road?  
 6 MS. VERDERY: There is a weight limit on  
 7 certain roads that lead to this, this area, but  
 8 I'm assuming that they are well aware of those  
 9 and they can meet those requirements.  
 10 MR. PACK: And the current hours of  
 11 operation are sunrise to seven p.m.?  
 12 MS. VERDERY: Yes.  
 13 MR. PACK: Is that for current recycling  
 14 facilities, correct?  
 15 MS. VERDERY: Those are the hours that are  
 16 permitted.  
 17 When you go through the site plan process,  
 18 you identify the specific hours and days. And  
 19 we make that part of the approval.  
 20 MR. PACK: Okay. Any other questions of  
 21 Ms. Verdery, Council? Any other comment?

Page 131

1 MS. PRICE: Would you like a motion to  
 2 move to third reader?  
 3 MR. PACK: I would entertain that motion  
 4 at this time, Ms. Price.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.  
 6 MS. PRICE: Consider yourself entertained.  
 7 MR. PACK: Motion by Ms. Price to move to  
 8 third reader. Seconded by Mr. Callahan.  
 9 Madam Secretary, on the matter of Bill  
 10 1436, please read the bill. 1437, I apologize.  
 11 1437.  
 12 SECRETARY: Bill Number 14 --  
 13 MS. PRICE: I ask that so much be  
 14 considered a reading.  
 15 MR. PACK: Ms. Price made a motion. Any  
 16 objection? No objection.  
 17 Bill 1437 is now before the Council for  
 18 vote. Any additional comment on 1437 at this  
 19 time?  
 20 My one comment would be this. I think  
 21 this is a unique site in that it is already

Page 132

1 operating as a mining operation. It does  
 2 appear, if you look at the map, to be some  
 3 distance away from the residential areas, which  
 4 was one of my concerns regarding the setback  
 5 requirement. And I think to your point, right  
 6 now you figure mining operation, you're already  
 7 going to have 16, 18-wheel trucks coming down  
 8 that roadway quite frequently.  
 9 So I think not having to be on a major  
 10 connector probably is not as daunting because  
 11 of what the operation already at the site. I  
 12 can see where the Planning Commission would  
 13 have been okay with that.  
 14 So again, I think the uniqueness of the  
 15 site gives me more relief in that it's not in a  
 16 populated area. The roadway is already being  
 17 used for heavy truck trafficking. So I'm  
 18 inclined to be in favor of it at this time.  
 19 Anybody else, any comment?  
 20 MR. DIVILIO: I just can't imagine a  
 21 better location for it. It just seems to me

Page 133

1 it's just a definition change of what is pretty  
 2 much going on out there already.  
 3 MR. PACK: Good. Madam Secretary, please  
 4 call the vote on 1437.  
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 6 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 8 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 11 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 12 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 14 MR. LESHER: Aye.  
 15 MR. PACK: Okay. 1437 passes. Thank you  
 16 very much, Council. Thank you, Ms. Verdery.  
 17 Madam Secretary, we have another matter  
 18 for public hearing, which is 1439. If you  
 19 wouldn't mind reading that, please.  
 20 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1439, a bill to  
 21 amend Chapter 190 of the Talbot County Code,

Page 134

1 zoning, subdivision, and land development, to  
 2 allow increased pier size for fisheries,  
 3 aquaculture, and hatcheries activities.  
 4 MR. PACK: Ms. Verdery, we'll hear from  
 5 you.  
 6 MS. VERDERY: Again, as noted, this was  
 7 referred to the Planning Office and the  
 8 Planning Commission for review.  
 9 The Planning Commission did support this  
 10 with a 4-0 vote, with one member being absent.  
 11 This came about from an applicant, Ferry  
 12 Cove Project, LLC, requesting a major site plan  
 13 approval for a 17,245 square foot oyster  
 14 hatchery building under the land use category  
 15 of aquaculture wholesale and fish and game  
 16 hatcheries.  
 17 They're requesting as part of this project  
 18 a pier that would be 165 feet in length by  
 19 eight feet wide with a 460-foot L-head, which  
 20 is all in excess of what is permitted under our  
 21 current zoning ordinance for a pier length,

Page 135

1 width, and platform area.  
 2 So these regulations would allow certain  
 3 fishery and aquaculture activities to be able  
 4 to exceed the current minimum standards for  
 5 piers and related uses.  
 6 I do have a few diagrams of the project  
 7 area here, if you're interested in looking at  
 8 those as well.  
 9 MR. PACK: I'll look at those while we  
 10 take the public hearing, if you wouldn't mind.  
 11 Thank you very much.  
 12 Any questions of Ms. Verdery as she steps  
 13 back? Hearing none, Ms. Verdery, you can go  
 14 ahead and step back.  
 15 We'll go ahead and go into our public  
 16 hearing process at this time. Again, the  
 17 ground rules have already been --  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Sorry.  
 19 MR. PACK: The ground rules have already  
 20 been stated. We'll start on the left side of  
 21 the room. Anyone coming to the table on Bill

Page 136

1 1439, please come up.  
 2 You're jumping ahead, Mr. Showalter.  
 3 Starting on the left side of the room.  
 4 MR. SHOWALTER: I'm going to join them.  
 5 MR. PACK: You're with them. Okay.  
 6 Gentlemen, identify yourself and your  
 7 address, please.  
 8 MR. SEAN CALLAHAN: Good evening. Sean  
 9 Callahan. I'm with Ferry Cove Project. I'm  
 10 with Lane Engineering.  
 11 MR. ABEL: I'm Stephan Abel, the manager  
 12 from Ferry Cove Project out of Annapolis.  
 13 MR. SHOWALTER: I'm Ryan Showalter,  
 14 attorney for the project. 100 North West  
 15 Street, Easton, Maryland.  
 16 MR. PACK: Okay. Who wants to start?  
 17 MR. SHOWALTER: Mr. Pack, let me just give  
 18 you a brief introduction and then I'll turn it  
 19 over to Sean and Stephan.  
 20 MR. PACK: Okay.  
 21 MR. SHOWALTER: So this is a really unique

Page 137

1 project, an exciting project for Talbot County.  
 2 This project will be one of the first private  
 3 oyster hatcheries in the state. Mr. Abel is  
 4 going to talk to you about why it's necessary  
 5 and how it's going to work.  
 6 But ultimately, in order to have this  
 7 project function, it needs to get to adequate  
 8 and deep water so that it has an intake that  
 9 provides year-round water sources to support  
 10 the oyster propagations proposed by the  
 11 hatchery. That intake pipe will require  
 12 service and maintenance possibly by divers to  
 13 deal with bio (inaudible) and access to deal  
 14 with it. So the intake structure is surrounded  
 15 by a platform that is larger than the platform  
 16 area that is permitted in the county code for  
 17 residential piers.  
 18 Because of the water depth in that area,  
 19 and Mr. Callahan can tell you how extensive the  
 20 studies have been to try to figure out the best  
 21 way and most efficient way to get to the depth

Page 138

1 that's necessary, we have to exceed the  
 2 150 feet pier limit.  
 3 And because this project will deal with  
 4 the handling of large and bulky shellfish,  
 5 having a pier that's large enough, wide enough  
 6 to accommodate vehicular movement to deal with  
 7 transporting cages back and forth dealing with  
 8 diver access and maintenance of the intake and  
 9 (inaudible).  
 10 So this text amendment is driven by the  
 11 needs of this project to accommodate what I  
 12 think is really an exciting green industry  
 13 project that this county should embrace, which  
 14 the Comprehensive Plan encourages.  
 15 And I think with that, we'll start with  
 16 Mr. Abel and let him tell you a little bit  
 17 about the project. And then Mr. Callahan will  
 18 talk to you about the proposed construction.  
 19 MR. ABEL: Good evening. I'm Stephan  
 20 Abel, and I apologize. I was at the dentist  
 21 earlier. Novocain is still wearing off.

Page 139

1 Several years ago, five, six years ago,  
 2 the Radcliff Foundation, that's underwriting  
 3 this project, became involved with oyster  
 4 aquaculture. And they wanted to help make a  
 5 difference with the watermen community by  
 6 providing watermen not only training but also  
 7 the equipment, larvae, and seed to produce  
 8 their own oysters.  
 9 And over the last six years, the watermen  
 10 have produced a billion oysters together.  
 11 40 percent of the watermen leaseholders have  
 12 gone through this program. And during the  
 13 course of this operation, they realized a  
 14 reoccurring theme came up. We need more  
 15 larvae. We don't have enough to supply the  
 16 state's resource.  
 17 Working with Horn Point down in Cambridge,  
 18 Horn Point produces five to six billion oyster  
 19 larvae a year. That equates to a billion to  
 20 two billion oysters that get planted, but  
 21 there's still more.

Page 140

1 Aquaculture is growing. You heard from  
 2 Jeff earlier that the county seed committees  
 3 are buying spat on shell. There's a constant  
 4 need for oysters. Oysters filter the Bay.  
 5 There's nutrient credits that are becoming  
 6 available.  
 7 So the bottom line is the Radcliff  
 8 Foundation underwrote a study three years ago,  
 9 a feasibility study to build a private  
 10 hatchery. Based on that study, they proceeded  
 11 to go ahead and proceed with the project.  
 12 And this project has been underway for a  
 13 couple of years. They looked throughout the  
 14 state for suitable areas and they landed here  
 15 in Talbot down there by Lowes Wharf.  
 16 This hatchery is going to be producing  
 17 3 billion larvae a year. That's 1 billion  
 18 oyster a year. And when you look at what the  
 19 end survival rate is and harvest, we're talking  
 20 two to 300,000 bushels of oysters that will be  
 21 coming out of the Bay as a result of this

Page 141

1 hatchery. That equates to ten to \$15 million  
 2 in dockside value, not including the economic  
 3 impact of those oysters going through the  
 4 system or the watermen that it supplies in  
 5 helping support this iconic industry in the  
 6 long term.  
 7 This project is a big deal, and it's the  
 8 cutting edge. It's going to be one of the  
 9 leading edge hatcheries on the Eastern Shore  
 10 and it's going to have a measurable difference.  
 11 Sean here, been working with him for the  
 12 last year. And he'll provide you some more  
 13 details as far as the pier itself and the water  
 14 depth, but I'm here to answer any questions,  
 15 should you have any.  
 16 MR. PACK: Okay.  
 17 MR. SEAN CALLAHAN: Council, I'm not sure  
 18 what Mary Kay handed out to you. I imagine  
 19 it's a diagram of the pier, etc.  
 20 I've got a couple of little fact sheets  
 21 here. The cover sheet is a fact sheet of some

Page 142

1 of the stuff Stephan just talked about. The  
 2 second sheet is a color rendering of the site.  
 3 It shows the new building in red and then a  
 4 white trail down to the point where the pier is  
 5 going to be built. I'll hand this out to you  
 6 in a second. Third sheet is the actual pier  
 7 and intake structure. And the last sheet is a  
 8 picture of the building, architectural plans of  
 9 the building.

10 So we did go through Planning Commission  
 11 and got unanimous approval for site plan  
 12 review. And we're in the final throes of  
 13 zoning reviews.

14 We are in front of the State of Maryland  
 15 and the Army Corps of Engineers for a permit to  
 16 build this pier.

17 Now, when we first started talking about  
 18 water quality with various experts, including  
 19 folks on the west coast and all over the world,  
 20 we were told we needed to get to ten feet of  
 21 water for aquaculture.

Page 143

1 Well, to get to ten feet of water, we've  
 2 got to go about 1,800 feet out and we're in the  
 3 middle of the channel.

4 So by hook and by crook, we learned that  
 5 get to the deepest water you can, okay. And  
 6 about four and a half feet of water exists at  
 7 175 feet out. And four and a half feet of  
 8 water exists at 500 feet out. It's pretty much  
 9 a broad, flat plane out here when you get out  
 10 on the sand bar out here in front of Lowes  
 11 Wharf.

12 So the biologists were telling us that you  
 13 need to get the deepest water you can because  
 14 that is water that changes the least in terms  
 15 of oyster survival. You get stable salinity,  
 16 you get stable water temperatures, you get less  
 17 changes in water quality in terms of turbidity,  
 18 the further away you are from where that wave  
 19 crashes on land. If you get a rain storm.

20 You heard about SAV having problems with  
 21 too much water. Everything is pointing us to

Page 144

1 get to the deepest we can and in the shortest  
 2 distance we can.

3 So after we did our sounding study, we can  
 4 get to four and a half feet of water at  
 5 170 feet from land. But that's more than  
 6 150 feet that we're allowed to do under the  
 7 zoning now. So for the optimum survival of the  
 8 oyster, for the best water quality as close to  
 9 land we can get, we need this text amendment to  
 10 provide good quality water for all these  
 11 natural conditions that we have to try to deal  
 12 with to grow 3 billion oyster a year forever in  
 13 the hatchery.

14 So what happens from a system standpoint  
 15 is the water is pumped from the point up to  
 16 hatchery building and then it's returned to the  
 17 Bay. So the water goes in a circle. But we're  
 18 trying to get good water to the hatchery  
 19 building, and this is where we need to start to  
 20 get the good water.

21 MR. PACK: Anything further? Okay. Step

Page 145

1 back. We'll hear from the rest of the public.  
 2 This is the public hearing portion.  
 3 Anyone else on Bill 1439, please come to the  
 4 table, give us your name and your address. No  
 5 one else on Bill 1439? Okay. All right.

6 Ms. Verdery, come on back up.  
 7 Council comment.

8 MR. DIVILIO: So you guys I guess, this is  
 9 probably directed to you, because of the flat  
 10 land that's out there, adding this pier, is  
 11 there going -- I can't imagine there being much  
 12 difference in setting a building up down on  
 13 Lowes Wharf or northwest of the pier due to the  
 14 pier being installed.

15 Do you see any consequences like that or  
 16 can you calm fears of that?

17 MR. SEAN CALLAHAN: We actually had two  
 18 separate public meetings. One with neighbors  
 19 down there actually on the site. There's a  
 20 barn on the site. We met in the barn at the  
 21 site and talked to the neighbors about two and

Page 146

1 a half years ago. And we had a public hearing  
 2 sponsored by the Army Corps and MDE down at the  
 3 library in St. Michael's and we talked about  
 4 these things.  
 5 All the neighbors were invited to come.  
 6 We had about 45 people in the audience, and we  
 7 talked about all the different concerns. But  
 8 there was no concern about adverse effect on  
 9 neighbors of shoaling the water or anything  
 10 like that as part of those discussions.  
 11 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you.  
 12 MR. PACK: Anyone else?  
 13 MR. LESHER: This is a new industry.  
 14 Basically before 2009 with the regulatory  
 15 change at the State level, there was no  
 16 aquaculture in Talbot County or in many other  
 17 parts of Maryland.  
 18 And we've seen this industry grow  
 19 tremendously, and it is growing right here in  
 20 Talbot County. There are a number of operators  
 21 doing this or who are getting online to start

Page 147

1 doing this.  
 2 I think this is an important future for  
 3 the water industries in Maryland, and I think  
 4 that this is a business friendly move to be  
 5 able to support that industry.  
 6 I also know these waters very well. I  
 7 can't get my water in there. There is a narrow  
 8 dredge channel to get into Lowes Wharf. This  
 9 is well north of that dredge channel, and it's  
 10 a long way to deep water. It looks to me  
 11 like -- I'm amazed that you can do what you're  
 12 proposing to do with this because there is a  
 13 lot of shoal water out there.  
 14 MR. PACK: Anything from you, Ms. Price?  
 15 Okay. I guess -- go ahead, Mr. Callahan.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: I would really comment.  
 17 This particular unique project is exciting for  
 18 Talbot County, state of the art.  
 19 I'm very familiar with the Radcliff  
 20 Foundation. We're blessed to have somebody  
 21 like that support something like this. It's

Page 148

1 been in the making for several years. You guys  
 2 did your due diligence. You've done a great  
 3 job doing this.  
 4 Going from 150 to 170 or 165, whatever.  
 5 So we're sort of talking about 20 feet here.  
 6 MR. SEAN CALLAHAN: You're talking about  
 7 20 feet, but you may be talking about that  
 8 unmeasurable increase in water quality that we  
 9 need to have oysters survive.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Correct.  
 11 MR. SEAN CALLAHAN: We can't even imagine  
 12 the exact scenario, but we need every little  
 13 bit to get the best water quality we can. So  
 14 that's what we're asking for.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Absolutely. And I feel  
 16 that you guys have done a good job to prove to  
 17 us that 20 feet means a lot. It means the  
 18 whole project.  
 19 So I'm in support of it. And I feel like  
 20 the renderings you have given us here are  
 21 spectacular.

Page 149

1 I'm excited for Talbot County and the  
 2 watermen. And just like Mr. Leshler said, the  
 3 Bay in general, what it's really going to do to  
 4 impact the future, the watermen, and their  
 5 business itself, I mean they just got done  
 6 telling us they're losing a day. So it just --  
 7 MR. SEAN CALLAHAN: Well, Stephan's got  
 8 two or three hours of testimony he'd like to  
 9 give you on all the good things this is going  
 10 to do.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, I'm sure it's a lot.  
 12 So I really appreciate you spending time and  
 13 the effort in doing this.  
 14 MR. PACK: Well, I guess my concerns are  
 15 this. It appears that the Planning Commission  
 16 has added some additional language here. And  
 17 underneath 9B, they have shall not exceed  
 18 225 feet in length. That's very troubling to  
 19 me to have something that long out in the  
 20 channel.  
 21 If your testimony is you only need

Page 150

1 170 feet, I would strike that and bring it back  
 2 down to maybe 175. I'm not comfortable with it  
 3 sitting here at 225 feet. You're saying that  
 4 you can reach the depth that you need at 170.  
 5 I would reset this back down to probably 175.  
 6 It's only for the use that are listed  
 7 above it; fishery activities, ports related  
 8 facility, aquaculture, retail, fishing, game  
 9 hatchery, which this falls into, and  
 10 aquaculture wholesale. So as long as it's for  
 11 those particular items and you're saying 175  
 12 gives you the depth that you need, or 170 you  
 13 were saying, why are we setting this at 225  
 14 feet? That's very alarming.  
 15 MR. SHOWALTER: Mr. Pack, let me start.  
 16 Ms. Verdery may. . .  
 17 MR. PACK: Help me out.  
 18 MR. SHOWALTER: For this project, 175 is  
 19 absolutely fine and acceptable.  
 20 MR. PACK: You can live with it?  
 21 MR. SHOWALTER: But, but this is a text

Page 151

1 amendment that applies county wide and it's a  
 2 text amendment that's intended to support these  
 3 industries, which the Comprehensive Plan  
 4 encourages.  
 5 MR. PACK: Sure.  
 6 MR. SHOWALTER: So when we worked with the  
 7 staff, we said this is what we need. But we're  
 8 doing this text amendment, we'd like to do it  
 9 once.  
 10 I don't have any other projects in the  
 11 wings that need 180 or 200 or 210 feet, but  
 12 there may be one tomorrow. And I'd hate to see  
 13 you go through this effort and --  
 14 MR. PACK: We don't mind going through the  
 15 effort, Mr. Showalter. That's what we're here  
 16 for.  
 17 MR. SHOWALTER: Let me finish. So if you  
 18 look at subsection C, what the Planning  
 19 Commission ultimately settled on, and I think  
 20 it had -- I believe it had both the support of  
 21 the staff and the Planning Commission, was that

Page 152

1 the requests to exceed the standards has to be  
 2 justified and has to be justified to the  
 3 satisfaction of the site plan approving  
 4 authority.  
 5 So in this case, it requires major site  
 6 plan. So you have to demonstrate to the  
 7 Planning Commission that you need 165 or 170 or  
 8 210 feet. It's project specific.  
 9 If it's a smaller project that only  
 10 requires planning officer determination, you  
 11 got to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the  
 12 planning officer that whatever the exceedance  
 13 is is the minimum necessary.  
 14 MS. PRICE: To me, the stronger sentence  
 15 is the next one. Any increase shall not exceed  
 16 the minimum adjustment necessary.  
 17 MR. SHOWALTER: That's right.  
 18 So that was the reason for this draft and  
 19 that's why Planning Commission supported it, to  
 20 say we'd like to encourage these industries,  
 21 we'd like to provide some flexibility, but you

Page 153

1 only get what you need, notwithstanding the  
 2 limit.  
 3 MR. PACK: Well, it shall not exceed the  
 4 minimum. The minimum would be 225.  
 5 MS. PRICE: No. The minimum adjustment  
 6 necessary. So if you only need to get to 170  
 7 or you only need to get to 182, that's all  
 8 they're going to give you.  
 9 MR. PACK: Well, I was on this Council  
 10 when there was fierce debate over pier lengths,  
 11 fierce debate. I can still hear Mr. Bartlett  
 12 and. . .  
 13 MS. VERDERY: Mr. Duncan.  
 14 MR. PACK: And Mr. Duncan in my ear. I  
 15 can still hear them to this day yelling about  
 16 structures 200 and some odd feet out in the  
 17 water. And I agreed with them then and I agree  
 18 with them now.  
 19 Even having the ability to go to 225 feet  
 20 site specific and sending it through the  
 21 Planning Commission is very troubling to me.



Page 154

1 There's a reason why we wanted to keep those  
 2 waterways open and not have structures that far  
 3 out into them.  
 4 So if this particular project, based on  
 5 your testimony, said you only need 175, you  
 6 don't have any projects in the wings that need  
 7 more than 175, why in the world would we allow  
 8 225 feet?  
 9 We fought this battle. And I'm surprised  
 10 we don't have more people out here yelling and  
 11 screaming over this, maybe they haven't read  
 12 it, to allow anything to go beyond 200 feet out  
 13 in our waterways.  
 14 MR. LESHER: Mr. Pack, with all due  
 15 respect, we're not talking about private piers  
 16 with recreation --  
 17 MR. PACK: No, we're not. And I  
 18 acknowledge that. I do acknowledge that.  
 19 MR. LESHER: And there would be no  
 20 justifying a pier over 150 feet length if we  
 21 were talking about Harris Creek or Broad Creek.

Page 155

1 And that kind of control exists with the  
 2 Planning Commission.  
 3 But for areas like this along the Bay  
 4 Hundred shoreline extending out into the Bay,  
 5 that whole peninsula has a lot of shoreline and  
 6 this is -- we will be fortunate if we encourage  
 7 even a second.  
 8 We will not see a proliferation of these  
 9 piers because how narrowly this is prescribed  
 10 for the industry.  
 11 MR. PACK: I understood that. And that's  
 12 why I noted that as only for these use only.  
 13 And that's why I'm okay with going above 150  
 14 because it was specific for these industrial  
 15 use, which we're trying to certainly promote.  
 16 But again, my concern is that someone  
 17 could come along years down the road and want  
 18 to go to 225 feet because we set it at 225.  
 19 MS. PRICE: But it's not what they want.  
 20 It's they have to show a justifiable need that  
 21 they would need to get out that far. And

Page 156

1 there's a whole process they would have to go  
 2 through. It's not automatic that they would  
 3 get 225.  
 4 MR. DIVILIO: But it's not only that.  
 5 It's just that it doesn't encourage any  
 6 business that may want to come here and look at  
 7 it and just automatically say no.  
 8 They've already done this amendment.  
 9 They've shortened it to 175. And when they  
 10 look at the Bay --  
 11 MR. PACK: No. We lengthened it to 175.  
 12 MR. DIVILIO: Lengthened it to 175. Well,  
 13 if we cut it down.  
 14 This is the first opportunity for us with  
 15 the Planning and Zoning Commission to be  
 16 business friendly and show that we are trying  
 17 to support an industry that we would like to  
 18 grow. And here is a great opportunity for us  
 19 to say yes, we know there's a lot of shallow  
 20 land around here. There's plenty of potential.  
 21 And I assume it's been researched pretty well

Page 157

1 that that's an appropriate length within the  
 2 right areas for this.  
 3 So I'm inclined to support this with the  
 4 basis that I think that this is in good faith  
 5 as a sign that we are trying to be business  
 6 friendly and look for these good industries.  
 7 MR. SHOWALTER: And this process, frankly,  
 8 probably has taken us six months, six or seven  
 9 months to get to the point of this hearing.  
 10 If you vote to approve this tonight, it  
 11 wouldn't become legally effective for another  
 12 60 days.  
 13 So if another business is at a point where  
 14 they need 182 feet and faced with the prospect  
 15 that we have seven months of text amendment to  
 16 get through before we can possibly do it, as  
 17 opposed to we have to demonstrate to the  
 18 satisfaction of the planning officer or the  
 19 Planning Commission we need that distance and  
 20 it's the minimum adjustment we need, I think as  
 21 Mr. Divilio noted, it's a dramatic difference

Page 158

1 to prospective investors or prospective  
 2 developers.  
 3 And if you have two more fisheries  
 4 facilities or aquaculture facilities who take  
 5 advantage of it, I think that would be  
 6 wonderful for you.  
 7 MR. PACK: Who came down with the 225 feet  
 8 length? Where did that come from?  
 9 MS. VERDERY: It was the original proposal  
 10 from the applicant to go with 225 feet.  
 11 We've looked at certain areas throughout  
 12 the county and where these sites could  
 13 potentially be --  
 14 MR. PACK: 225 feet?  
 15 MS. VERDERY: Right. The only --  
 16 MR. LESHHER: It's a 50 percent expansion  
 17 of the current.  
 18 MR. PACK: Yes, it is. Yes, it is. Yes,  
 19 it is.  
 20 MS. PRICE: For one, maybe two locations  
 21 that probably wouldn't even have to go that

Page 159

1 far, but just in case.  
 2 MR. PACK: So there's -- I'm not going to  
 3 offer my amendment at this time.  
 4 Why would the pier need to, the width need  
 5 to increase from six feet to eight feet?  
 6 MR. SEAN CALLAHAN: Equipment. You do  
 7 have specialized equipment and a Gator to get  
 8 racks of oysters to and from the pier. There's  
 9 also equipment that you need to clean the  
 10 pipeline.  
 11 There's a safety factor of having people  
 12 out there all the time doing work. That's the  
 13 main reason. That's the same reason for the  
 14 increased L-head at the end of the pier.  
 15 MR. PACK: Yeah. I was going to get to  
 16 that next. You're going from 200 square feet  
 17 to 460 square feet. So a doubling of that  
 18 platform as well.  
 19 MS. PRICE: Working out there.  
 20 MR. DIVILIO: It's work. It's not just a  
 21 regular --

Page 160

1 MR. PACK: No. I understand that. But  
 2 it's a doubling of the size.  
 3 MR. SHOWALTER: And as part of any  
 4 federal, State or federal wetlands permit, you  
 5 have to demonstrate to the Corps of Engineers  
 6 and MDE that you have --  
 7 MR. PACK: When is that hearing?  
 8 MR. SHOWALTER: That hearing was held  
 9 several months ago.  
 10 MR. SEAN CALLAHAN: We're this close to  
 11 getting the State and federal permits. There's  
 12 some discussion, but we're real close.  
 13 MR. SHOWALTER: So you have to demonstrate  
 14 that you have minimized and avoided impacts.  
 15 And the Corps and MDE are satisfied that  
 16 the eight-foot width, the platform area, and  
 17 the pier length meet those federal and State  
 18 requirements for avoiding and minimizing  
 19 impacts to the waterway.  
 20 MR. SEAN CALLAHAN: And we had discussed  
 21 intakes out at 500 and 600 feet. But they said

Page 161

1 you've got to prove avoidance and minimization.  
 2 And if you got the same depth of water at five  
 3 and 600 that you do at 170, you've got to show  
 4 us why 170 doesn't work. So we had to agree  
 5 that 170 did work.  
 6 MR. PACK: Right. Well, can we amend this  
 7 down to 175 instead of 225 feet?  
 8 MR. SHOWALTER: As I stated, that does not  
 9 adversely affect this project, but I don't --  
 10 personally I don't think that's good planning  
 11 policy for the county.  
 12 MR. LESHHER: Ms. Verdery, I presume that  
 13 zoning would further restrict where these types  
 14 of things could happen because you need the  
 15 zoning for the shore side facility to go along  
 16 with this. So you couldn't put this just  
 17 anywhere in the. . .  
 18 MS. VERDERY: Right. I think there are  
 19 certain limitations that would prohibit where  
 20 these would go.  
 21 MR. PACK: How so? Because --

Page 162

1 MR. LESHHER: You couldn't put this in the  
 2 rural conservation zone or something like that  
 3 I presume.  
 4 MS. VERDERY: It's permitted --  
 5 MR. PACK: Yes, you can.  
 6 MS. VERDERY: -- it's permitted in the RC  
 7 zoning district.  
 8 MR. PACK: Yeah.  
 9 MR. LESHHER: It is?  
 10 MS. VERDERY: Yes.  
 11 MR. PACK: So you could have 225 feet in  
 12 the RC.  
 13 MS. VERDERY: I have two alternatives  
 14 potentially.  
 15 One is under the current language for a  
 16 private pier, it says that you can get no  
 17 variance or special exception of the 150-foot  
 18 length, period. It's a maximum length.  
 19 Maybe there's an opportunity to say to  
 20 increase this but allow for a variance or  
 21 special exception if you need to exceed that

Page 163

1 length. That's an added public process and an  
 2 added warrants and standards that need to be  
 3 met in order to be able to exceed that length.  
 4 So that's how it was previously in our  
 5 code when we allowed piers of greater than  
 6 150 feet.  
 7 MR. PACK: Right.  
 8 MS. VERDERY: You had to go through the  
 9 special exception process in order to get that.  
 10 So that's potentially an alternative for  
 11 something that would exceed, because this is  
 12 now not written with that same standard.  
 13 MR. PACK: No.  
 14 MS. VERDERY: So I would assume that's a  
 15 bulk requirement.  
 16 MR. PACK: It just says shall not exceed.  
 17 No variance at all is needed.  
 18 Council has always allowed Council members  
 19 the indulgence. I would ask for an indulgence  
 20 to set this aside until our next hearing. Let  
 21 me talk to Ms. Verdery and get myself more

Page 164

1 comfortable with 225 feet of pier in our  
 2 waterways. So I would ask that we set this  
 3 aside.  
 4 Anything more? All right. Thank you.  
 5 MR. SHOWALTER: Thank you.  
 6 MR. PACK: Thank you.  
 7 MR. HOLLIS: So Mr. Pack, we'll have that  
 8 on the December 17th agenda?  
 9 MR. PACK: Thank you. Mr. Hollis, over to  
 10 you.  
 11 MR. HOLLIS: Yes. Council, annually you  
 12 include in the budget funding for replacement  
 13 of computers for county staff.  
 14 This is a request of that annual  
 15 replacement of 30 desktop and five laptop  
 16 computers in the amount of \$34,925.24. You  
 17 have \$35,000 in capital funds. And that would  
 18 be from Dell Computers.  
 19 MR. PACK: Thank you. Is there a motion  
 20 to --  
 21 MS. PRICE: Motion.

Page 165

1 MR. PACK: By Ms. Price.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.  
 3 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Callahan. Any  
 4 further discussion?  
 5 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.  
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 7 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 9 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 12 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 13 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.  
 15 MR. LESHHER: Aye.  
 16 MR. HOLLIS: And we have a request for  
 17 sole source purchase of a specialty trailer  
 18 from Kruger Trailers from Georgetown, Delaware.  
 19 It's in the amount of \$13,965 for the Roads  
 20 Department. \$15,000 is in the capital budget.  
 21 MR. PACK: Is there a motion?

Page 166

1 MS. PRICE: Make a motion.  
 2 MR. PACK: By Ms. Price. Is there a  
 3 second?  
 4 MR. LESHER: Second.  
 5 MR. PACK: Thank you. I was about to say.  
 6 Is this trailer going down to Klondike or  
 7 biosolids?  
 8 MR. HOLLIS: It will be used in more than  
 9 one facility.  
 10 MR. PACK: Okay.  
 11 MS. PRICE: It's roads.  
 12 MR. PACK: Thank you, Ms. Price. I  
 13 misread that.  
 14 We have a motion. We have a second.  
 15 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.  
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 17 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 19 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

Page 167

1 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 2 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 4 MR. LESHER: Aye.  
 5 MR. HOLLIS: We're requesting your  
 6 approval for a USDA loan resolution to borrow  
 7 not more than \$222,000 in order to finance and  
 8 refinance improvements to certain wastewater  
 9 facilities in the county. This ties into the  
 10 introduction of legislation you had earlier  
 11 this evening. It's required paperwork,  
 12 documentation.  
 13 MR. PACK: Is there a motion?  
 14 MR. LESHER: So moved.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.  
 16 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Leshner. Seconded  
 17 by Mr. Callahan. Any further discussion?  
 18 Madam Secretary, call your roll.  
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 20 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.

Page 168

1 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 5 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 7 MR. LESHER: Aye.  
 8 MR. HOLLIS: And Council, it's an  
 9 administrative matter, but I wanted to make  
 10 sure you are aware that the Town of Oxford has  
 11 asked that a memorial bench be erected at  
 12 Oxford Conservation Park in honor of Peter  
 13 Dunbar. With Mr. Preston Peper's support,  
 14 we'll be going ahead with that action.  
 15 And the last item under administrative  
 16 would be to simply let you know we had a set  
 17 amount of a period of testing with the YMCA to  
 18 operate the county pools. That expired in  
 19 October. So they're back in our laps in terms  
 20 of operations, which I consider, along with  
 21 Mr. Peper, to be a good thing. So we'll be

Page 169

1 running the pools for next season.  
 2 I wanted to make sure I expressed our  
 3 appreciation to the YMCA and to Robbie Gill,  
 4 their executive director.  
 5 And in particular, we wanted to see if  
 6 this would be cost effective to co-mingle up  
 7 with an existing operation of pools. And it  
 8 turned out that a deficit is a deficit is a  
 9 deficit. So I think in that regard, it's  
 10 better for us to bring them back in house and  
 11 have direct control over them. So we'll be  
 12 doing that as well.  
 13 MR. PACK: Right. And we do appreciate  
 14 Robbie and his staff taking a swing at this.  
 15 And as you said, Mr. Hollis, the public pool  
 16 industry is basically not a lucrative industry  
 17 to be in. It is a service that the county  
 18 provides under our recreation activities to our  
 19 citizens.  
 20 But we certainly appreciate them taking an  
 21 opportunity to manage the pools last year for

Page 170

1 us.  
 2 MR. HOLLIS: And Council we just have a  
 3 series of appointments. The first would be the  
 4 Adult Public Guardianship Review Board. We're  
 5 requesting the reappointment of Julie Crocker  
 6 from the Commission on Aging; Mary Ann Hicks,  
 7 the lay representative; Michael Crowley, a  
 8 doctor; Susan Ludwig of the Health  
 9 Department; and Kate Stinton of our Health  
 10 Department, again, to the Public Guardianship  
 11 Review Board.  
 12 MR. LESHHER: I'll move the appointments.  
 13 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Leshher.  
 14 MS. PRICE: Second.  
 15 MR. PACK: Seconded by Ms. Price. Any  
 16 further discussion?  
 17 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call  
 18 your roll.  
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 20 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.

Page 171

1 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 5 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.  
 7 MR. LESHHER: Aye.  
 8 MR. HOLLIS: For the Agricultural  
 9 Resolution Board, requesting the reappointment  
 10 of Louis Smith as agricultural community rep.  
 11 MR. LESHHER: I'll move the appointment.  
 12 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Leshher.  
 13 MS. PRICE: Second.  
 14 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Price. Any  
 15 further discussion?  
 16 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call  
 17 your roll.  
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 19 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 21 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.

Page 172

1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 3 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 4 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.  
 6 MR. LESHHER: Aye.  
 7 MR. HOLLIS: And Council, one  
 8 announcement. Ms. Morris gave me a visual aid  
 9 to discuss skating with Santa. We have it for  
 10 two nights. Wednesday and Thursday at the  
 11 Community Center this week. It appears that  
 12 Wednesday is full but Thursday is not. Six to  
 13 eight p.m. Free registration is required.  
 14 Just go on the website or make a phone call.  
 15 It's a great time for your children to skate  
 16 with Santa Claus.  
 17 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Peper, is (inaudible)  
 18 serving the food out there already? All right.  
 19 So you've got delicious food, skating with  
 20 Santa.  
 21 MR. HOLLIS: Thank you very much.

Page 173

1 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you very much,  
 2 Mr. Hollis.  
 3 I've been told by Ms. Morris that we have  
 4 no one signed up for the public comment out on  
 5 the sheet.  
 6 MS. MORRIS: Correct.  
 7 MR. PACK: So no one is there for public  
 8 comment.  
 9 Council comment. Mr. Leshher just got back  
 10 from an overseas trip. I know you have many  
 11 stories to tell us, but if you can. . .  
 12 MR. LESHHER: I have nothing further.  
 13 MR. PACK: No slide show. No comment.  
 14 Ms. Price, anything from you?  
 15 MS. PRICE: Just I think we all had an  
 16 incredible MACo winter conference last week. A  
 17 lot of conversation on Kirwan, of course.  
 18 But I want to give a shout out to our  
 19 tourism and economic development director,  
 20 Cassandra Vanhooser, who did an excellent  
 21 presentation on short-term rentals, along with

Page 174

1 Jerry Walker, who is the former president of  
 2 MACo. And it really put Talbot County in a  
 3 very, as she put it, cutting edge light as far  
 4 as so many counties haven't done anything yet  
 5 and they're really struggling.  
 6 And you were there and Frank was there and  
 7 Mary Kay was there and Mary O'Donnell. And we  
 8 really tag teamed. It was one of those  
 9 questions at the end. A little biased, but I  
 10 think it was probably one of the most  
 11 entertaining sessions. So I do want to thank  
 12 her and Mr. Walker for all of the work that  
 13 they put into that presentation. Very timely.  
 14 MR. PACK: I didn't say anything.  
 15 Mr. Divilio, what is going on at your end  
 16 of the table?  
 17 MR. DIVILIO: Friday the 13th, the  
 18 Neighborhood Service Center will be doing an  
 19 ugly Christmas sweater fundraiser at Snifter's  
 20 from six until ten. So please come out. The  
 21 Neighborhood Service Center is a great cause.

Page 175

1 They're looking to set a world record for the  
 2 most amount of people in ugly sweaters. So  
 3 come on out. It's Friday the 13th. You'll  
 4 probably need to be at Snifter's anyway.  
 5 MR. PACK: Mr. Callahan, what is going on  
 6 with you?  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Got nothing.  
 8 MR. PACK: Good. Okay. We certainly  
 9 appreciate everyone who came out for the public  
 10 hearing.  
 11 Mr. Leshner and I will be attending the  
 12 Rural Maryland Council Annual Summit on the  
 13 12th over in Annapolis, the Doubletree. So  
 14 looking forward to that.  
 15 Council has its -- there's an Easton  
 16 legislative breakfast that will be held on the  
 17 13th, Friday the 13th, that some Council  
 18 members I think are attending. I will not be  
 19 able to attend that myself.  
 20 MS. PRICE: You definitely need to go to  
 21 Snifter's after breakfast with the mayor.


Page 176

1 MR. PACK: So keep in mind for that.  
 2 There's a grand opening of the BAAM  
 3 Center, the Building of African American Minds.  
 4 That grand opening is taking place this coming  
 5 Saturday at two p.m. I believe several Council  
 6 members will be in attendance. Mr. Divilio is  
 7 presenting a proclamation from the Council. I  
 8 will not be able to attend that as well. I'll  
 9 be away.  
 10 As well as we have a home dedication down  
 11 in St. Michael's on Brooks Lane with Habitat  
 12 for Humanity. So I know several of us are  
 13 planning to be there as well.  
 14 So a lot going on this weekend, and we  
 15 welcome the public to attend those events as  
 16 well.  
 17 County Council's next meeting will be held  
 18 on next Tuesday, December the 17th, beginning  
 19 at six p.m., which has been declared as our  
 20 special legislative day. The Council will be  
 21 convening in open session at 5:30 p.m. and

Page 177

1 immediately adjourning into closed session to  
 2 discuss real estate, personnel, and legal  
 3 matters as listed on the statement for closing  
 4 that meeting.  
 5 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn  
 6 this meeting as noted?  
 7 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.  
 8 MR. PACK: By Mr. Divilio.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.  
 10 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Callahan.  
 11 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.  
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 13 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 15 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 18 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 19 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 21 MR. LESHER: Aye.

1 (Meeting concluded at: 8:35 p.m.)  
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1 STATE OF MARYLAND  
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and  
 for the State of Maryland, County of Anne Arundel,  
 3 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot  
 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me  
 4 at the time and place herein set according to law,  
 was interrogated by counsel.  
 5  
 I further certify that the examination was  
 6 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed  
 from my stenographic notes to the within printed  
 7 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription  
 in a true and accurate manner.  
 8  
 I further certify that the stipulations  
 9 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my  
 presence.  
 10  
 I further certify that I am not of counsel  
 11 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,  
 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way  
 12 interested in the outcome of this action.  
 13 AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 16th  
 day of December, 2019, at Easton, MD.  
 14  
 15   
 16 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Diane Houlihan  
 Notary Public  
 17  
 18  
 19  
 20 My commission expires September 16, 2021  
 21

<b>&amp;</b>	109:6 117:3,7	<b>1st</b> 16:10,12 64:6	<b>22nd</b> 2:15
<b>&amp;</b> 99:20 100:9	118:19 119:2,10	65:15	<b>234</b> 86:16
106:21	119:12,18 120:1	<b>2</b>	<b>24th</b> 64:2 69:14,17
<b>0</b>	120:12 123:3	<b>2</b> 18:14,15	<b>25</b> 17:8 26:5,15,20
<b>0.05</b> 86:11	131:10	<b>20</b> 15:8 16:17	53:16,17 95:17
<b>1</b>	<b>1437</b> 120:14,15	28:21 42:21 47:13	<b>25-102a11</b> 88:6
<b>1</b> 140:17	122:16,20 128:6,8	56:8 65:15 101:19	<b>250</b> 31:20
<b>1,000</b> 32:11 33:8	131:10,11,17,18	148:5,7,17	<b>26</b> 28:19 29:14
<b>1,278,000</b> 90:12	133:4,15	<b>200</b> 17:6 18:7 19:1	54:4
<b>1,300</b> 22:21	<b>1439</b> 133:18,20	32:14 33:2,4,5,7	<b>26th</b> 3:1
<b>1,800</b> 143:2	136:1 145:3,5	122:1,9 128:19	<b>279</b> 87:12
<b>1.35</b> 23:20	<b>1440</b> 91:4	151:11 153:16	<b>280</b> 88:21 89:1
<b>1/14</b> 87:17	<b>14th</b> 87:15 89:3	154:12 159:16	<b>3</b>
<b>10</b> 1:7 42:15,17	91:9	<b>200,000</b> 24:9 33:8	<b>3</b> 140:17 144:12
<b>100</b> 71:1 136:14	<b>15</b> 29:1 75:15	<b>2006</b> 7:21	<b>30</b> 47:13 95:17
<b>1000</b> 32:13	141:1	<b>2009</b> 146:14	109:11 164:15
<b>10th</b> 3:2	<b>15,000</b> 165:20	<b>2015</b> 8:20	<b>300</b> 17:13 19:21
<b>11</b> 69:21 93:7	<b>150</b> 138:2 144:6	<b>2017</b> 40:5,16	22:19 23:4 31:20
109:8,8	148:4 154:20	<b>2018</b> 40:7 93:9	<b>300,000</b> 140:20
<b>115,000</b> 80:7	155:13 162:17	<b>2019</b> 1:7 8:1 25:9	<b>31</b> 8:1 30:7
<b>12</b> 8:13 29:2,2	163:6	25:9 90:8 93:9,11	<b>31st</b> 117:11
30:5 32:9,10	<b>16</b> 74:18 132:7	179:13	<b>32</b> 32:7
<b>120</b> 61:17 97:17	179:20	<b>2020</b> 65:11,12	<b>34</b> 48:16,21
113:14	<b>163,940</b> 24:5	67:1 71:20 74:7	<b>34,925.24.</b> 164:16
<b>121</b> 92:11 97:18	<b>165</b> 134:18 148:4	<b>2021</b> 78:4 179:20	<b>35,000</b> 164:17
<b>12th</b> 2:16 57:4	152:7	<b>2022</b> 78:4,16	<b>360</b> 54:14
175:13	<b>167</b> 86:15	<b>2023</b> 78:9,12	<b>370</b> 54:15
<b>13</b> 4:12 5:19 18:16	<b>16th</b> 54:19 179:13	<b>20th</b> 15:6	<b>385</b> 8:3 54:3
53:15	<b>17</b> 40:6	<b>21</b> 65:14	<b>39</b> 27:4
<b>13,965</b> 165:19	<b>17,245</b> 134:13	<b>210</b> 151:11 152:8	<b>3rd</b> 3:1
<b>134</b> 88:8	<b>170</b> 144:5 148:4	<b>21647</b> 86:14	<b>4</b>
<b>1362</b> 179:15	150:1,4,12 152:7	<b>21st</b> 66:5	<b>4-0</b> 134:10
<b>137,000</b> 30:18	153:6 161:3,4,5	<b>22</b> 15:8 53:11	<b>40</b> 95:16 96:7
<b>13th</b> 174:17 175:3	<b>175</b> 143:7 150:2,5	86:15	100:18 109:11
175:17,17	150:11,18 154:5,7	<b>222,000</b> 89:11	139:11
<b>14</b> 75:15 119:13	156:9,11,12 161:7	90:12,17 167:7	<b>400</b> 31:20
131:12	<b>17th</b> 164:8 176:18	<b>225</b> 149:18 150:3	<b>45</b> 15:12 146:6
<b>14,000</b> 56:8	<b>18</b> 74:19 132:7	150:13 153:4,19	<b>451</b> 86:10
<b>140</b> 16:14	<b>180</b> 151:11	154:8 155:18,18	<b>460</b> 134:19 159:17
<b>1407</b> 92:17 114:5	<b>182</b> 153:7 157:14	156:3 158:7,10,14	<b>4x</b> 47:16
<b>1436</b> 91:19 92:8	<b>19-205</b> 89:18	161:7 162:11	
92:10 95:6,7,7	<b>19-207</b> 89:18	164:1	
101:11 105:18,20	<b>190</b> 120:16 133:21	<b>22641</b> 86:13	



<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>accommodations</b> 92:19	<b>addressing</b> 62:10
<b>5</b> 95:12	<b>90th</b> 8:21	<b>account</b> 115:14	<b>adds</b> 5:2
<b>50</b> 32:8 54:1 97:18 124:19 158:16	<b>9b</b> 149:17	116:19 117:1	<b>adequate</b> 137:7
<b>50,000</b> 24:10 25:2	<b>a</b>	<b>accountability</b> 56:5	<b>adjacent</b> 123:13
<b>50/50</b> 26:19	<b>abandon</b> 86:8	<b>accuracy</b> 71:3	<b>adjourn</b> 177:5
<b>500</b> 32:9 53:9 110:4,6,6 121:17	<b>abandoned</b> 86:19 87:1	<b>accurate</b> 27:2 179:7	<b>adjourning</b> 177:1
122:8 125:1	<b>abandonment</b> 86:18	<b>acknowledge</b> 154:18,18	<b>adjustment</b> 152:16 153:5 157:20
128:13,18,21	<b>abel</b> 136:11,11 137:3 138:16,19 138:20	<b>acreage</b> 45:19	<b>administrative</b> 168:9,15
129:4 143:8	<b>ability</b> 47:1 60:3 66:15 116:14 153:19	<b>acres</b> 40:6,7	<b>admit</b> 83:16
160:21	<b>able</b> 6:20 14:9,17 24:14 27:13 28:10 28:21 29:2 30:13 32:10 35:8 49:19 50:9,18,21 51:7 51:10 57:21 62:5 62:7 67:11 79:20 82:10 84:20 93:10 103:3 135:3 147:5 163:3 175:19 176:8	<b>act</b> 35:10,17	<b>adopt</b> 55:12 64:21 65:1,13
<b>505</b> 15:4		<b>acting</b> 8:9	<b>adoption</b> 122:4
<b>5:30</b> 176:21		<b>action</b> 126:21 168:14 179:12	<b>adult</b> 170:4
<b>6</b>		<b>active</b> 120:20 125:20	<b>advance</b> 51:16
<b>60</b> 157:12		<b>actively</b> 82:17	<b>advantage</b> 158:5
<b>60,000</b> 18:8		<b>activities</b> 134:3 135:3 150:7 169:18	<b>adventures</b> 9:2
<b>600</b> 160:21 161:3		<b>actual</b> 44:13 142:6	<b>adverse</b> 146:8
<b>66</b> 44:21		<b>ad</b> 89:16	<b>adversely</b> 161:9
<b>6:00</b> 1:7		<b>add</b> 126:13	<b>advertised</b> 114:9
<b>6:30</b> 63:11 85:16 85:18 87:15,18,19 89:3 91:9		<b>added</b> 43:1 149:16 163:1,2	<b>advising</b> 36:8
<b>7</b>		<b>adding</b> 84:8 145:10	<b>advisory</b> 60:1
<b>7,000</b> 65:5		<b>additional</b> 81:8,9 90:13 92:18 109:5 118:3,4 119:19 131:18 149:16	<b>aerial</b> 44:10
<b>70</b> 17:2 43:4		<b>address</b> 62:12 66:16 86:13 92:5 92:6 95:2 136:7 145:4	<b>aerials</b> 44:12
<b>75</b> 26:17		<b>addressed</b> 62:15 76:15 129:16 130:3	<b>affect</b> 161:9
<b>78,000</b> 18:18,21 19:1			<b>affiliation</b> 66:17
<b>7:10</b> 63:12,15 85:14			<b>afford</b> 12:6
<b>7:15</b> 85:14			<b>affordable</b> 92:19 127:21
<b>7:30</b> 85:20			<b>afraid</b> 25:16 30:2
<b>8</b>			<b>african</b> 176:3
<b>8.7</b> 42:20			<b>ag</b> 125:15
<b>800</b> 17:7			<b>agencies</b> 70:13 73:20
<b>800,000</b> 32:16			<b>agenda</b> 2:9,11 13:4 63:5 85:18 164:8
<b>830</b> 35:5 36:14			<b>aging</b> 170:6
<b>84.65</b> 54:16			<b>ago</b> 31:20 48:16 48:21 61:21 64:10 90:9 93:4 99:6,12 111:7 139:1,1
<b>8:35</b> 178:1			
	<b>acceptable</b> 150:19		
	<b>accepted</b> 2:13,19 3:6		
	<b>access</b> 81:9 120:18 121:15 124:4,18 137:13 138:8		
	<b>accessibility</b> 81:18		
	<b>accommodate</b> 138:6,11		

<p>140:8 146:1 160:9  <b>agree</b> 109:7  111:18 153:17  161:4  <b>agreed</b> 153:17  <b>agreement</b> 90:11  <b>agricultural</b>  124:17 171:8,10  <b>agriculture</b> 90:10  <b>ahead</b> 6:16 14:1  30:17 91:14 94:20  105:19 135:14,15  136:2 140:11  147:15 168:14  <b>aid</b> 172:8  <b>al</b> 96:21  <b>alan</b> 101:12,16  <b>alarming</b> 150:14  <b>allegiance</b> 2:5,6  <b>alley</b> 88:1,5  <b>allocation</b> 71:5  <b>allow</b> 33:14 90:11  108:21 115:15  118:8 122:2 134:2  135:2 154:7,12  162:20  <b>allowed</b> 107:10  116:9 144:6 163:5  163:18  <b>allowing</b> 66:9  74:16 77:16 122:6  <b>allows</b> 121:12  <b>alter</b> 120:18  <b>alternate</b> 93:11  <b>alternative</b> 92:19  163:10  <b>alternatives</b>  162:13  <b>altogether</b> 18:2  <b>amazed</b> 37:3  147:11  <b>amazing</b> 6:8 68:21  <b>ambassador</b> 5:12  8:11 114:21</p>	<p><b>amend</b> 92:11  120:16 133:21  161:6  <b>amendment</b> 121:8  122:2,4 123:17  125:18 126:17  127:4 138:10  144:9 151:1,2,8  156:8 157:15  159:3  <b>amendments</b>  122:6  <b>american</b> 176:3  <b>amount</b> 24:2  30:20 54:3,17  56:7 126:19  164:16 165:19  168:17 175:2  <b>analysis</b> 27:2,3  84:10 85:2  <b>andy</b> 76:11  <b>ann</b> 170:6  <b>annapolis</b> 22:6  25:16 54:21  136:12 175:13  <b>anne</b> 24:20 179:2  <b>anne's</b> 51:6 52:3  57:17 58:19 62:2  <b>anniversary</b> 8:21  <b>annotated</b> 88:7  89:19  <b>announcement</b>  172:8  <b>annual</b> 56:21  164:14 175:12  <b>annually</b> 164:11  <b>answer</b> 9:13 39:3  97:9 141:14  <b>answered</b> 77:12  <b>anticipated</b>  126:19  <b>anybody</b> 11:19  61:19 64:1 66:16  83:10 104:11</p>	<p>132:19  <b>anytime</b> 12:5  <b>anyway</b> 16:5 24:4  25:18 28:14 38:21  39:5 103:8 104:11  105:13 175:4  <b>apologize</b> 84:11  131:10 138:20  <b>appeals</b> 126:6  <b>appear</b> 132:2  <b>appeared</b> 179:3  <b>appearing</b> 123:10  <b>appears</b> 149:15  172:11  <b>applause</b> 13:3  <b>applicant</b> 134:11  158:10  <b>applications</b> 71:19  72:1  <b>applied</b> 128:20  <b>applies</b> 126:18  151:1  <b>apply</b> 112:21  122:18  <b>appoint</b> 64:6  65:14  <b>appointment</b>  171:11  <b>appointments</b>  170:3,12  <b>appreciate</b> 7:10  11:10,21 25:4  47:20 49:4,12  76:14 85:11 91:15  94:19 105:13  127:7 149:12  169:13,20 175:9  <b>appreciation</b>  169:3  <b>appropriate</b> 157:1  <b>approval</b> 130:19  134:13 142:11  167:6</p>	<p><b>approve</b> 157:10  <b>approved</b> 122:3  <b>approving</b> 121:1  152:3  <b>approximately</b>  93:7  <b>april</b> 16:10,12  39:19 69:10 71:4  83:12  <b>aquaculture</b> 134:3  134:15 135:3  139:4 140:1  142:21 146:16  150:8,10 158:4  <b>aquatic</b> 38:18  <b>architect</b> 77:17  <b>architectural</b>  142:8  <b>area</b> 22:19 44:21  49:15 61:6,7  62:18 73:4,7 78:6  79:18 80:17 81:11  86:19 96:6 106:11  110:11 125:3,5  127:16 128:16,21  129:3,4,20 130:7  132:16 135:1,7  137:16,18 160:16  <b>areas</b> 16:7 25:19  31:20,20 33:15  39:1 44:19,20  49:17 73:5 127:16  128:11,12 132:3  140:14 155:3  157:2 158:11  <b>army</b> 142:15  146:2  <b>arranging</b> 71:9,13  <b>art</b> 147:18  <b>arterial</b> 121:16  129:8  <b>article</b> 88:7 89:19  <b>articles</b> 7:3</p>
--	--	---	--

<p><b>arts</b> 9:8 10:3  <b>arundel</b> 179:2  <b>ashore</b> 29:18  <b>aside</b> 37:20 38:6              46:4 163:20 164:3  <b>asked</b> 4:4 14:15              40:2 98:12 101:5              105:6 108:4              113:10 168:11  <b>asking</b> 45:16 51:9              108:20 148:14  <b>asmc</b> 55:10  <b>assessment</b> 25:18              28:14 41:11,13,16  <b>asset</b> 7:7  <b>assigning</b> 69:20  <b>assist</b> 9:13  <b>assistance</b> 9:12  <b>assisted</b> 179:7  <b>associated</b> 129:5  <b>association</b> 13:6,8              13:17 14:19 52:13              112:8  <b>assume</b> 156:21              163:14  <b>assuming</b> 130:8  <b>assure</b> 34:19  <b>astride</b> 86:12  <b>atlantic</b> 55:9  <b>attend</b> 52:21              82:10 175:19              176:8,15  <b>attendance</b> 176:6  <b>attended</b> 114:19  <b>attending</b> 175:11              175:18  <b>attention</b> 77:14  <b>attitude</b> 5:7  <b>attorney</b> 136:14  <b>attribute</b> 54:16  <b>audience</b> 12:15              146:6  <b>audio</b> 179:3</p>	<p><b>august</b> 39:20              55:17  <b>authority</b> 152:4  <b>authorization</b>              89:7  <b>authorize</b> 86:8,20              89:9  <b>authorizing</b> 89:20              90:1  <b>automatic</b> 156:2  <b>automatically</b>              156:7  <b>availability</b>              118:15  <b>available</b> 24:13,15              80:20 83:5,5              113:14 140:6  <b>avenue</b> 69:4 95:13  <b>avenues</b> 118:12,13  <b>average</b> 56:7  <b>avoidance</b> 161:1  <b>avoided</b> 160:14  <b>avoiding</b> 160:18  <b>avon</b> 62:4  <b>aware</b> 130:8              168:10  <b>aye</b> 10:20 11:1,3,5              11:7 120:5,7              133:6,8,10,12,14              165:7,9,11,13,15              166:17,19,21              167:2,4,20 168:1              168:3,5,7 170:20              171:1,3,5,7,19,21              172:2,4,6 177:13              177:15,17,19,21</p>	<p>84:1 88:13 93:21              94:12 115:6              122:14 124:9,13              135:13,14 138:7              145:1,6 150:1,5              168:19 169:10              173:9  <b>background</b> 68:9  <b>bad</b> 26:8 32:3 38:3              55:7 56:20  <b>bait</b> 15:16,17 16:8              39:12,17 43:2,3  <b>ballot</b> 63:19 71:18  <b>ballots</b> 71:11 73:2  <b>baltimore</b> 18:20              24:1 60:5,7  <b>ban</b> 42:14  <b>bang</b> 24:7  <b>bar</b> 143:10  <b>barn</b> 145:20,20  <b>bars</b> 27:4  <b>bartlett</b> 153:11  <b>base</b> 72:14  <b>based</b> 127:6              140:10 154:4  <b>basically</b> 22:16              39:6 40:9 93:5,10              94:7,11,12 102:11              118:7 146:14              169:16  <b>basis</b> 57:4 66:14              157:4  <b>bass</b> 55:11,15  <b>battle</b> 154:9  <b>bay</b> 16:16,17 31:1              31:6,18 34:1 41:8              42:3,14 50:1 62:3              67:3 73:5 76:21              81:13,14 84:17              102:11 140:4,21              144:17 149:3              155:3,4 156:10  <b>beacon</b> 42:10 54:3              54:9</p>	<p><b>beautiful</b> 6:5  <b>becoming</b> 69:2              140:5  <b>beds</b> 18:4  <b>began</b> 7:20  <b>beginning</b> 16:10              21:5 34:8 36:18              109:9 176:18  <b>begun</b> 70:12  <b>behalf</b> 123:10  <b>believe</b> 48:19 62:9              116:2,3,18 127:16              151:20 176:5  <b>bell</b> 84:6  <b>bellevue</b> 49:14,20              50:5 60:20 95:17              96:5,19 97:17              98:11 100:20              101:2,2,19 107:5              111:13 113:14  <b>belt</b> 12:11  <b>bench</b> 168:11  <b>bend</b> 115:6  <b>benefit</b> 20:1              127:19,19  <b>benefits</b> 125:11  <b>best</b> 6:8 39:17              85:1 110:18 113:2              116:14 137:20              144:8 148:13  <b>bet</b> 12:13  <b>better</b> 7:19 16:4              74:10 81:9 82:10              107:7 108:17              109:2 132:21              169:10  <b>beyond</b> 9:12 84:14              154:12  <b>biased</b> 174:9  <b>big</b> 32:18,19 35:7              38:19,20 53:19              59:16 72:1 73:11              80:17 82:18 141:7</p>
	<p><b>b</b></p>		
	<p><b>baam</b> 176:2  <b>back</b> 11:17 19:5              24:10 38:14 39:18              40:1 41:21 42:19              48:4 52:16 53:7              63:14 68:7,11              70:5 77:6 81:2,13</p>		

<p><b>biggest</b> 24:7  <b>bike</b> 123:15  <b>bill</b> 3:9,12 4:13,15  5:1,7,15 7:2,18,19  8:3 9:5,10 10:8  11:10 12:14,18  13:3 27:7,8,18  34:3,8,10 35:4,5  35:18 37:20 38:9  40:20 41:17 43:7  43:7 51:7,13 59:7  88:18 89:9 90:16  90:17 91:4,19  92:8,10,10,17  101:11 103:16  112:9 113:20  116:19 117:14  119:12,13 120:1  120:12,13,14,15  120:15 122:16,20  123:2 128:6,8  131:9,10,12,17  133:20,20 135:21  145:3,5  <b>bill's</b> 4:11  <b>billion</b> 139:10,18  139:19,20 140:17  140:17 144:12  <b>bills</b> 25:15 26:10  28:3 38:9 42:1  48:7 50:16 51:2  59:3,4 117:21  <b>bingo</b> 73:1  <b>bio</b> 137:13  <b>biologists</b> 143:12  <b>biosolids</b> 166:7  <b>bit</b> 3:17 15:10,11  18:8 19:3,3 26:9  33:13 58:1 68:9  70:14 75:1 81:1  138:16 148:13  <b>biweekly</b> 50:17  <b>black</b> 88:1,5  106:21</p>	<p><b>blessed</b> 147:20  <b>blessing</b> 26:4  <b>blowing</b> 29:19  30:9,9,10  <b>blue</b> 128:15,17  <b>board</b> 7:5 59:17  63:6,8,9,20 64:3,8  64:8 66:5 67:17  74:3,6 75:9,18  76:12 83:18 84:2  112:13,14 114:19  115:1,5,8 118:14  118:17 126:6  129:12 170:4,11  171:9  <b>boards</b> 67:4 82:6  <b>boat</b> 16:14 23:3,16  30:1 56:7 60:11  92:16 94:13 103:7  107:15 108:2,11  111:16  <b>boats</b> 17:21 18:2  42:16,17 49:17  55:19 56:6 96:8  108:10  <b>body</b> 92:1,3 116:2  <b>bolstering</b> 58:13  <b>bonds</b> 89:15,17,21  90:1,1,3 126:1  <b>book</b> 4:17 5:11  10:5  <b>borrow</b> 89:7,10  90:11,17 167:6  <b>borrowing</b> 89:14  90:18  <b>boss</b> 14:8  <b>bottom</b> 26:16,21  27:2,3 41:8,12  102:11,13,16  140:7  <b>box</b> 47:18  <b>break</b> 15:10 91:12  98:5</p>	<p><b>breakfast</b> 175:16  175:21  <b>breaks</b> 54:11  <b>bridge</b> 82:5  <b>brief</b> 4:7 87:5  88:12 136:18  <b>brightened</b> 8:19  <b>bring</b> 76:9 124:10  150:1 169:10  <b>bringing</b> 13:12  123:21  <b>broad</b> 24:6 25:3  62:4 143:9 154:21  <b>broader</b> 118:1  <b>broken</b> 18:17  <b>brooks</b> 176:11  <b>brought</b> 77:13  106:6,7  <b>bruce</b> 95:12  101:18 103:12,14  105:10  <b>bryant</b> 127:10,11  <b>buck</b> 24:8  <b>budget</b> 164:12  165:20  <b>build</b> 140:9  142:16  <b>building</b> 78:8,11  81:20 83:17 127:5  134:14 142:3,8,9  144:16,19 145:12  176:3  <b>buildings</b> 77:19  106:20  <b>built</b> 4:21 142:5  <b>bulk</b> 123:21  163:15  <b>bulky</b> 138:4  <b>bulletproof</b> 43:8  <b>bumps</b> 100:20  <b>bunch</b> 25:15 35:13  <b>buoy</b> 102:2 103:4  <b>bureau</b> 14:16</p>	<p><b>bushel</b> 16:14  23:20 31:3 32:8,8  32:11  <b>bushels</b> 29:4 30:18  37:8 140:20  <b>busiest</b> 29:12,13  <b>business</b> 32:12  36:17 39:7 77:21  106:20 127:14  147:4 149:5 156:6  156:16 157:5,13  <b>businesses</b> 128:4  <b>busy</b> 57:11 67:10  77:8  <b>buy</b> 17:19 21:14  21:15,21 25:3  <b>buying</b> 19:7 24:12  140:3</p>
			<b>c</b>
			<p><b>c</b> 151:18  <b>cages</b> 138:7  <b>call</b> 10:18 23:20  34:1 48:14 50:19  59:1,10 73:15  77:7,11 105:2,20  119:21 128:7  133:4 165:5  166:15 167:18  170:17 171:16  172:14 177:11  <b>callahan</b> 1:15  10:16,17 11:2,3  11:10 92:4 95:4  101:6 106:7 109:7  112:10,14 119:8,9  120:6,7 131:5,8  133:9,10 135:18  136:8,9 137:19  138:17 141:17  145:17 147:15,16  148:6,10,11,15  149:7,11 159:6  160:10,20 165:2,3  165:10,11 166:20</p>

<p>166:21 167:15,17 168:2,3 171:2,3 172:1,2 175:5,7 177:9,10,16,17 <b>called</b> 47:15 97:15 97:15,19 105:8 <b>calling</b> 34:11 <b>calls</b> 116:7 126:15 <b>calm</b> 145:16 <b>cambridge</b> 139:17 <b>candidate</b> 69:11 <b>cane</b> 101:3 <b>canvassing</b> 82:9 83:2 <b>cap</b> 32:4 <b>capital</b> 83:20 84:6 164:17 165:20 <b>capt</b> 13:18,21 14:20 20:13 22:12 23:8,11,17 28:7 28:11 29:12 30:4 30:16 31:13,16 35:3 36:7,14,20 37:16 38:7,19 42:7 43:11 44:2 44:14 45:12,20 46:3,6,20 47:18 51:18 52:9 54:2,8 54:11 56:12 57:14 58:5,7,10,21 59:11,14,16 <b>captain</b> 13:13,14 14:20 15:1 53:5 56:3,19 60:16 <b>car</b> 63:13 107:17 <b>cards</b> 23:1 65:3,6 <b>care</b> 6:20 66:12,18 82:1 91:17 <b>career</b> 8:1 <b>caring</b> 4:14 <b>carolina</b> 52:7 <b>caroline</b> 59:9 <b>carry</b> 23:15</p>	<p><b>cars</b> 74:12 107:16 <b>case</b> 152:5 159:1 <b>cases</b> 115:21 124:6 <b>cassandra</b> 173:20 <b>catch</b> 15:16 16:8 29:1,2,2,3 32:10 39:19,19 46:18 107:19 <b>catches</b> 31:17 <b>catching</b> 16:13 31:2 49:1 50:2 <b>category</b> 134:14 <b>caught</b> 26:6 65:9 <b>cause</b> 174:21 <b>caused</b> 43:16 <b>census</b> 64:4 <b>center</b> 77:21 106:20 124:21 172:11 174:18,21 176:3 <b>centreville</b> 22:18 <b>certain</b> 24:2 38:3 44:19 81:3 86:8 86:17 89:12 92:13 94:15,16 114:1 121:14 122:6 130:7 135:2 158:11 161:19 167:8 <b>certainly</b> 5:14 7:6 7:10 66:1 84:21 85:9 99:7 155:15 169:20 175:8 <b>certificate</b> 7:17 <b>certify</b> 179:3,5,8 179:10 <b>chair</b> 2:10,12,19 3:6 10:13 63:9 119:2 <b>chaired</b> 58:19 <b>chairman</b> 14:21 <b>challenge</b> 81:18 <b>challenges</b> 82:15</p>	<p><b>challenging</b> 84:18 <b>chambers</b> 1:10 <b>chance</b> 2:16 14:11 47:10 57:21 82:10 <b>change</b> 18:7 49:14 51:12 65:4 133:1 146:15 <b>changed</b> 19:2 65:3 96:11 106:12 <b>changes</b> 67:5 114:1 115:2 117:21 143:14,17 <b>changing</b> 18:19 20:3 66:16 <b>channel</b> 18:13 143:3 147:8,9 149:20 <b>chapter</b> 88:8 92:11 120:16 133:21 <b>characteristics</b> 123:19 <b>characterize</b> 4:11 <b>characterizing</b> 9:14 <b>charging</b> 70:21 <b>chart</b> 26:14,18 <b>charter</b> 55:19 56:3 56:6 90:19 <b>charts</b> 38:13,21 <b>check</b> 96:18 <b>chesapeake</b> 34:1 42:2 51:20 <b>chicken</b> 39:18 <b>chief</b> 68:4 <b>children</b> 172:15 <b>choptank</b> 28:13 32:2,3 34:5 102:17 <b>chose</b> 104:19 <b>christmas</b> 96:14 97:2 174:19 <b>chuck</b> 1:15</p>	<p><b>church</b> 101:2 <b>circle</b> 144:17 <b>circumstances</b> 127:1 <b>citizens</b> 72:5,7 84:6 110:19 169:19 <b>clam</b> 15:12 39:7 39:12,17 41:7 46:2,8,8,12,13 <b>clammers</b> 15:12 39:5 40:10,18 <b>clamming</b> 39:10 41:4,4,6 42:8 43:1 <b>clams</b> 15:16 16:3 22:14 39:9 41:11 42:13,14,18 46:9 46:12,17 <b>claus</b> 172:16 <b>clean</b> 51:20 159:9 <b>clear</b> 92:3 <b>clicking</b> 91:2 <b>close</b> 25:17 96:14 97:2 128:8 144:8 160:10,12 <b>closed</b> 27:9 32:4 34:3 35:8 36:3,9 74:7 105:20 119:2 123:14 177:1 <b>closely</b> 72:10 <b>closes</b> 12:5 <b>closest</b> 22:19 <b>closing</b> 177:3 <b>clue</b> 37:5,6,7,8 <b>coalition</b> 51:21 52:1,1 57:16 58:15,18,18 <b>coast</b> 142:19 <b>coastal</b> 55:9 <b>code</b> 88:7,9 89:19 92:11 120:16 133:21 137:16 163:5</p>
---	--	---	---

<p><b>cole</b> 95:8,11,12 96:17,20 97:4,13 98:10 99:1,9,13 99:19 100:3,6,9 100:14,16 101:8,9 101:10</p> <p><b>collaborating</b> 70:12</p> <p><b>collaboration</b> 72:9</p> <p><b>collection</b> 9:1 90:14</p> <p><b>collectively</b> 86:16</p> <p><b>collector</b> 121:16</p> <p><b>color</b> 142:2</p> <p><b>colors</b> 26:15</p> <p><b>column</b> 8:14</p> <p><b>columns</b> 9:2</p> <p><b>combined</b> 47:11</p> <p><b>come</b> 3:12 11:17 11:20 12:16,21 13:19 14:15 17:3 18:5 20:2 27:12 32:16 34:2 38:2 41:4,21 42:19 44:20 46:12 48:9 49:18 62:1,3 64:20 66:9 69:18 74:5 75:18 82:14 82:19 83:6 84:19 87:17 92:6 93:18 94:10,12 95:1 106:9 107:9 114:14 117:2 123:3 129:13 136:1 145:3,6 146:5 155:17 156:6 158:8 174:20 175:3</p> <p><b>comes</b> 15:7 18:6 22:20 23:3 48:10 53:17 54:17 55:7 56:19 66:21 68:11 94:5 116:6</p>	<p><b>comfortable</b> 150:2 164:1</p> <p><b>coming</b> 33:9 38:10 56:16 63:3,18 68:7 69:16 83:12 83:15 85:8 91:20 92:1 132:7 135:21 140:21 176:4</p> <p><b>comment</b> 11:8 95:10 106:3 109:5 119:19 130:21 131:18,20 132:19 145:7 147:16 173:4,8,9,13</p> <p><b>comments</b> 7:15 12:3</p> <p><b>commercial</b> 15:4 47:11</p> <p><b>commission</b> 58:13 64:7,19 65:14 121:10 125:10,19 126:13 127:6 129:6 132:12 134:8,9 142:10 149:15 151:19,21 152:7,19 153:21 155:2 156:15 157:19 170:6 179:20</p> <p><b>committee</b> 10:5 17:16 50:9,14 51:12 60:1 112:11</p> <p><b>committees</b> 10:1 140:2</p> <p><b>common</b> 86:13</p> <p><b>communication</b> 8:6</p> <p><b>community</b> 4:12 6:9 7:7 8:12 10:1 10:10 52:16 53:4 127:17,19 139:5 171:10 172:11</p> <p><b>companies</b> 73:21 124:7</p>	<p><b>compassion</b> 116:5</p> <p><b>complain</b> 84:12 108:16</p> <p><b>complained</b> 97:16 101:1</p> <p><b>complaints</b> 17:3</p> <p><b>complementary</b> 125:12</p> <p><b>completed</b> 77:1</p> <p><b>compliance</b> 115:19 118:10</p> <p><b>complimented</b> 9:10</p> <p><b>comprehensive</b> 138:14 151:3</p> <p><b>computer</b> 179:7</p> <p><b>computerized</b> 13:20</p> <p><b>computers</b> 164:13 164:16,18</p> <p><b>concentrated</b> 24:6</p> <p><b>concern</b> 76:18 77:9 78:16,17 93:16 129:7 146:8 155:16</p> <p><b>concerns</b> 72:13,13 76:8,11,15 129:15 132:4 146:7 149:14</p> <p><b>concluded</b> 178:1</p> <p><b>concrete</b> 124:11</p> <p><b>concur</b> 5:14</p> <p><b>conditions</b> 86:17 144:11</p> <p><b>conducted</b> 125:7</p> <p><b>cones</b> 73:11</p> <p><b>conference</b> 173:16</p> <p><b>confused</b> 107:14</p> <p><b>congratulations</b> 12:18,18</p> <p><b>coning</b> 73:6</p> <p><b>connected</b> 18:12 39:9</p>	<p><b>connection</b> 9:11 127:2</p> <p><b>connector</b> 129:8 132:10</p> <p><b>consensus</b> 127:4</p> <p><b>consent</b> 2:13,20 3:7</p> <p><b>consequences</b> 109:16 114:1 116:20 118:4 145:15</p> <p><b>conservation</b> 55:12 162:2 168:12</p> <p><b>consider</b> 78:21 79:11 107:2 127:12 131:6 168:20</p> <p><b>consideration</b> 87:2 109:15</p> <p><b>considered</b> 116:17 119:15 131:14</p> <p><b>consisting</b> 86:11</p> <p><b>consolidation</b> 89:20</p> <p><b>constant</b> 140:3</p> <p><b>constantly</b> 67:5,8 68:5</p> <p><b>constitutional</b> 35:16 36:1</p> <p><b>construction</b> 124:10,14 138:18</p> <p><b>consultants</b> 11:17</p> <p><b>contact</b> 71:14 85:10</p> <p><b>contained</b> 179:9</p> <p><b>continue</b> 84:5,21 115:17</p> <p><b>continued</b> 117:12</p> <p><b>contract</b> 105:3,8</p> <p><b>control</b> 84:15 124:4,4 155:1 169:11</p>
--	--	--	---

<b>convening</b> 176:21 <b>conversation</b> 173:17 <b>convey</b> 115:2 <b>conveyance</b> 86:8 86:18,21 <b>cook</b> 63:7 66:1,8 73:9,13 78:11,15 78:20 79:15 85:11 <b>copy</b> 59:11 <b>corey</b> 1:14 <b>corn</b> 47:1 <b>corps</b> 142:15 146:2 160:5,15 <b>correct</b> 23:17 31:12 65:11 73:8 73:9 79:15 91:6 95:15 114:4 130:14 148:10 173:6 <b>corrections</b> 2:11 2:18 3:4 <b>correctly</b> 114:16 <b>cost</b> 32:6 42:12 80:9 82:4 169:6 <b>costing</b> 81:1 <b>costly</b> 80:18 <b>council</b> 1:1,4,10 1:13 2:9 3:8 7:13 10:3,7 11:8 13:4 63:5 87:5,9 88:13 90:7 91:1 105:19 106:3,19 108:20 109:14,20 111:8 115:1 117:3,5 118:13 119:19,20 121:7 123:7 130:21 131:17 133:16 141:17 145:7 153:9 163:18,18 164:11 168:8 170:2 172:7 173:9 175:12,15 175:17 176:5,7,20	179:3 <b>council's</b> 176:17 <b>councils</b> 51:6 <b>counsel</b> 179:4,9,10 179:11 <b>counties</b> 18:16 51:4 53:15 54:15 62:2 79:8 174:4 <b>county</b> 1:1,1 3:10 6:4 7:20 8:7,21 9:17 10:3,7,9,10 13:5,7 15:5,21 17:9,16 18:1,20 24:1,21 27:4 28:9 32:17 33:9,10 51:5,6 52:1,1,4,12 52:13,18 53:2,10 54:4,11,12,12 55:13 56:6 57:16 57:17,17,18,21 58:11,15,17,18,20 59:9 60:5,7 63:6,8 71:15 77:8 79:3,4 79:6 81:5 84:3 88:8 89:6,10,10 89:13,17 90:9,11 90:16 92:11,14,17 103:21 106:16 108:17 110:5 120:16 124:16 125:14 126:4 133:21 137:1,16 138:13 140:2 146:16,20 147:18 149:1 151:1 158:12 161:11 164:13 167:9 168:18 169:17 174:2 176:17 179:2,3 <b>county's</b> 81:8 86:21 <b>couple</b> 20:20 31:19 49:16 50:13	63:18 86:1 97:20 106:12 140:13 141:20 <b>course</b> 4:21 32:6 42:1 82:8 139:13 173:17 <b>court</b> 35:15 <b>cove</b> 134:12 136:9 136:12 <b>cover</b> 141:21 <b>crab</b> 16:15 48:4 102:19 103:2 <b>crabbers</b> 15:17 16:9,9 <b>crabbing</b> 17:1 39:10 109:12 110:8 <b>crabs</b> 16:13,21 17:4 22:15 39:14 43:2 107:20 <b>crashes</b> 143:19 <b>create</b> 5:9 <b>created</b> 6:5 111:2 <b>creating</b> 118:3 <b>creative</b> 9:6 <b>credits</b> 140:5 <b>creek</b> 24:6 25:3 40:5 62:4 154:21 154:21 <b>crocker</b> 170:5 <b>crook</b> 143:4 <b>crop</b> 45:17 <b>crowley</b> 170:7 <b>culture</b> 5:9 <b>current</b> 38:11 70:20 113:7 129:20 130:10,13 134:21 135:4 158:17 162:15 <b>currently</b> 66:12 92:14 108:7 126:14 128:13 <b>curve</b> 14:1 30:17	<b>customer</b> 9:16 <b>cut</b> 34:6 156:13 <b>cutting</b> 141:8 174:3 <b>cycle</b> 74:8 78:10 78:14 <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>d</b></p> <hr/> <b>daily</b> 66:13 <b>damaged</b> 30:1 <b>dana</b> 4:1,4 7:6 12:14 <b>dana's</b> 5:16 <b>darker</b> 26:15 <b>dashboard</b> 54:10 <b>date</b> 83:4 91:7,8 <b>dates</b> 51:12 71:16 <b>daunting</b> 132:10 <b>day</b> 8:19 16:18 20:19 26:7 29:6,9 29:15,16,17 30:5 30:8 31:3 35:13 35:15 36:21 47:20 67:6,7 70:10,19 71:10 74:20,21 75:1 97:15 98:4 103:6 108:2 149:6 153:15 176:20 179:13 <b>days</b> 26:6,7,8,8 29:17,21 30:5,6,8 30:11,15 51:13 56:8 61:17 97:5 97:17,18,20 113:15 130:18 157:12 <b>deadline</b> 64:1 <b>deal</b> 127:1 137:13 137:13 138:3,6 141:7 144:11 <b>dealing</b> 46:20 47:4 86:5 87:21 89:6 138:7 <b>death</b> 25:16
--	--	---	---

<p><b>debate</b> 153:10,11  <b>december</b> 1:7 3:1  3:2 8:1 49:7 57:6  64:6 65:15 117:11  164:8 176:18  179:13  <b>decent</b> 15:21  <b>decide</b> 20:19 22:4  <b>decided</b> 29:5  <b>decision</b> 51:8  <b>decisions</b> 50:8  116:6  <b>decker</b> 106:21  <b>declared</b> 47:6  176:19  <b>decreased</b> 40:13  <b>dedicated</b> 9:20  <b>dedication</b> 10:8  176:10  <b>deed</b> 87:2  <b>deep</b> 96:8 137:8  147:10  <b>deepest</b> 143:5,13  144:1  <b>defending</b> 117:5  <b>deficit</b> 169:8,8,9  <b>definitely</b> 35:10  36:1 58:5 76:1  104:6 175:20  <b>definition</b> 133:1  <b>degree</b> 116:3,4  <b>delaware</b> 52:6  165:18  <b>delaying</b> 92:15  <b>deletions</b> 2:11,18  3:4  <b>delicious</b> 172:19  <b>delivery</b> 71:9  <b>dell</b> 164:18  <b>delmarva</b> 13:16  14:21 51:19 52:2  54:19  <b>democrat</b> 8:15  100:2,13 103:18</p>	<p><b>demonstrate</b>  152:6,11 157:17  160:5,13  <b>demonstration</b>  9:16  <b>dentist</b> 138:20  <b>department</b> 18:11  72:11 83:19,20  85:6,7 90:9  165:20 170:9,10  <b>deposit</b> 124:11  <b>depth</b> 137:18,21  141:14 150:4,12  161:2  <b>described</b> 86:15  <b>designated</b> 36:3  <b>desktop</b> 164:15  <b>details</b> 141:13  <b>determination</b>  152:10  <b>determined</b> 29:9  <b>developers</b> 158:2  <b>development</b>  90:10,13 120:17  134:1 173:19  <b>devoted</b> 125:16  <b>dfa</b> 35:15  <b>diagram</b> 141:19  <b>diagrams</b> 135:6  <b>diane</b> 1:21 179:2  179:16  <b>dickey</b> 97:19  <b>dicky</b> 105:2  <b>die</b> 43:18  <b>difference</b> 39:16  125:8 139:5  141:10 145:12  157:21  <b>different</b> 37:10  67:4 71:7 97:14  110:2 112:2 146:7  <b>dig</b> 41:13  <b>dignity</b> 5:9</p>	<p><b>dilemma</b> 111:5  <b>diligence</b> 148:2  <b>direct</b> 124:18  169:11  <b>directed</b> 145:9  <b>director</b> 93:1  169:4 173:19  <b>dirt</b> 123:15  <b>disappointed</b>  112:6  <b>disaster</b> 47:6  <b>disastrous</b> 32:3  <b>disbursements</b>  2:14,21 3:5  <b>discuss</b> 35:8 36:4  59:9 172:9 177:2  <b>discussed</b> 160:20  <b>discussion</b> 48:11  88:12 119:10  123:16 160:12  165:4 167:17  170:16 171:15  <b>discussions</b>  146:10  <b>dismal</b> 25:9  <b>displeasure</b> 115:4  <b>dissolves</b> 48:18  <b>distance</b> 108:2  132:3 144:2  157:19  <b>distinguish</b> 7:8  <b>district</b> 63:21  162:7  <b>districts</b> 64:21  65:1 69:13 121:14  121:21  <b>dive</b> 102:11,13  <b>diver</b> 138:8  <b>divers</b> 31:1 137:12  <b>divilio</b> 1:16 10:21  11:1,18 62:10,13  62:15 63:2 106:6  120:4,5 130:3  132:20 133:7,8</p>	<p>145:8 146:11  156:4,12 157:21  159:20 165:8,9  166:18,19 167:21  168:1 170:21  171:1,20,21  172:17 174:15,17  176:6 177:7,8,14  177:15  <b>dnr</b> 15:7 23:3  28:18 31:19 34:15  36:9 45:2,8,9  <b>dock</b> 49:19 55:20  61:8 107:10  <b>dockside</b> 141:2  <b>doctor</b> 170:8  <b>documentation</b>  167:12  <b>documents</b> 8:10  70:8 96:12  <b>dog</b> 7:1 88:1,5  <b>doing</b> 13:18 26:2  30:16 31:10 37:15  37:16 40:14 47:3  68:3 73:16 74:4  75:12 79:3 83:7  96:1,6 98:8  104:14 115:21  116:2,4 118:4  127:20 146:21  147:1 148:3  149:13 151:8  159:12 169:12  174:18  <b>doings</b> 103:20  <b>doom</b> 31:9,18  <b>door</b> 12:5 43:4  <b>dorchester</b> 28:13  51:5 52:3 53:20  53:21 54:5 57:17  <b>dory</b> 34:20  <b>double</b> 96:18  <b>doubletree</b> 175:13</p>
---	---	--	---



<b>doubling</b> 159:17 160:2 <b>doubt</b> 39:17 104:5 <b>douglass</b> 10:2 <b>draft</b> 125:18 126:9 152:18 <b>drafters</b> 116:21 <b>drafting</b> 116:18 117:7 <b>dramatic</b> 157:21 <b>drastic</b> 65:4 <b>dredge</b> 102:15 147:8,9 <b>dredging</b> 18:13 29:3 37:9 59:20 102:14 <b>driven</b> 138:10 <b>drone</b> 44:10 <b>drones</b> 44:11 <b>drops</b> 43:7 <b>due</b> 57:5 145:13 148:2 154:14 <b>dug</b> 48:15 49:11 <b>dunbar</b> 168:13 <b>duncan</b> 153:13,14 <b>dust</b> 124:4 <b>dutchman's</b> 130:4 <b>duties</b> 12:4	<b>easier</b> 68:3 <b>eastern</b> 31:1 54:13 54:15 102:11 141:9 <b>easton</b> 1:10 67:15 72:10 75:6 76:20 95:13 123:13 136:15 175:15 179:13 <b>easy</b> 37:14 <b>economic</b> 32:5 47:7 141:2 173:19 <b>edge</b> 141:8,9 174:3 <b>editing</b> 8:10 <b>education</b> 11:18 64:8 74:6 <b>educational</b> 9:6 <b>eel</b> 15:19 43:3 <b>eelers</b> 15:19 <b>effect</b> 42:16 89:13 92:15 146:8 <b>effective</b> 65:12 157:11 169:6 <b>efficient</b> 137:21 <b>effort</b> 149:13 151:13,15 <b>efforts</b> 33:16 <b>eight</b> 69:17 93:19 94:2 117:8 134:19 159:5 160:16 172:13 <b>eighth</b> 55:17 <b>either</b> 44:9 69:7 74:19 102:2 <b>election</b> 65:11,13 66:5,10 67:1,6,7 68:5,7,14,15,16 68:18 69:3,7,20 70:6,10,13,19 71:10 73:17 74:7 74:20,20,21 75:3 76:4,5,12 78:10 78:14 79:21 80:8	83:9,18 84:2 <b>elections</b> 63:6,8 78:18 <b>electric</b> 73:21 100:10 105:7 <b>electronically</b> 22:4 <b>eligible</b> 118:20 <b>embodies</b> 4:13 <b>embrace</b> 138:13 <b>emergency</b> 72:17 73:14 126:21 <b>employ</b> 127:15 <b>employee</b> 179:11 <b>empty</b> 61:11 96:4 108:9 <b>enable</b> 90:16 <b>enacted</b> 117:14 <b>encourage</b> 152:20 155:6 156:5 <b>encourages</b> 138:14 151:4 <b>ends</b> 80:18 <b>enforcement</b> 108:6 <b>enforcing</b> 116:1 <b>engineering</b> 136:10 <b>engineers</b> 142:15 160:5 <b>enhanced</b> 49:2 <b>enriched</b> 9:7 <b>entered</b> 90:10 179:9 <b>enterprises</b> 123:10 <b>entertain</b> 10:13 119:2 131:3 <b>entertained</b> 131:6 <b>entertaining</b> 174:11 <b>enthusiastic</b> 9:5 <b>entire</b> 10:10 111:6	<b>entirely</b> 125:4 <b>environmental</b> 54:20 57:19 58:2 <b>equates</b> 139:19 141:1 <b>equipment</b> 69:7,9 70:21 71:7,8,9 72:18 80:7 81:2,4 81:5,6 121:17 139:7 159:6,7,9 <b>equipped</b> 70:17 <b>equivalence</b> 55:12 <b>erected</b> 168:11 <b>especially</b> 9:14 68:16 81:11 104:16 129:19 <b>essays</b> 9:2 <b>essence</b> 94:9 <b>essentially</b> 124:16 <b>establish</b> 86:17 88:4 124:15 <b>established</b> 92:16 120:20 124:2 125:20 126:9 <b>establishes</b> 126:11 <b>estate</b> 177:2 <b>evaluate</b> 108:8,8 <b>evaluating</b> 107:3 <b>evening</b> 2:3,7 20:4 90:7 127:13 136:8 138:19 167:11 <b>events</b> 176:15 <b>everybody</b> 29:10 31:9,18 38:7 60:1 65:3 83:9,12 94:9 99:4,7 106:10 109:3 110:15 111:9 <b>exact</b> 148:12 <b>exactly</b> 39:3 100:16 <b>examination</b> 179:5
<b>e</b>			
<b>e</b> 1:18 76:19 <b>ear</b> 153:14 <b>earlier</b> 69:18 74:16 106:10 107:4 112:8 128:2 138:21 140:2 167:10 <b>earliest</b> 78:9 <b>early</b> 40:13 53:8 69:21 70:10,19 71:10 74:20 79:5 79:17 80:1,3,4,6 82:8 117:10 <b>ease</b> 4:19 68:1			

<b>example</b> 5:8 20:19 93:19	<b>expertly</b> 8:6	<b>fairly</b> 116:15,16	157:14 158:7,10
<b>exceed</b> 135:4 138:1 149:17	<b>experts</b> 142:18	<b>fairness</b> 113:6 117:19	158:14 159:5,5,16 159:17 160:21 161:7 162:11 163:6 164:1
152:1,15 153:3 162:21 163:3,11 163:16	<b>expired</b> 168:18	<b>faith</b> 157:4	<b>fellow</b> 5:4
<b>exceedance</b>	<b>expires</b> 179:20	<b>fall</b> 24:14,15 55:13	<b>felt</b> 129:13
152:12	<b>explain</b> 19:6	<b>falls</b> 65:2 150:9	<b>ferguson</b> 37:1
<b>excellent</b> 56:17 173:20	<b>explained</b> 35:13	<b>familiar</b> 35:4 107:13 147:19	<b>ferry</b> 134:11 136:9 136:12
<b>exception</b> 109:20 121:14,21 126:5 129:11 162:17,21 163:9	<b>explore</b> 111:12 112:1	<b>familiarize</b> 50:18	<b>fertilize</b> 47:2
<b>exceptional</b> 8:18	<b>explored</b> 97:10 113:16	<b>fantastic</b> 52:15	<b>fiber</b> 76:21
<b>exceptions</b> 110:17 111:1	<b>exposure</b> 117:4	<b>far</b> 11:14 17:7 18:3 45:6 72:17 79:13 81:13 103:10 104:17 118:1 141:13 154:2 155:21 159:1 174:3	<b>fiberoptic</b> 76:21
<b>excess</b> 134:20	<b>expressed</b> 104:3 169:2	<b>farm</b> 14:16 45:17	<b>field</b> 74:21
<b>exchange</b> 97:10	<b>extend</b> 54:21	<b>farmer</b> 46:21 47:1	<b>fierce</b> 153:10,11
<b>excited</b> 67:13 69:3 74:8 75:12 76:2,5 149:1	<b>extending</b> 155:4	<b>farmers</b> 45:17 57:1	<b>fight</b> 41:20
<b>exciting</b> 11:19 137:1 138:12 147:17	<b>extensive</b> 137:19	<b>fault</b> 104:1	<b>fighter</b> 37:18
<b>executive</b> 169:4	<b>extra</b> 25:2 78:10 96:10 99:5 107:8	<b>favor</b> 132:18	<b>fighting</b> 99:9 109:19
<b>exempting</b> 89:17	<b>extraction</b> 120:20 121:20 122:3,10 123:12,18 125:14	<b>fears</b> 145:16	<b>figure</b> 56:2,4 106:21 109:1 110:12 111:14 132:6 137:20
<b>exercise</b> 73:15	<b>extreme</b> 123:10	<b>feasibility</b> 140:9	<b>figuring</b> 110:9
<b>exhaustive</b> 114:6	<b>extremely</b> 26:2	<b>feasible</b> 108:1	<b>file</b> 64:1
<b>exist</b> 126:14	<b>f</b>	<b>federal</b> 160:4,4,11 160:17	<b>filing</b> 64:1 69:12
<b>existing</b> 84:17 125:5,13 169:7	<b>f</b> 1:15	<b>fee</b> 22:16 87:3	<b>filter</b> 140:4
<b>exists</b> 143:6,8 155:1	<b>facebook</b> 68:20,21	<b>feedback</b> 5:5 127:6	<b>final</b> 119:1,19 142:12
<b>expansion</b> 158:16	<b>faced</b> 25:15 27:20 157:14	<b>feel</b> 51:5 62:20 84:11 103:14 109:10,11 148:15 148:19	<b>finally</b> 60:10
<b>expect</b> 42:6	<b>facilities</b> 89:13 124:7 130:14 158:4,4 167:9	<b>feet</b> 121:17 125:1 134:18,19 138:2 142:20 143:1,2,6 143:7,7,8 144:4,5 144:6 148:5,7,17 149:18 150:1,3,14 151:11 152:8 153:16,19 154:8 154:12,20 155:18	<b>finance</b> 89:11 167:7
<b>expenditures</b> 83:21 84:7	<b>facility</b> 80:13 81:2 81:12 123:12 124:11 150:8 161:15 166:9		<b>financial</b> 36:4
<b>expense</b> 86:20	<b>fact</b> 67:13 68:15 76:9 79:9 81:7 141:20,21		<b>financially</b> 53:3 57:18
<b>experience</b> 8:16 74:10 80:14	<b>factor</b> 159:11		<b>financials</b> 42:12
<b>experiencing</b> 77:3	<b>facts</b> 60:21		<b>find</b> 9:13 31:21 42:1 46:16 92:18 93:11 97:20 118:15 125:13
	<b>fails</b> 120:12		<b>finding</b> 81:12 115:8
	<b>fair</b> 95:20 110:14 111:10 113:18 116:15		<b>fine</b> 23:10 35:20 79:18 97:18

104:14 150:19 <b>finish</b> 151:17 <b>fire</b> 72:11 73:20 <b>first</b> 15:15,17 16:1 36:17 55:17 56:15 66:8 76:9 86:4 95:6 96:16 104:8 104:21 105:4,5 137:2 142:17 156:14 170:3 <b>fiscal</b> 3:3 43:6 <b>fish</b> 112:2 134:15 <b>fisheries</b> 13:16 14:21 51:19 54:19 55:10 134:2 158:3 <b>fishery</b> 135:3 150:7 <b>fishing</b> 16:18 22:13 55:19 110:10 150:8 <b>fit</b> 108:17 <b>five</b> 18:1 19:18,20 27:8 28:7 29:10 34:3 63:21 69:13 84:7 92:2 102:8 103:1 139:1,18 161:2 164:15 <b>fix</b> 107:6 <b>flabbergasted</b> 37:7 <b>flat</b> 143:9 145:9 <b>flexibility</b> 152:21 <b>flip</b> 112:17 <b>flood</b> 94:16 <b>floor</b> 43:9 50:15 <b>flopping</b> 112:17 <b>flow</b> 67:20 <b>focused</b> 38:5 <b>folks</b> 69:15 142:19 <b>follow</b> 71:15 105:21 <b>followed</b> 2:5 <b>following</b> 30:14 64:20 79:7	<b>food</b> 172:18,19 <b>fool</b> 44:7 <b>foot</b> 122:1,8,9 128:13,18,19,21 129:4 134:13,19 160:16 162:17 <b>forever</b> 144:12 <b>forget</b> 6:12 68:11 83:10 <b>forgot</b> 83:21 <b>formally</b> 86:7 <b>format</b> 34:12 <b>former</b> 174:1 <b>formerly</b> 86:9 <b>formula</b> 23:21 <b>forth</b> 48:5 71:17 77:6,20 81:3 115:6 138:7 <b>fortunate</b> 6:2 16:11 24:20 47:10 48:6 155:6 <b>forward</b> 3:12 14:12 59:19 83:12 83:13 113:7 175:14 <b>forwarding</b> 51:3 <b>foster</b> 96:21 101:12,12,16,16 101:17,18 104:8 104:10,14,15 105:15 <b>fought</b> 154:9 <b>found</b> 19:16 31:20 60:10 80:5 <b>foundation</b> 9:1 34:1 42:3 139:2 140:8 147:20 <b>four</b> 19:17,20 31:3 31:4 52:5 96:7 102:3 143:6,7 144:4 <b>frank</b> 1:16 174:6 <b>frankly</b> 125:8 157:7	<b>frederick</b> 10:2 <b>free</b> 3:10 7:21 8:7 8:21 9:17 10:9 172:13 <b>freely</b> 117:9 <b>frequently</b> 113:19 115:7 132:8 <b>fresh</b> 31:8 <b>friday</b> 29:6 30:10 59:17 174:17 175:3,17 <b>friendly</b> 147:4 156:16 157:6 <b>front</b> 85:17 142:14 143:10 <b>frustrated</b> 84:16 <b>full</b> 14:11 80:19 172:12 <b>fully</b> 113:16 <b>function</b> 137:7 <b>funding</b> 164:12 <b>fundraiser</b> 174:19 <b>funds</b> 24:8 89:7 164:17 <b>further</b> 9:15 86:15 101:7 119:10 143:18 144:21 161:13 165:4 167:17 170:16 171:15 173:12 179:5,8,10 <b>future</b> 70:20 125:16 147:2 149:4 <b>futures</b> 27:1,12 33:12,20 34:10	<b>general</b> 68:4,16,18 75:15 76:1 89:15 149:3 <b>generally</b> 90:2 <b>generated</b> 123:15 <b>generous</b> 116:5 <b>generously</b> 8:15 <b>gentlemen</b> 136:6 <b>georgetown</b> 165:18 <b>getting</b> 4:16 31:3 32:8 40:14 56:13 59:21 70:2 71:2 73:17 81:8 82:21 103:6 112:18 146:21 160:11 <b>gig</b> 41:14 <b>gill</b> 169:3 <b>give</b> 14:15 15:10 35:6 51:16 52:16 74:9 90:5 91:21 92:2,5 95:2 98:4 102:7,21 103:3 104:19 109:14 113:11 136:17 145:4 149:9 153:8 173:18 <b>given</b> 55:5 93:9 94:8 103:10 148:20 <b>gives</b> 60:3 74:15 82:9 132:15 150:12 <b>giving</b> 6:4 22:9 52:15 83:15 92:17 <b>glad</b> 25:21 27:6 97:9 <b>glebe</b> 77:21 80:12 <b>gloom</b> 31:9,19 <b>gloomy</b> 25:20 <b>go</b> 7:7 11:14 14:4 14:5 16:7 17:1 18:8 19:5,10,13 19:17 20:8,11,21
		<b>g</b>	
		<b>gaining</b> 27:17 <b>game</b> 134:15 150:8 <b>gate</b> 94:16 <b>gator</b> 159:7 <b>gear</b> 57:9	

21:13 22:5,5,7,17 22:18,19 23:9,19 27:10 28:10 29:19 35:8,14,18,21 38:14 39:18 40:1 40:14 41:13,18 44:18 45:1,18 46:1,5,15,16,18 47:12 48:4 49:20 52:20 57:8 59:3 61:16 62:3,20 65:18,18 66:3 68:10 69:10 72:7 75:7 76:2 77:21 82:5 85:21 86:3 91:13,14,19 94:20 94:21 105:19 107:21 108:4 114:21 118:20 122:12 129:11 130:17 135:13,15 135:15 140:11 142:10 143:2 147:15 151:13 153:19 154:12 155:18 156:1 158:10,21 161:15 161:20 163:8 172:14 175:20 <b>god</b> 6:12 <b>goes</b> 24:1 25:7 37:12 43:6 53:7 69:10 77:21 80:12 100:18 144:17 <b>going</b> 3:18 4:8 9:12 11:13 13:6 14:2 15:9 20:12 20:18,21 21:1,13 22:17 24:11 25:17 27:12 28:16 30:2 30:17,19 33:12 34:12,20 35:11,20 36:8,16 37:5,9 38:12 39:15 40:20	41:17 42:9,11 43:8,11 47:21 50:15 51:14 55:2 55:3,13,14,16 56:4,8 59:5,6 60:14 63:12 66:10 67:11,14,16,17,19 70:1 71:21 72:14 72:14 73:6,10,14 73:18 74:9,13 75:4,6,8,10,14 77:18,20 78:3,11 82:16 84:8 85:19 91:14,18 93:21 94:12,20,21 102:21 103:3,7,8 103:15 105:10 107:19,21 108:15 110:19 118:1 126:20 127:17 128:7 132:7 133:2 136:4 137:4,5 140:16 141:3,8,10 142:5 145:11 148:4 149:3,9 151:14 153:8 155:13 159:2,15 159:16 166:6 168:14 174:15 175:5 176:14 <b>good</b> 2:3,7 6:7,13 6:19 13:9,10,14 15:1 16:13 19:17 19:18,19 20:1 25:5 30:16 31:6,7 31:10,21 40:2,3 48:5 55:5,6,7 56:19 57:7 60:17 63:16 65:20 73:12 88:15 90:7 95:7 101:8 104:13 110:16 115:12 123:4,8 133:3 136:8 138:19	144:10,18,20 148:16 149:9 157:4,6 161:10 168:21 175:8 <b>gotten</b> 50:11 96:15 96:19 105:6 <b>government</b> 45:16 84:3 89:19 103:21 <b>governor</b> 26:11 27:6 36:8 <b>grand</b> 176:2,4 <b>grandfather</b> 92:12 93:14 94:1 <b>grandfathering</b> 94:2 <b>grant</b> 90:12 <b>grass</b> 38:19 39:2 40:9 <b>grasses</b> 38:20 40:11 43:17,18 44:7 <b>grateful</b> 68:8 76:16 <b>gravel</b> 123:11,18 <b>great</b> 4:3 12:7 16:21 76:13 148:2 156:18 172:15 174:21 <b>greater</b> 126:8 163:5 <b>greatly</b> 11:21 <b>green</b> 26:15 127:17 138:12 <b>grew</b> 30:21 <b>ground</b> 44:8 91:19 113:1 122:18 135:17,19 <b>group</b> 48:11 92:1 92:3 95:3,4 <b>groups</b> 37:10 52:14 <b>grow</b> 25:13,14 144:12 146:18 156:18	<b>growing</b> 26:2 52:9 140:1 146:19 <b>guardianship</b> 170:4,10 <b>guess</b> 93:16 103:19,21 106:7 145:8 147:15 149:14 <b>guy</b> 3:10 4:3 7:18 7:20 37:2 97:15 98:4 <b>guy's</b> 98:11 100:21 <b>guys</b> 20:2 31:11 50:1 52:17 53:1 58:11 62:19 96:14 97:2 100:17 109:12 145:8 148:1,16
			<b>h</b>
			<b>ha</b> 40:6 <b>habitat</b> 176:11 <b>haddaway</b> 56:2 <b>half</b> 16:3 54:6 143:6,7 144:4 146:1 <b>hall</b> 73:1 <b>hammered</b> 43:12 <b>hand</b> 13:2 29:1 33:14 62:3 102:12 102:13 142:5 179:13 <b>handed</b> 141:18 <b>handful</b> 125:13 <b>handling</b> 7:8 71:18 84:13 138:4 <b>hands</b> 87:8 88:16 90:21 <b>happen</b> 47:21 57:13 74:1 75:21 77:18 161:14 <b>happened</b> 25:11 34:15 40:8

<p><b>happening</b> 31:19  <b>happens</b> 18:20  34:20 39:11,13  111:11 144:14  <b>happy</b> 110:21  <b>harbor</b> 50:5  <b>harbor's</b> 49:11  <b>hard</b> 55:13 81:10  81:12  <b>hardship</b> 96:3  102:6 103:8  104:15 109:11,18  110:20 113:19  115:14  <b>hardships</b> 117:20  118:4  <b>harris</b> 40:5 154:21  <b>harrison</b> 13:7,10  13:12,16,19 14:4  14:6,14,18 15:4  17:12 19:9 20:6  20:10,15 21:4,9  21:13,19 22:2,7  22:10 23:6,10,12  23:18 25:6 26:5  28:5,8,12 29:13  32:5,19 33:4,7  36:13 38:11,17,20  39:13 40:17 41:3  41:15 43:17,21  44:3,6,11,15 45:4  45:8,10,14 46:7  46:14 47:9,19  53:13,15,20 54:1  54:7 60:18 61:5  61:13,16 62:14,19  63:1 96:4 114:18  <b>harvest</b> 28:16,20  29:14 33:17 39:16  47:2 140:19  <b>hatcheries</b> 134:3  134:16 137:3  141:9</p>	<p><b>hatchery</b> 134:14  137:11 140:10,16  141:1 144:13,16  144:18 150:9  <b>hate</b> 151:12  <b>haul</b> 124:9  <b>he'll</b> 57:12 141:12  <b>head</b> 134:19  159:14  <b>health</b> 6:19 83:20  85:7 170:8,9  <b>hear</b> 3:16 38:8  48:7,17 57:3 87:6  88:14 93:2 106:1  112:7,9 134:4  145:1 153:11,15  <b>heard</b> 41:18 42:2  45:16 103:17  104:6,11 113:13  113:18 114:14,18  117:15 122:18  140:1 143:20  <b>hearing</b> 2:12 3:5  51:13 63:10 85:20  87:14 89:2 91:7,8  91:13,15,18 94:21  95:9 99:17 105:20  119:1,11,18,21  120:13 122:12,13  122:16 128:8  133:18 135:10,13  135:16 145:2  146:1 157:9 160:7  160:8 163:20  170:17 171:16  175:10  <b>hearings</b> 98:20  100:12 111:7  114:6  <b>heavy</b> 43:16 88:10  115:9 123:20  125:6 132:17  <b>held</b> 24:10 86:12  89:3 160:8 175:16</p>	<p>176:17  <b>hello</b> 4:1  <b>help</b> 5:2 6:10,11  9:17 41:19 51:17  57:18 73:10,11  75:11 127:14  139:4 150:17  <b>helped</b> 5:9  <b>helpful</b> 9:15 81:15  <b>helping</b> 141:5  <b>helps</b> 68:8 128:3  <b>hey</b> 85:4 114:13  <b>hicks</b> 170:6  <b>hide</b> 48:12  <b>high</b> 17:4 39:14  56:18 67:12,15  74:6,11 75:6 80:4  <b>highest</b> 68:17,19  <b>highway</b> 121:16  121:16 129:8  <b>highways</b> 124:19  <b>hindrance</b> 72:17  <b>hired</b> 115:21  <b>historically</b> 68:17  <b>hit</b> 33:13 42:15,21  <b>hits</b> 71:21  <b>hogan</b> 26:11 27:6  <b>hold</b> 19:11,12  27:10 35:18 60:5  92:14 104:18  113:1  <b>holder</b> 95:12,16  <b>holder's</b> 115:16  <b>holders</b> 15:5 53:10  53:11 92:13,18  117:8  <b>holding</b> 104:4  <b>hollis</b> 57:11 84:9  164:7,9,11 165:16  166:8 167:5 168:8  169:15 170:2  171:8 172:7,21  173:2</p>	<p><b>home</b> 62:20 71:13  71:14 176:10  <b>honest</b> 39:3  <b>honor</b> 4:2 10:2  168:12  <b>honored</b> 126:12  <b>hook</b> 143:4  <b>hope</b> 12:10 48:8  48:10 66:1 111:11  <b>hopefully</b> 12:6  37:18 65:6,7 75:8  75:14 78:13  <b>hoping</b> 48:1 69:14  76:1  <b>horn</b> 24:16 33:19  43:19 139:17,18  <b>host</b> 82:3  <b>hosting</b> 54:20  <b>houlihan</b> 1:21  179:2,16  <b>hour</b> 57:4  <b>hours</b> 31:4 32:7  130:10,15,18  149:8  <b>house</b> 43:9 103:1  169:10  <b>housing</b> 85:5  <b>hubbub</b> 83:18  <b>humanities</b> 10:5  <b>humanity</b> 176:12  <b>hundred</b> 155:4  <b>hundreds</b> 11:12  11:12  <b>hunky</b> 34:20  <b>hurt</b> 30:2 40:17  <b>hurting</b> 96:8  <b>hydraulic</b> 41:4</p>
<b>i</b>			
<p><b>iconic</b> 141:5  <b>idea</b> 39:9 79:7  115:13  <b>ideal</b> 124:5 125:2  <b>identify</b> 126:18  130:18 136:6</p>			

<b>illustrate</b> 8:16 <b>imagine</b> 132:20 141:18 145:11 148:11 <b>immature</b> 30:21 <b>immediate</b> 84:15 <b>immediately</b> 123:12 177:1 <b>impact</b> 43:5 118:2 141:3 149:4 <b>impacts</b> 160:14,19 <b>important</b> 6:11 11:19 147:2 <b>imposed</b> 126:7 <b>improvements</b> 89:12 90:13 167:8 <b>inaudible</b> 24:5 31:8 38:2 42:3 44:8 48:14 59:8 82:11 95:12 96:21 101:13 102:15 105:6 128:14 137:13 138:9 172:17 <b>inclined</b> 132:18 157:3 <b>include</b> 122:7 164:12 <b>included</b> 84:9 <b>includes</b> 71:6 <b>including</b> 10:2 38:5 80:9 86:18 141:2 142:18 <b>incorporated</b> 22:14 <b>increase</b> 71:18 72:1,2 100:10,11 105:7 148:8 152:15 159:5 162:20 <b>increased</b> 134:2 159:14 <b>incredible</b> 4:11 173:16	<b>independent</b> 43:19 <b>indicates</b> 128:18 <b>individual</b> 93:5 <b>individuals</b> 5:8 93:15 <b>indulgence</b> 163:19 163:19 <b>industrial</b> 125:4 155:14 <b>industries</b> 41:7 147:3 151:3 152:20 157:6 <b>industry</b> 18:16 35:9 39:10 43:2,3 99:7 106:17 110:2 118:2 138:12 141:5 146:13,18 147:5 155:10 156:17 169:16,16 <b>infectious</b> 4:18 <b>information</b> 4:16 15:7 45:12 56:10 66:20 67:18 79:2 <b>initial</b> 115:8 <b>installed</b> 145:14 <b>installing</b> 76:21 <b>instance</b> 54:13 <b>institute</b> 42:10 44:4 45:4 <b>intake</b> 137:8,11,14 138:8 142:7 <b>intakes</b> 160:21 <b>integral</b> 18:3 <b>intended</b> 94:14 151:2 <b>intent</b> 22:16 60:12 <b>interest</b> 86:21 <b>interested</b> 69:2,15 87:17 103:20 135:7 179:12 <b>interesting</b> 43:21 <b>interrogated</b> 179:4	<b>introduce</b> 87:8 88:16 <b>introduced</b> 51:2 68:20 103:17 <b>introduction</b> 86:2 86:4 87:7,21 88:15 89:6 91:1 136:18 167:10 <b>investors</b> 158:1 <b>invitation</b> 55:1 <b>invite</b> 12:14 13:6 47:19 48:1 82:13 <b>invited</b> 146:5 <b>involve</b> 67:11 123:20 <b>involved</b> 75:15 76:6 139:3 <b>island</b> 18:12 37:4 102:15 <b>issuance</b> 89:14 90:2 <b>issue</b> 30:13 35:7 36:1 <b>issued</b> 15:13 <b>issues</b> 81:19 <b>item</b> 60:19 168:15 <b>items</b> 150:11 <b>j</b> <b>jack</b> 58:19 59:8 <b>january</b> 25:9 41:21 54:19 64:2 69:14 71:16 72:13 75:7 87:15 89:3 91:9 <b>jeannie</b> 56:2 <b>jeff</b> 13:6,9 14:18 53:8 55:5 56:15 60:16 62:21 112:11 140:2 <b>jeri</b> 63:3,7,16 65:2 65:20 73:8 83:14 83:16 85:13 <b>jerry</b> 174:1	<b>jersey</b> 52:6 <b>jessica</b> 76:10,20 <b>jim</b> 95:7 122:21 <b>joanne</b> 115:19 <b>job</b> 115:21 116:13 148:3,16 <b>jobs</b> 75:3 <b>joe</b> 63:8 65:10 69:11 83:14 <b>join</b> 12:16 13:2 136:4 <b>judges</b> 68:4,4,6,7 68:15 69:3,20 70:7,9 74:20 79:21 80:8 <b>julie</b> 170:5 <b>july</b> 39:20 55:16 66:5 <b>jump</b> 19:19 123:2 <b>jumping</b> 136:2 <b>june</b> 39:20 <b>justifiable</b> 155:20 <b>justified</b> 152:2,2 <b>justifying</b> 154:20 <b>k</b> <b>kate</b> 170:9 <b>kay</b> 121:6 141:18 174:7 <b>keep</b> 73:11 96:2 97:7 103:1 154:1 176:1 <b>keeping</b> 79:13 <b>kent</b> 37:4 52:2 57:16 <b>kept</b> 103:12 117:10 <b>kick</b> 58:1 <b>kidding</b> 52:19 <b>killed</b> 40:8,10 <b>kind</b> 18:12 21:20 28:1 33:13 50:11 51:19 66:9 81:19 82:15,20 83:6,21 103:19 107:16
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109:10 112:6 155:1 <b>kirwan</b> 38:5,9 173:17 <b>klondike</b> 166:6 <b>knew</b> 103:16 104:2 <b>knocking</b> 43:4 <b>know</b> 11:13 14:14 20:12 31:4 32:7 32:12 36:6,7 37:14 39:4 40:6 41:17 42:6 47:21 50:8,20 51:12,15 55:8 57:2 58:16 60:4 61:2 62:18 65:17 75:10,19 77:20 80:2 95:3 96:7 98:6,19 110:4 116:10 118:9 147:6 156:19 168:16 173:10 176:12 <b>knowing</b> 110:19 <b>known</b> 7:19 87:11 88:20 98:19 <b>kruger</b> 165:18	<b>lands</b> 124:17 <b>lane</b> 3:3 90:5,7,21 91:2,10,11 122:21 130:4 136:10 176:11 <b>language</b> 64:5 149:16 162:15 <b>laps</b> 168:19 <b>laptop</b> 164:15 <b>large</b> 58:17 138:4 138:5 <b>larger</b> 81:8 137:15 <b>larvae</b> 139:7,15,19 140:17 <b>laryngitis</b> 4:5 <b>lastly</b> 47:9 <b>late</b> 24:17 36:11 36:19 111:20 <b>laura</b> 1:18 <b>law</b> 20:15 44:10 106:8 117:5 179:4 <b>lay</b> 170:7 <b>lays</b> 47:5 <b>lead</b> 130:7 <b>leading</b> 71:3 141:9 <b>leads</b> 5:7 <b>lean</b> 60:20 <b>learned</b> 6:7,11 106:14 143:4 <b>learning</b> 5:10 <b>lease</b> 93:5 <b>leased</b> 81:4 <b>leaseholders</b> 139:11 <b>leave</b> 16:6 77:7 118:16 <b>left</b> 3:19 18:2 95:1 122:17 135:20 136:3 <b>legal</b> 36:5 177:2 <b>legally</b> 157:11 <b>legislation</b> 64:5 75:17 93:3,13 98:18 99:11 100:5	108:4 110:3,16 113:7,10 114:2 167:10 <b>legislative</b> 36:18 42:4 59:2 99:6 100:12 175:16 176:20 <b>legislators</b> 35:12 <b>legislature</b> 34:16 <b>length</b> 134:18,21 149:18 154:20 157:1 158:8 160:17 162:18,18 163:1,3 <b>lengthened</b> 156:11 156:12 <b>lengths</b> 153:10 <b>lesher</b> 1:17 3:19 7:15 11:6,7 12:2,4 12:11,21 60:19 61:9,14 88:17 97:10 98:8 112:6 112:13 113:5,17 120:10,11 133:13 133:14 146:13 149:2 154:14,19 158:16 161:12 162:1,9 165:14,15 166:4 167:3,4,14 167:16 168:6,7 170:12,13 171:6,7 171:11,12 172:5,6 173:9,12 175:11 177:20,21 <b>lesser</b> 73:16 <b>lessons</b> 6:7 <b>letter</b> 35:6 51:9 58:8 59:12 99:2 99:20 <b>level</b> 84:13 146:15 <b>levied</b> 89:16 <b>libraries</b> 8:5 <b>library</b> 3:9,10,20 4:12 5:10,13,18	6:5 7:5,9,18,20,21 8:2,7,8,9,10,11,14 8:21 9:1,9,18 10:9 11:20 12:16 146:3 <b>library's</b> 8:5 <b>license</b> 15:5 19:12 19:13,15 20:5,6,8 21:7,8,15,15,20 21:21 22:8,10,13 22:14 23:2 53:9 53:11 <b>licenses</b> 15:9,12 33:5 106:14 110:6 <b>lies</b> 78:17 <b>life</b> 6:10 8:16 <b>light</b> 174:3 <b>limit</b> 26:6 32:8 49:1 88:5 111:8 129:4 130:4,6 138:2 153:2 <b>limitation</b> 88:1 <b>limitations</b> 161:19 <b>limited</b> 22:1,2 24:8 93:4 110:13 <b>limits</b> 28:21 <b>line</b> 140:7 <b>lines</b> 121:18 125:1 128:15,17 <b>list</b> 59:4,7 94:5,6 94:10 115:9,11 <b>listed</b> 150:6 177:3 <b>listen</b> 84:12 <b>listening</b> 4:15 <b>literary</b> 9:8 <b>litigation</b> 117:2 <b>little</b> 3:16 15:10 15:11 18:8 19:3,3 20:4 22:21 25:13 26:1,9 28:12 32:4 33:13 34:5 35:19 37:19 51:14 58:1 68:9 69:18 70:14 75:1 138:16 141:20 148:12
<b>l</b>			
<b>l</b> 134:19 159:14 <b>land</b> 86:12 120:17 121:11,19 122:5 125:15 134:1,14 143:19 144:5,9 145:10 156:20 <b>landed</b> 140:14 <b>landfill</b> 123:14 129:19 <b>landing</b> 101:20 102:1,7 <b>landings</b> 49:10 92:12 107:2,7 108:8,9,14,17 109:2			

174:9 <b>live</b> 102:8 150:20 <b>livelihood</b> 38:2 <b>lives</b> 9:7 <b>llc</b> 123:11 134:12 <b>load</b> 124:12,13 <b>loan</b> 167:6 <b>local</b> 63:19 66:3 67:4 70:13 82:6 89:19 127:15 128:4 <b>locally</b> 70:16 <b>located</b> 86:12 123:12 125:3 <b>location</b> 121:2 125:2 129:15 132:21 <b>locations</b> 124:5 158:20 <b>logic</b> 71:2 <b>logistics</b> 79:10 <b>long</b> 32:21 42:16 47:13 61:7 64:14 79:18 82:18 86:2 108:2 115:11 141:6 147:10 149:19 150:10 <b>longer</b> 116:8 <b>longstanding</b> 10:4 <b>look</b> 13:1 26:13,17 35:1 40:3 44:12 44:18,19 45:1 46:19 48:3 50:5 60:13 83:11,13 98:5 113:21 117:20 128:15 132:2 135:9 140:18 151:18 156:6,10 157:6 <b>looked</b> 25:20 102:10 110:2 140:13 158:11 <b>looking</b> 57:11 61:12 106:20	107:3,6 135:7 175:1,14 <b>looks</b> 26:19 147:10 <b>lord</b> 31:7,7 <b>lose</b> 21:16 56:8 <b>loses</b> 33:8 <b>losing</b> 109:17 149:6 <b>loss</b> 32:13 43:17 <b>lost</b> 16:2 <b>lot</b> 6:21 11:14 16:1 17:3 19:12 44:17 49:17,21 55:6 56:18 60:16 62:1 71:19 76:15 79:7 98:17 103:19 109:13 111:4 112:21 117:5 125:9 128:3 147:13 148:17 149:11 155:5 156:19 173:17 176:14 <b>louder</b> 108:15 <b>louis</b> 171:10 <b>love</b> 11:15 82:19 83:4 85:16 <b>lowes</b> 140:15 143:10 145:13 147:8 <b>lucky</b> 6:1 102:4 <b>lucrative</b> 169:16 <b>ludwig</b> 170:8	131:9 133:3,17 165:5 166:15 167:18 170:17 171:16 177:11 <b>mail</b> 76:19 77:4 <b>mailed</b> 59:17 <b>main</b> 159:13 <b>maintain</b> 6:6 <b>maintenance</b> 137:12 138:8 <b>major</b> 55:21,21 71:12 121:15 129:8 132:9 134:12 152:5 <b>majority</b> 110:18 111:3 112:19 113:2 <b>making</b> 9:10 19:14 66:14 67:8 71:1,14 148:1 <b>man</b> 37:9 48:15 59:20 60:4 <b>manage</b> 169:21 <b>management</b> 41:5 41:9,10 73:14 <b>manager</b> 8:6 136:11 <b>mandates</b> 84:3 <b>mandatory</b> 30:6 <b>maneuvering</b> 62:17 <b>manner</b> 179:7 <b>manuals</b> 70:3 <b>map</b> 86:15 128:10 132:2 <b>mapping</b> 44:9 45:6 <b>maps</b> 40:15 <b>march</b> 15:15,16 25:8 <b>marinas</b> 100:18 108:15 <b>marine</b> 44:4 45:5 55:10	<b>mary</b> 121:6 141:18 170:6 174:7,7 <b>mary's</b> 79:6 <b>maryland</b> 1:1,10 10:4,5 15:9 17:8 18:11 53:12,13,18 55:11 86:9,10,14 88:8 89:10,20 95:13 136:15 142:14 146:17 147:3 175:12 179:1,2 <b>masonry</b> 121:12 <b>massachusetts</b> 52:6 <b>material</b> 121:13 <b>materials</b> 123:21 126:20 <b>matter</b> 67:13 85:17 86:4 87:21 89:5 131:9 133:17 168:9 179:7 <b>matters</b> 36:4,4,5 86:1 91:17 106:5 177:3 <b>maximum</b> 162:18 <b>mayor</b> 175:21 <b>mcdaniel</b> 86:10,14 <b>md</b> 179:13 <b>mde</b> 126:1,2 146:2 160:6,15 <b>mdot</b> 18:10 <b>mean</b> 17:10 28:4 30:17 32:20 37:3 52:16 55:6 56:12 61:18 98:3 99:10 99:13 100:18 102:12 104:10 112:16 149:5 <b>means</b> 40:6 109:13 148:17,17 179:7
	<b>m</b>		
	<b>machines</b> 79:14 <b>maco</b> 58:17 59:4 173:16 174:2 <b>madam</b> 7:14 10:12,18 86:4 87:4,9 88:2,11,17 90:4 91:1,4 92:8 92:20 119:11,21 120:14 121:3		



<b>measurable</b> 141:10 <b>measures</b> 79:9 117:6 <b>mechanic</b> 60:10 <b>mechanism</b> 118:8 <b>meet</b> 50:20 72:15 76:10 129:3 130:9 160:17 <b>meeting</b> 1:4 52:20 104:8 119:1 128:12 176:17 177:4,6 178:1 <b>meetings</b> 35:10,17 52:21 67:2 82:3,7 145:18 <b>member</b> 10:4 64:7 87:6 88:14 134:10 <b>members</b> 1:13 52:5 63:7 67:14 123:7 163:18 175:18 176:6 <b>memorial</b> 168:11 <b>men</b> 20:15 <b>messages</b> 116:8 <b>met</b> 35:12 36:20 145:20 163:3 <b>meter</b> 63:14 85:21 <b>michael</b> 170:7 <b>michael's</b> 75:8 90:14 146:3 176:11 <b>mid</b> 42:14 <b>middle</b> 55:16 58:12 143:3 <b>mike</b> 88:13 <b>mild</b> 16:11 <b>miles</b> 16:17 86:11 <b>mill</b> 101:13 <b>million</b> 18:14,15 42:15,17,20,21 43:4 54:3,14,15 141:1	<b>mind</b> 2:4 3:13 84:1 86:6 88:2 89:8 91:2 133:19 135:10 151:14 176:1 <b>minds</b> 176:3 <b>mineral</b> 120:20 121:19 122:3,10 <b>mingle</b> 169:6 <b>minimization</b> 161:1 <b>minimized</b> 160:14 <b>minimizing</b> 160:18 <b>minimum</b> 121:17 122:9 135:4 152:13,16 153:4,4 153:5 157:20 <b>mining</b> 125:21 126:9,11 128:16 129:1,21 132:1,6 <b>minute</b> 46:11 <b>minutes</b> 2:15,18 77:5 91:21 92:2 102:8 103:1 <b>misread</b> 166:13 <b>missed</b> 26:7 30:6 <b>moment</b> 122:15 <b>monday</b> 22:4 29:6 30:8 59:1,10 <b>monetary</b> 87:2 <b>money</b> 17:13,17 17:18,18 18:5,10 18:17 19:4 24:18 25:2 27:15 41:16 <b>monies</b> 23:13,18 <b>month</b> 32:16,20 33:3 52:21 55:16 80:19,19 117:11 <b>monthly</b> 8:14 <b>months</b> 20:20 32:21 71:3 90:8 157:8,9,15 160:9	<b>moratorium</b> 41:2 41:3 <b>morning</b> 76:20 <b>mornings</b> 59:3 <b>morris</b> 172:8 173:3,6 <b>motion</b> 10:13 119:3,5,7,16,17 131:1,3,7,15 164:19,21 165:21 166:1,14 167:13 177:5 <b>mouth</b> 75:10 <b>move</b> 2:12,19 3:6 59:19 60:14 78:3 78:3,3 81:4,6 106:4 119:3,5 131:2,7 147:4 170:12 171:11 <b>moved</b> 10:14 50:20 167:14,16 171:12 177:7 <b>movement</b> 138:6 <b>moving</b> 2:21 81:2 105:17 <b>muddy</b> 44:18 <b>multipurpose</b> 79:18	153:6 <b>necks</b> 39:18 <b>need</b> 11:14 48:3 49:18 50:19,21 51:8 53:1 56:9,10 57:3,9 59:7 63:13 68:14 70:9,18 77:12 81:18 87:6 88:14 91:12 96:2 107:15 109:4 110:14 139:14 140:4 143:13 144:9,19 148:9,12 149:21 150:4,12 151:7,11 152:7 153:1,6,7 154:5,6 155:20,21 157:14 157:19,20 159:4,4 159:9 161:14 162:21 163:2 175:4,20 <b>needed</b> 4:17 5:3 142:20 163:17 <b>needs</b> 49:14 72:19 84:10 137:7 138:11 <b>negative</b> 43:5 <b>neighborhood</b> 174:18,21 <b>neighbors</b> 124:3 145:18,21 146:5,9 <b>net</b> 30:14 <b>networks</b> 78:6 <b>never</b> 23:9 28:9 39:2 80:2 103:15 104:10 105:7 <b>new</b> 36:21 52:5,6 52:18 64:21 65:1 65:2,5 75:16 77:19 81:11 83:20 93:13 96:13 124:15 126:18 142:3 146:13
		<b>n</b>	
		<b>name</b> 14:18 92:6 95:2 101:12,14 145:4 <b>named</b> 179:3 <b>narrow</b> 147:7 <b>narrowly</b> 155:9 <b>natural</b> 8:17 20:13 46:21 47:4 49:3 144:11 <b>nature</b> 125:12 <b>nay</b> 120:11 <b>nearly</b> 53:14 <b>necessarily</b> 51:11 <b>necessary</b> 137:4 138:1 152:13,16	

<p><b>newberry</b> 13:13 13:13,14,18,21 14:20,20 20:13 22:12 23:8,11,17 28:7,11 29:12 30:4,16 31:13,16 35:3 36:7,14,20 37:16 38:7,19 42:7 43:11 44:2 44:14 45:12,20 46:3,6,20 47:18 51:18 52:9 53:6 54:2,8,11 56:12 56:19 57:14 58:5 58:7,10,21 59:11 59:14,16 60:16</p> <p><b>newcomb</b> 95:18</p> <p><b>news</b> 40:3 55:5,6 65:20</p> <p><b>newsletter</b> 8:11</p> <p><b>nice</b> 6:20 20:19 30:8 35:5 37:2</p> <p><b>nicer</b> 74:13</p> <p><b>night</b> 59:2,10 75:3</p> <p><b>nights</b> 172:10</p> <p><b>nine</b> 69:13 117:8</p> <p><b>non</b> 64:7</p> <p><b>normal</b> 16:7</p> <p><b>north</b> 32:2,3 52:6 136:14 147:9</p> <p><b>northern</b> 52:1</p> <p><b>northwest</b> 145:13</p> <p><b>notarized</b> 105:11</p> <p><b>notary</b> 179:2,17</p> <p><b>note</b> 43:6</p> <p><b>noted</b> 69:11 72:10 121:7 134:6 155:12 157:21 177:6</p> <p><b>notes</b> 56:18 179:6</p> <p><b>nother</b> 107:21</p> <p><b>notice</b> 51:16</p> <p><b>notices</b> 100:1</p>	<p><b>noticing</b> 125:8</p> <p><b>notification</b> 98:16</p> <p><b>notified</b> 95:20 99:1,19 100:9 103:14</p> <p><b>notify</b> 100:8</p> <p><b>notorial</b> 179:13</p> <p><b>notwithstanding</b> 153:1</p> <p><b>novel</b> 12:8</p> <p><b>november</b> 2:16 3:1 15:6 64:20 65:13 105:5,5</p> <p><b>novocain</b> 138:21</p> <p><b>nrp</b> 20:13</p> <p><b>number</b> 5:21 7:4 18:7 21:2 22:1,2 32:18,19 43:3 53:2,19 69:1 87:10,12 88:18 92:10 110:13 119:13 120:15 127:15 131:12 133:20 146:20</p> <p><b>nursing</b> 71:13,14</p> <p><b>nutrient</b> 140:5</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>o</b></p> <p><b>o'clock</b> 69:17</p> <p><b>o'donnell</b> 174:7</p> <p><b>o'war</b> 37:9 48:16 59:20 60:4</p> <p><b>objection</b> 119:17 131:16,16</p> <p><b>obligated</b> 45:10</p> <p><b>obligation</b> 89:15</p> <p><b>obviously</b> 93:13</p> <p><b>october</b> 2:15 25:7 168:19</p> <p><b>odd</b> 53:9 54:14 81:19 153:16</p> <p><b>offer</b> 159:3</p> <p><b>offered</b> 94:7</p> <p><b>office</b> 42:8 77:19 79:14 106:8 117:4</p>	<p>121:9 134:7</p> <p><b>officer</b> 3:3 115:19 118:10 121:5 152:10,12 157:18</p> <p><b>oh</b> 4:6 14:3 33:6 36:7 48:18 52:19 128:11</p> <p><b>okay</b> 14:3 28:9,16 33:6,10 44:5 47:8 50:6 60:13 64:17 65:16 78:12,12 80:11 87:20 90:20 91:7,12 92:20 94:19 105:16,18 106:3 109:5 112:5 113:17 123:1,3 127:9 128:5,6 130:2,20 132:13 133:15 136:5,16 136:20 141:16 143:5 144:21 145:5 147:15 155:13 166:10 173:1 175:8</p> <p><b>old</b> 40:15 101:13 103:6</p> <p><b>olds</b> 74:19 75:15</p> <p><b>once</b> 44:10 50:14 68:12 71:19,20 77:21 124:1 151:9</p> <p><b>ones</b> 27:14 34:2 51:15 103:10 109:17 110:6</p> <p><b>online</b> 21:1,3 146:21</p> <p><b>open</b> 14:3 35:10 35:17 48:11 51:10 94:17 114:8 122:16 154:2 176:21</p> <p><b>opening</b> 2:4 111:19 117:3,4 176:2,4</p>	<p><b>opens</b> 12:6</p> <p><b>operate</b> 168:18</p> <p><b>operating</b> 132:1</p> <p><b>operation</b> 120:21 128:17 129:1 130:11 132:1,6,11 139:13 169:7</p> <p><b>operations</b> 126:16 129:21 168:20</p> <p><b>operators</b> 146:20</p> <p><b>opinion</b> 99:16 104:3 115:20</p> <p><b>opportunities</b> 74:18 129:14</p> <p><b>opportunity</b> 3:2 6:4 12:7 74:9,15 77:15 156:14,18 162:19 169:21</p> <p><b>opposed</b> 37:10,12 157:17</p> <p><b>opposition</b> 51:10</p> <p><b>optimum</b> 144:7</p> <p><b>option</b> 102:1,17 102:20 103:11 104:18 107:9 111:12</p> <p><b>options</b> 112:1 113:16</p> <p><b>order</b> 19:10 29:14 41:10 73:11 82:6 88:9 89:11 93:11 108:3 124:15 125:12 127:21 137:6 163:3,9 167:7</p> <p><b>ordering</b> 70:15 71:7</p> <p><b>ordinance</b> 88:9 134:21</p> <p><b>organizations</b> 80:16</p> <p><b>original</b> 158:9</p> <p><b>originated</b> 123:17</p>
---	--	---	--

<p><b>outcome</b> 179:12  <b>outreach</b> 9:7  <b>outside</b> 12:4  <b>outstanding</b> 9:16  <b>overall</b> 59:7 70:11  <b>overboard</b> 23:7,9  <b>overfishing</b> 25:19  <b>overridden</b> 27:7  34:9 35:14 36:13  36:15  <b>override</b> 35:21  36:19  <b>overseas</b> 173:10  <b>owner</b> 87:3 123:11  <b>owner's</b> 86:20  <b>ownership</b> 86:13  <b>oxford</b> 168:10,12  <b>oyster</b> 17:6,7,9,10  17:12,16 19:11,12  19:15 20:8 22:17  25:7 27:1,4,11  32:20 33:12,20  34:10 38:9 59:21  60:6 102:9,19  134:13 137:3,10  139:3,18 140:18  143:15 144:8,12  <b>oystered</b> 60:11  <b>oystering</b> 19:10  20:11,21 21:14  22:5 23:9 102:9  109:12 110:7  <b>oysterman</b> 18:21  60:9  <b>oystermen</b> 33:5,7  <b>oysters</b> 19:8 22:15  23:6,8 25:10,12  25:13 26:1 30:21  32:1 37:13 48:17  50:2 60:8 108:1  139:8,10,20 140:4  140:4,20 141:3  148:9 159:8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>p</b></p> <p><b>p.m.</b> 1:7 69:13  130:11 172:13  176:5,19,21 178:1  <b>pack</b> 1:14 2:3,7  3:15 4:6,9 5:14,17  5:20 6:16 7:2,13  10:12,15,17,19,20  11:8 12:2,9,13  13:2,11,14 14:5  14:10 15:1 19:5  20:4,7,12,18 21:6  21:11 22:3,8  23:14 25:5 33:2,6  36:6 43:10,13,18  44:5 45:2,6,9,15  45:21 46:4,11  47:8 50:6 52:8  53:5,14 54:9 56:9  56:15 58:3,6,9  60:13 62:8,12,17  62:21 63:3 64:9  64:12,16 65:9,16  65:18 66:6 73:6  73:12 78:19 79:12  83:14 84:21 85:13  85:19 87:4,13,16  87:20 88:11 89:1  89:4 90:4,20 91:7  91:10,12 92:20  94:18 95:9 101:7  101:9,11,14,17  104:14 105:15  106:3 109:5 112:5  113:4,17 119:7,9  119:16 120:2,3,12  121:3 122:11  123:5,6,8 127:9  128:5 129:6 130:2  130:10,13,20  131:3,7,15 133:3  133:5,6,15 134:4  135:9,19 136:5,16  136:17,20 141:16</p>	<p>144:21 146:12  147:14 149:14  150:15,17,20  151:5,14 153:3,9  153:14 154:14,17  155:11 156:11  158:7,14,18 159:2  159:15 160:1,7  161:6,21 162:5,8  162:11 163:7,13  163:16 164:6,7,9  164:19 165:1,3,6  165:7,21 166:2,5  166:10,12,16,17  167:13,16,19,20  169:13 170:13,15  170:19,20 171:12  171:14,18,19  173:1,7,13 174:14  175:5,8 176:1  177:8,10,12,13  <b>paddle</b> 103:5  <b>padding</b> 103:7  <b>page</b> 14:6 38:14  68:21 72:12 75:16  102:10  <b>paid</b> 22:11 23:5  60:12 85:5 103:12  <b>paper</b> 7:3 55:9  <b>paperwork</b> 23:4  23:16 96:16 97:5  167:11  <b>parcels</b> 86:12,15  125:1  <b>pardon</b> 31:13  <b>park</b> 115:5 118:14  168:12  <b>parking</b> 73:7  107:15  <b>parks</b> 93:1 99:20  100:9 112:14  113:6 114:19  115:1 118:16,17</p>	<p><b>parsons</b> 102:15  <b>part</b> 8:20 16:2  17:18 18:3 19:9  27:8,9,11 74:17  90:18 114:15  115:17 120:21  129:1 130:19  134:17 146:10  160:3  <b>participants</b>  114:17  <b>participate</b> 122:5  <b>particular</b> 45:17  110:11 113:20  116:19 129:15,18  147:17 150:11  154:4 169:5  <b>parties</b> 71:12  179:11,11  <b>partnering</b> 51:20  <b>parts</b> 146:17  <b>party</b> 66:16  <b>pass</b> 3:19 50:15  108:20 118:21  <b>passed</b> 93:4 94:17  95:21 99:11  <b>passes</b> 133:15  <b>passing</b> 117:2  <b>passion</b> 8:4  <b>patience</b> 91:16  <b>patrons</b> 4:12,16  4:21 5:1 9:9 10:10  <b>pay</b> 17:13 19:10  19:11,16 20:10  21:4,9,11 22:3,6  22:19 63:13 85:21  <b>payable</b> 89:16  <b>payers</b> 18:5  <b>paying</b> 19:6,8,21  20:9 21:2,7  <b>pdf</b> 15:2  <b>peak</b> 3:9,11,14  5:19,21 6:18 7:12  7:18,19 9:5,10</p>
---	--	---	---

10:8 11:15 12:1 12:10,20 13:1 <b>pending</b> 117:1 <b>peninsula</b> 155:5 <b>people</b> 4:19 5:10 6:3,10,11 11:13 11:16 19:12,17,20 20:15 27:17,21 34:19 36:8 38:1,1 38:3 52:15 61:17 61:18,20 62:1 65:5 68:9 69:1 71:20 81:4,17,18 81:20 93:7,19 95:14 104:4,7 107:9 108:10,16 110:17 111:13 112:20,20,21 114:3,10 115:10 115:15 118:11 127:15,20 146:6 154:10 159:11 175:2 <b>peper</b> 93:1 94:18 105:21 111:18 118:14 168:21 172:17 <b>peper's</b> 168:13 <b>percent</b> 15:8 17:8 26:15,17,20 27:4 28:19,21 29:14 41:8 44:21 53:11 53:16,17 54:1,4 54:16 71:1 139:11 158:16 <b>period</b> 92:13 107:11 109:1 115:16 117:13 162:18 168:17 <b>permanent</b> 28:4,5 <b>permit</b> 107:10 142:15 160:4 <b>permits</b> 125:20 160:11	<b>permitted</b> 129:2 130:16 134:20 137:16 162:4,6 <b>permitting</b> 107:9 <b>person</b> 100:21 101:4 117:15,16 <b>personal</b> 5:2 9:10 <b>personality</b> 4:18 <b>personally</b> 161:10 179:3 <b>personnel</b> 36:4 177:2 <b>persons</b> 116:8,11 117:16 118:2,8 <b>pete</b> 1:17 <b>peter</b> 168:12 <b>phenomenal</b> 31:17 <b>phone</b> 14:1 84:12 116:7 172:14 <b>pick</b> 29:15 63:12 105:1 124:12,13 <b>picked</b> 52:4 <b>pickup</b> 107:18 <b>picture</b> 142:8 <b>piece</b> 100:5 <b>pieces</b> 110:3 <b>pier</b> 134:2,18,21 138:2,5 141:13,19 142:4,6,16 145:10 145:13,14 153:10 154:20 159:4,8,14 160:17 162:16 164:1 <b>piers</b> 135:5 137:17 154:15 155:9 163:5 <b>pipe</b> 137:11 <b>pipeline</b> 159:10 <b>place</b> 9:19 11:15 31:6 48:13,20 49:18 60:6 61:12 65:11 67:3 68:1,2 69:12 71:6 82:7 83:2,11 97:20	111:15 115:3 116:2 118:7 126:1 126:2 129:9 176:4 179:4 <b>places</b> 34:4,6 40:4 67:20 69:21 70:17 71:6 74:11 <b>plan</b> 28:19 41:5,9 41:10 106:9 108:5 120:21 126:10,16 126:21 129:12 130:17 134:12 138:14 142:11 151:3 152:3,6 <b>plane</b> 143:9 <b>planned</b> 33:16 <b>planning</b> 121:5,9 121:9 125:10,10 125:19 126:13 127:5 129:6 132:12 134:7,8,9 142:10 149:15 151:18,21 152:7 152:10,12,19 153:21 155:2 156:15 157:18,19 161:10 176:13 <b>plans</b> 6:16 126:2 142:8 <b>plant</b> 47:1 <b>planted</b> 48:16,21 139:20 <b>plat</b> 86:19 <b>platform</b> 135:1 137:15,15 159:18 160:16 <b>playing</b> 36:10 <b>please</b> 10:18 13:3 58:9 63:4 86:6 87:8,10,17 89:8 91:3 92:3,5 95:2 119:11,21 120:14 123:4 131:10 133:3,19 136:1,7	145:3 165:5 166:15 170:17 171:16 174:20 177:11 <b>pleasure</b> 7:4 <b>pledge</b> 2:5,6 <b>plenty</b> 25:13 156:20 <b>plus</b> 22:19 <b>pods</b> 15:20 <b>point</b> 19:6 21:6 24:16 33:19 35:2 40:19 43:19 70:5 81:6 111:21 132:5 139:17,18 142:4 144:15 157:9,13 <b>pointing</b> 143:21 <b>points</b> 36:17 <b>police</b> 20:14 73:20 123:13 <b>policy</b> 161:11 <b>political</b> 76:4 <b>polling</b> 67:19 68:2 69:21 70:17 71:5 74:11 <b>pool</b> 169:15 <b>pools</b> 168:18 169:1,7,21 <b>poorly</b> 115:20 <b>poplar</b> 18:12 <b>populated</b> 132:16 <b>portion</b> 86:9,10 87:1 145:2 <b>ports</b> 150:7 <b>position</b> 106:18 <b>positions</b> 63:19 <b>positive</b> 72:19 <b>possible</b> 51:17 56:11 61:3 111:9 113:9 115:2 117:1 118:16 <b>possibly</b> 85:1 116:16 137:12 157:16
---	---	--	---

<p><b>potential</b> 156:20  <b>potentially</b> 158:13  162:14 163:10  <b>pots</b> 16:18  <b>potter</b> 48:4  <b>potters</b> 16:15  <b>power</b> 29:3 102:14  <b>powerpoint</b> 14:3  15:3  <b>prayer</b> 2:4,6  <b>precedence</b> 93:17  94:16  <b>precedent</b> 86:17  <b>predicament</b> 28:1  <b>prepare</b> 70:13  <b>prepared</b> 57:9  74:5  <b>preparing</b> 67:1  70:10  <b>prescribed</b> 155:9  <b>presence</b> 179:9  <b>present</b> 3:20 7:16  <b>presentation</b> 3:8  11:9 53:9 56:17  57:1 60:15 173:21  174:13  <b>presented</b> 74:2  127:12  <b>presenting</b> 176:7  <b>president</b> 13:7  36:21 174:1  <b>presidential</b> 68:18  <b>press</b> 8:8  <b>pressure</b> 112:18  112:21  <b>preston</b> 93:2,3  94:15 96:15,18  97:3 106:2 168:13  <b>presume</b> 161:12  162:3  <b>prettiest</b> 29:17  <b>pretty</b> 23:21 25:20  68:12 69:15 103:6  133:1 143:8</p>	<p>156:21  <b>preview</b> 42:4 90:6  <b>previously</b> 80:15  80:15 122:19  163:4  <b>price</b> 1:18 10:14  10:15 11:4,5,16  16:13 17:1,10  22:1 28:3 30:12  31:11,14 36:11,16  38:4,16 39:13  46:10 50:7 53:21  54:5 56:9,14  58:15 59:1 64:14  65:7,17 78:8,13  85:16 87:19 88:17  94:14 98:15 99:4  99:11,17 100:1,4  100:8,12,15 101:5  104:6,9 109:21  112:15 114:4  119:5,7,14,16  120:8,9 131:1,4,6  131:7,13,15  133:11,12 147:14  152:14 153:5  155:19 158:20  159:19 164:21  165:1,12,13 166:1  166:2,11,12 167:1  167:2 168:4,5  170:14,15 171:4,5  171:13,14 172:3,4  173:14,15 175:20  177:18,19  <b>price's</b> 19:5  <b>primary</b> 71:4,12  75:21  <b>principally</b> 125:4  <b>principle</b> 113:6  <b>printed</b> 179:6  <b>prior</b> 59:2 122:4  <b>private</b> 108:15  137:2 140:9</p>	<p>154:15 162:16  <b>probably</b> 6:8,18  6:21 11:12 15:13  18:8 34:9 43:7  53:16 63:12 67:9  75:21 78:8 95:17  99:10 132:10  145:9 150:5 157:8  158:21 174:10  175:4  <b>problem</b> 25:12  29:16 35:3 47:5  55:21 56:5,13  60:5 82:21 96:11  <b>problems</b> 24:16  24:21 98:13  143:20  <b>proceed</b> 140:11  <b>proceeded</b> 140:10  <b>proceedings</b> 2:1  <b>process</b> 18:19 19:2  19:14 20:3 61:17  67:6 68:12 69:6  72:19 74:17 77:17  97:14 98:21 99:6  111:6,18 112:19  114:4 121:1  130:17 135:16  156:1 157:7 163:1  163:9  <b>processed</b> 126:21  <b>processes</b> 129:17  <b>processing</b> 69:5  72:2  <b>proclamation</b> 3:9  3:18 7:14 176:7  <b>produce</b> 53:16  139:7  <b>produced</b> 54:4  139:10  <b>produces</b> 139:18  <b>producing</b> 8:10  48:17 54:18  140:16</p>	<p><b>product</b> 120:19  121:1,8,11,13  122:5,7 123:19  124:5,15 126:3,15  <b>productive</b> 102:13  <b>products</b> 121:12  124:8 128:1  <b>professional</b> 10:1  <b>profit</b> 108:3  <b>program</b> 23:19  26:9 72:6 75:16  75:16 139:12  <b>programs</b> 5:11 8:8  9:6  <b>prohibit</b> 161:19  <b>prohibition</b> 92:15  <b>project</b> 9:14 77:1  134:12,17 135:6  136:9,12,14 137:1  137:1,2,7 138:3  138:11,13,17  139:3 140:11,12  141:7 147:17  148:18 150:18  152:8,9 154:4  161:9  <b>projects</b> 127:20  151:10 154:6  <b>proliferation</b>  155:8  <b>promote</b> 155:15  <b>promoting</b> 8:6  <b>propagations</b>  137:10  <b>properties</b> 124:18  <b>property</b> 86:16  87:3 121:18 125:1  125:2  <b>proponents</b> 110:1  <b>proposal</b> 158:9  <b>proposed</b> 39:1  122:2 137:10  138:18</p>
--	--	--	---

<p><b>proposing</b> 147:12  <b>prospect</b> 157:14  <b>prospective</b> 158:1  158:1  <b>protect</b> 106:17  108:21  <b>proud</b> 53:2  <b>prove</b> 148:16  161:1  <b>provide</b> 84:1,4  85:5 141:12  144:10 152:21  <b>provides</b> 137:9  169:18  <b>providing</b> 9:11  139:6  <b>provision</b> 115:12  115:13 129:7  <b>provisional</b> 83:3  <b>provisions</b> 89:18  118:7  <b>public</b> 51:1 59:18  63:10 82:10,21  85:4,20 87:14  89:2 91:8,13,15  91:18 92:12 94:21  95:9,10 98:20  99:17 100:1,12  105:20 108:14  111:7 114:6,8,13  119:1 120:13  122:12,16 127:7  128:8 133:18  135:10,15 145:1,2  145:18 146:1  163:1 169:15  170:4,10 173:4,7  175:9 176:15  179:2,17  <b>published</b> 9:1  <b>pull</b> 23:15 37:19  <b>pumped</b> 144:15  <b>pun</b> 94:14</p>	<p><b>purchase</b> 165:17  <b>purposes</b> 90:3  <b>pursuant</b> 88:6  <b>push</b> 67:9 105:11  108:13  <b>put</b> 14:10 18:13  25:3 27:18 31:7,8  34:2 35:18 41:2,3  42:14 55:10 59:12  72:4 75:17 79:1  85:16 95:5 102:4  103:4 104:15  111:15 113:7  114:12 116:2  118:7 161:16  162:1 174:2,3,13  <b>puts</b> 4:18 37:13  39:7  <b>putting</b> 21:1 73:2  79:4,8</p>	<p><b>r</b></p> <p><b>racks</b> 159:8  <b>radcliff</b> 139:2  140:7 147:19  <b>raft</b> 61:20,21  107:10  <b>rafting</b> 107:5  111:14  <b>rain</b> 16:1,2 25:12  40:8,13 44:17  143:19  <b>rainfall</b> 43:16  <b>raising</b> 101:3  <b>ran</b> 9:5  <b>range</b> 9:6 123:13  <b>rapid</b> 77:8  <b>rapidly</b> 52:10  <b>rate</b> 140:19  <b>rave</b> 5:10  <b>ravens</b> 47:10  <b>razed</b> 78:12  <b>razor</b> 15:12 39:16  42:13,14  <b>rc</b> 162:6,12  <b>reach</b> 75:4 150:4  <b>reached</b> 57:15  69:1  <b>react</b> 67:18  <b>read</b> 7:2,14 51:7  103:19 119:11  120:14 131:10  154:11  <b>reader</b> 4:17  118:20 119:3,6  131:2,8  <b>reader's</b> 8:19  <b>reading</b> 11:18  55:8 86:6 88:2  89:8 104:1 119:15  131:14 133:19  <b>ready</b> 40:14 67:8  68:10 69:9,9,10  70:2 71:2 76:2</p>	<p><b>real</b> 37:1,14  160:12 177:2  <b>realize</b> 71:20 73:3  84:18 97:17  <b>realized</b> 139:13  <b>really</b> 11:10 25:4  29:19 31:10 32:9  47:12 48:3,5  49:14 53:1 58:13  67:10,12,17 69:3  69:15 76:2,17,18  81:14 84:19 96:8  102:13 108:6  111:19 115:19  136:21 138:12  147:16 149:3,12  174:2,5,8  <b>reappointment</b>  170:5 171:9  <b>reason</b> 29:8,11  62:6,8 81:21  152:18 154:1  159:13,13  <b>reassigned</b> 61:4  <b>receipt</b> 22:9  <b>receive</b> 18:17  <b>received</b> 96:12,20  96:21 97:1 125:6  127:6  <b>reclamation</b> 126:1  126:2  <b>recognition</b> 7:17  <b>recognize</b> 10:8  <b>recommendation</b>  108:19  <b>recommendations</b>  34:14  <b>recommended</b>  125:19  <b>record</b> 175:1  <b>recorded</b> 179:6  <b>records</b> 23:2  <b>recreation</b> 154:16  169:18</p>
	<p><b>q</b></p> <p><b>qualifying</b> 92:18  <b>quality</b> 142:18  143:17 144:8,10  148:8,13  <b>quarter</b> 53:14  <b>queen</b> 24:20 51:6  52:2 57:17 58:19  62:2  <b>question</b> 45:15  53:7 66:3 113:5  <b>questions</b> 43:13  77:12 90:20 97:8  101:5 122:11  130:20 135:12  141:14 174:9  <b>quick</b> 83:8 90:5  <b>quickly</b> 68:12  <b>quitclaim</b> 87:1  <b>quite</b> 55:2 68:6  75:9 78:4 81:1  113:19 114:5  115:6 132:8</p>		

<p><b>recruiting</b> 68:5  <b>recs</b> 99:20 100:9  112:13 113:7  <b>rectified</b> 84:14  <b>recycled</b> 124:8,12  <b>recycling</b> 120:19  121:2,8,11,11,12  122:5,7 123:20  124:6,16 126:3,15  127:2 130:13  <b>red</b> 40:3,4 142:3  <b>redistrict</b> 64:9  <b>redistricting</b>  65:10  <b>redone</b> 130:4  <b>redraw</b> 64:7  <b>reduce</b> 28:15  <b>reduction</b> 28:19  29:14 30:15,20  37:8 44:21 122:7  <b>reevaluating</b>  106:19  <b>reference</b> 9:12  <b>referred</b> 121:8  134:7  <b>referring</b> 45:3  <b>refinance</b> 89:12  167:8  <b>refunding</b> 90:1  <b>regard</b> 169:9  <b>regarding</b> 129:7,8  132:4  <b>regardless</b> 111:11  <b>region</b> 42:15  <b>regional</b> 82:3  <b>registered</b> 72:8  <b>registration</b> 66:13  67:7 72:3,6  172:13  <b>regular</b> 57:4  159:21  <b>regularly</b> 5:1,4  <b>regulated</b> 41:6</p>	<p><b>regulations</b> 35:9  75:18 135:2  <b>regulatory</b> 146:14  <b>reimbursed</b> 45:18  <b>reimbursement</b>  47:7  <b>related</b> 135:5  150:7 179:11  <b>relating</b> 90:2  <b>relationship</b> 4:20  <b>releases</b> 8:8  <b>relief</b> 132:15  <b>remap</b> 45:11  <b>remapping</b> 38:12  <b>remark</b> 5:5  <b>remarkable</b> 9:11  <b>remember</b> 33:1  114:16  <b>reminder</b> 72:21  83:8  <b>remotely</b> 23:15  <b>rendering</b> 142:2  <b>renderings</b> 148:20  <b>renew</b> 99:2  <b>rent</b> 80:9  <b>rentals</b> 173:21  <b>renting</b> 92:16  <b>reoccurring</b>  139:14  <b>rep</b> 3:20 171:10  <b>repeating</b> 113:3  <b>repercussion</b>  93:18  <b>replacement</b>  164:12,15  <b>replenish</b> 17:20  <b>report</b> 113:13  <b>reported</b> 1:20  <b>reports</b> 66:19  <b>represent</b> 7:9  52:14 53:10  <b>representative</b>  118:17 170:7</p>	<p><b>representing</b> 92:1  <b>represents</b> 52:2  <b>reproduction</b> 49:3  <b>request</b> 50:7 78:2  79:11 164:14  165:16  <b>requesting</b> 134:12  134:17 167:5  170:5 171:9  <b>requests</b> 152:1  <b>require</b> 120:21  126:5,17 129:11  137:11  <b>required</b> 122:8,10  126:3,16 129:11  167:11 172:13  <b>requirement</b>  126:14 132:5  163:15  <b>requirements</b>  90:18 120:18  130:9 160:18  <b>requires</b> 121:15  121:20 124:17,18  124:20 152:5,10  <b>requiring</b> 125:15  <b>research</b> 9:13 51:7  <b>researched</b> 156:21  <b>reseeded</b> 31:16  <b>reseeding</b> 23:19  24:5 31:12,15  <b>reset</b> 150:5  <b>residential</b> 132:3  137:17  <b>resolution</b> 59:12  59:19 86:7 87:10  87:11 88:4,20  167:6 171:9  <b>resolved</b> 10:6  <b>resource</b> 46:21  47:4 139:16  <b>resources</b> 20:13  <b>respect</b> 154:15</p>	<p><b>respondents</b>  113:15  <b>response</b> 76:13  126:21  <b>rest</b> 54:17 103:5  104:17 145:1  <b>restaurants</b> 19:7  <b>restocking</b> 18:4  <b>restoration</b> 33:16  <b>restrict</b> 161:13  <b>result</b> 127:4  140:21  <b>retail</b> 150:8  <b>retain</b> 93:10  <b>retire</b> 7:21  <b>retirement</b> 6:17  10:11  <b>retiring</b> 5:17  <b>returned</b> 144:16  <b>review</b> 2:17 134:8  142:12 170:4,11  <b>reviews</b> 142:13  <b>revision</b> 86:19  <b>revolved</b> 78:18  <b>rewrite</b> 113:20  <b>ricco</b> 56:2  <b>rid</b> 47:17  <b>rig</b> 30:1  <b>right</b> 4:6,16,19  11:17 16:12 18:6  21:17 26:2 35:12  36:16 39:8 41:8  45:20 49:20 50:3  54:6 57:7 58:12  58:21 60:15 65:7  70:2 77:3 79:16  81:10 82:16 83:17  87:19 91:4 96:3  96:16 99:18  105:17,18 106:18  123:2 132:5 145:5  146:19 152:17  157:2 158:15  161:6,18 163:7</p>
--	---	---	---

164:4 169:13 172:18 <b>ringing</b> 84:5 <b>rings</b> 77:8 <b>river</b> 107:19,21 110:8 <b>riverkeepers</b> 40:21 <b>rivers</b> 41:1 112:3 <b>road</b> 77:21 80:12 86:5,9,14 101:13 102:8 120:18 130:5 155:17 <b>roads</b> 88:9 124:3 130:7 165:19 166:11 <b>roadway</b> 86:11 87:1 132:8,16 <b>robbie</b> 169:3,14 <b>robin</b> 13:19 <b>rock</b> 48:20 <b>roles</b> 73:19 <b>roll</b> 10:18 165:5 166:15 167:18 170:18 171:17 177:11 <b>roof</b> 79:1,5,8,13 82:12 <b>room</b> 81:9 96:10 105:18 106:10 122:17 135:21 136:3 <b>rotate</b> 27:13 <b>rotating</b> 33:17 <b>rough</b> 29:20 <b>roughly</b> 15:8 22:20 <b>round</b> 87:20 137:9 <b>route</b> 86:10 88:9 124:19 <b>row</b> 95:6,6,7 105:16 122:20 <b>rubble</b> 124:11	<b>rules</b> 91:20 116:1 117:18 122:18 135:17,19 <b>rulings</b> 115:5 <b>rumors</b> 41:18 <b>run</b> 16:16 63:13 102:14 108:2 <b>running</b> 16:17 24:21 169:1 <b>runoff</b> 40:9,10 44:17 <b>rural</b> 51:21 57:16 58:15,18 90:10,13 162:2 175:12 <b>ryan</b> 123:9 136:13	<b>saw</b> 39:1 106:11 110:4 <b>saying</b> 37:1 38:8,8 46:1,7 53:5,8 60:6 61:9 62:7 100:7 100:16 101:6 150:3,11,13 <b>says</b> 22:11 33:14 40:5 162:16 163:16 <b>scared</b> 3:14 <b>scenario</b> 148:12 <b>scenarios</b> 74:1 <b>schedule</b> 57:6 <b>school</b> 63:20 64:3 64:7 67:12,15 75:7 <b>schools</b> 74:7,11 <b>science</b> 44:4 45:5 <b>scientists</b> 44:7 <b>screaming</b> 154:11 <b>screen</b> 14:11 <b>screened</b> 124:1 125:5 <b>screening</b> 124:2,3 <b>seafood</b> 53:17 54:9 <b>seal</b> 179:13 <b>sean</b> 136:8,8,19 141:11,17 145:17 148:6,11 149:7 159:6 160:10,20 <b>season</b> 15:14,21 16:6,10,20,21 17:2 25:7 30:4 32:21 46:2 55:14 107:11,20 169:1 <b>seasons</b> 5:20 <b>seat</b> 3:15,15 <b>seats</b> 63:20 64:8 <b>second</b> 10:16 15:16 16:15 45:15 49:7 52:20 55:4 80:6 93:10,21	94:9,11 95:6 119:8 122:20 131:5 142:2,6 155:7 165:2 166:3 166:4,14 167:15 170:14 171:13 177:9 <b>seconded</b> 10:17 119:9 131:8 165:3 167:16 170:15 171:14 177:10 <b>seconds</b> 47:13,13 <b>secret</b> 115:4 <b>secretary</b> 7:14,17 10:12,18,19,21 11:2,4,6 56:1 59:13,15 86:5,7 87:4,9,11,14 88:2 88:4,11,17,20 89:2,9 90:4 91:1,5 91:6,9 92:9,10,21 119:11,13,21 120:2,4,6,8,10,14 120:15 121:4 131:9,12 133:3,5 133:7,9,11,13,17 133:20 165:5,6,8 165:10,12,14 166:15,16,18,20 167:1,3,18,19,21 168:2,4,6 170:17 170:19,21 171:2,4 171:6,16,18,20 172:1,3,5 177:11 177:12,14,16,18 177:20 <b>secrist</b> 63:9,17 64:11,18 65:12 66:2 <b>section</b> 73:7 88:6 <b>sections</b> 89:18 <b>secured</b> 78:5 <b>security</b> 79:9,19
	<b>s</b>		
	<b>safety</b> 159:11 <b>sale</b> 89:14 90:2 <b>salinity</b> 143:15 <b>salisbury</b> 42:11 <b>sample</b> 71:11 73:2 <b>sanctions</b> 26:12 <b>sanctuaries</b> 26:14 27:5,9,14,15 28:8 34:4 106:11 <b>sanctuary</b> 26:9,16 33:15 102:10 <b>sand</b> 123:11,17 124:13 143:10 <b>santa</b> 172:9,16,20 <b>sara</b> 59:8 <b>sat</b> 24:18 106:7,8 114:7 <b>satellite</b> 44:14 <b>satisfaction</b> 152:3 152:11 157:18 <b>satisfied</b> 160:15 <b>saturday</b> 105:10 176:5 <b>sav</b> 38:16,17 143:20 <b>save</b> 50:9 82:4 <b>savs</b> 38:13 43:15		



<p><b>see</b> 4:20 13:9,14 15:1 23:4 33:13 35:19 39:16 44:16 47:12 58:10,13 60:17 61:18 63:16 67:16,17 81:17 82:15,17,20 83:6 88:13 91:16 95:7 96:10 97:13 98:7 109:19 128:2,17 132:12 145:15 151:12 155:8 169:5</p> <p><b>seed</b> 17:19 24:11 25:1 139:7 140:2</p> <p><b>seeing</b> 71:21 123:4</p> <p><b>seen</b> 39:5 84:10 99:10 146:18</p> <p><b>seldom</b> 47:5</p> <p><b>selling</b> 15:17</p> <p><b>senate</b> 35:5 36:21 43:9</p> <p><b>send</b> 50:16 58:3,7 65:2 70:5 105:3</p> <p><b>sending</b> 47:15 71:11 153:20</p> <p><b>sent</b> 59:13 70:4 79:2 105:9</p> <p><b>sentence</b> 152:14</p> <p><b>separate</b> 89:21 117:17 145:18</p> <p><b>september</b> 90:8 179:20</p> <p><b>series</b> 89:15,21 170:3</p> <p><b>serious</b> 39:21</p> <p><b>seriously</b> 104:5</p> <p><b>served</b> 8:3 9:21</p> <p><b>service</b> 8:2 9:5,17 9:21 10:9 137:12 169:17 174:18,21</p> <p><b>services</b> 8:7 9:7</p> <p><b>serving</b> 172:18</p>	<p><b>session</b> 34:9 35:8 36:3,9,12,18,19 37:20 42:4 48:9 50:12,12,19 51:11 57:8 59:2 87:5 114:14 176:21 177:1</p> <p><b>sessions</b> 114:7,8 114:17,19 174:11</p> <p><b>set</b> 38:6 46:4 49:6 71:16 83:4 93:17 155:18 163:20 164:2 168:16 175:1 179:4</p> <p><b>setback</b> 120:18 121:17 122:1 126:7,8,9,11,12 128:13 129:4 132:4</p> <p><b>setbacks</b> 122:8 124:20 129:2</p> <p><b>setting</b> 16:17 145:12 150:13</p> <p><b>settled</b> 151:19</p> <p><b>seven</b> 48:18 64:10 130:11 157:8,15</p> <p><b>shake</b> 111:10</p> <p><b>shallow</b> 156:19</p> <p><b>shame</b> 84:19</p> <p><b>shan't</b> 11:15</p> <p><b>shared</b> 113:8</p> <p><b>sharing</b> 8:4,15</p> <p><b>sharp</b> 87:19</p> <p><b>she'll</b> 116:7,7</p> <p><b>sheet</b> 141:21,21 142:2,6,7 173:5</p> <p><b>sheets</b> 141:20</p> <p><b>shell</b> 17:16,19 48:18 140:3</p> <p><b>shellfish</b> 138:4</p> <p><b>shells</b> 25:3 48:14 48:15</p> <p><b>shelving</b> 9:3</p>	<p><b>sheriff's</b> 77:19 83:19 85:6</p> <p><b>shirts</b> 47:16</p> <p><b>shoal</b> 147:13</p> <p><b>shoaling</b> 146:9</p> <p><b>shoals</b> 37:9 59:20 60:4</p> <p><b>shooting</b> 123:13</p> <p><b>shore</b> 16:8 40:21 40:21 52:4 54:14 54:15,18 141:9 161:15</p> <p><b>shoreline</b> 155:4,5</p> <p><b>short</b> 107:11 109:1 115:16 117:13 173:21</p> <p><b>shortened</b> 156:9</p> <p><b>shortest</b> 144:1</p> <p><b>shortly</b> 84:10</p> <p><b>shout</b> 173:18</p> <p><b>show</b> 43:20 55:1 87:7 88:15 90:21 155:20 156:16 161:3 173:13</p> <p><b>showalter</b> 123:3,5 123:7,9,9 136:2,4 136:13,13,17,21 150:15,18,21 151:6,15,17 152:17 157:7 160:3,8,13 161:8 164:5</p> <p><b>showed</b> 54:10 104:5</p> <p><b>shows</b> 142:3</p> <p><b>shuffle</b> 37:19 83:19</p> <p><b>side</b> 49:15 83:7 96:5 97:12 122:17 123:2 135:20 136:3 161:15</p> <p><b>sides</b> 72:19</p> <p><b>sign</b> 157:5</p>	<p><b>signage</b> 72:15 81:14</p> <p><b>signature</b> 179:15</p> <p><b>signed</b> 95:8 173:4</p> <p><b>significant</b> 124:20 130:1</p> <p><b>signs</b> 73:10</p> <p><b>similar</b> 123:19</p> <p><b>simple</b> 87:3</p> <p><b>simply</b> 168:16</p> <p><b>sir</b> 13:11 101:15</p> <p><b>sit</b> 27:20 34:18 37:20 58:6 77:16</p> <p><b>site</b> 68:3 80:3,6 93:12 120:21 123:14 124:10,14 126:10 128:11,11 128:12 129:12,18 130:17 131:21 132:11,15 134:12 142:2,11 145:19 145:20,21 152:3,5 153:20</p> <p><b>sites</b> 122:3,10 125:14,21,21 158:12</p> <p><b>sits</b> 114:18</p> <p><b>sitting</b> 29:18 55:19 56:6 58:12 61:11 150:3</p> <p><b>situation</b> 38:12</p> <p><b>six</b> 32:21 40:7 63:21 69:13 139:1 139:9,18 157:8,8 159:5 172:12 174:20 176:19</p> <p><b>size</b> 134:2 160:2</p> <p><b>skate</b> 172:15</p> <p><b>skating</b> 172:9,19</p> <p><b>skiff</b> 103:7</p> <p><b>slide</b> 17:15 27:10 173:13</p> <p><b>slides</b> 14:13</p>
---	---	---	---

<p><b>slip</b> 61:3,19 92:13 92:14,16,18,19 93:5,11,21 94:6,9 94:11 95:12,16 96:2,13,16 97:12 97:16 98:2,12 100:11 101:19,21 102:7,18,21 103:4 109:17 115:15 116:9 117:8,9,11 117:17</p> <p><b>slips</b> 49:21 60:20 61:2,6,7,10,14 93:20 94:8 96:10 97:7 102:3 103:11 103:15,17 104:4 104:18 108:8,10 110:13 113:11,14 115:10 117:12 118:9</p> <p><b>slow</b> 20:4</p> <p><b>small</b> 128:21 129:3</p> <p><b>smaller</b> 152:9</p> <p><b>smart</b> 13:21</p> <p><b>smellier</b> 108:16</p> <p><b>smith</b> 171:10</p> <p><b>snifter's</b> 174:19</p> <p><b>snifter's</b> 175:4,21</p> <p><b>society</b> 10:2</p> <p><b>softshell</b> 15:14</p> <p><b>software</b> 69:7</p> <p><b>sole</b> 165:17</p> <p><b>somebody</b> 11:20 21:21 94:5 107:4 147:20</p> <p><b>somerset</b> 52:3</p> <p><b>somewheres</b> 102:18</p> <p><b>soon</b> 33:21 56:10 69:15</p> <p><b>sorry</b> 2:15 84:16 101:14 135:18</p>	<p><b>sort</b> 109:11 148:5</p> <p><b>sounding</b> 144:3</p> <p><b>source</b> 165:17</p> <p><b>sources</b> 137:9</p> <p><b>space</b> 79:14 82:19 83:18 84:2,4,10 84:17,20 85:2 109:3 115:16 118:12</p> <p><b>spaces</b> 107:8</p> <p><b>spat</b> 31:17 32:4 140:3</p> <p><b>speak</b> 3:3 4:4 107:4</p> <p><b>speaker</b> 4:4,7,10 5:16 8:9 14:2,12 15:2 21:12,18 26:4 32:18 37:15 39:12 40:16 41:2 41:14 44:8,13 53:19</p> <p><b>speaking</b> 85:9 92:4 95:3,4 104:13</p> <p><b>speaks</b> 4:17</p> <p><b>special</b> 121:13,20 126:5 129:11 162:17,21 163:9 176:20</p> <p><b>specialized</b> 159:7</p> <p><b>specialty</b> 165:17</p> <p><b>specific</b> 130:18 152:8 153:20 155:14</p> <p><b>spectacular</b> 148:21</p> <p><b>spectrum</b> 118:1</p> <p><b>spend</b> 6:21 24:9 24:11,18</p> <p><b>spending</b> 149:12</p> <p><b>spent</b> 24:4 125:9</p> <p><b>spirit</b> 4:14 5:6</p> <p><b>spoke</b> 74:16 113:1</p>	<p><b>sponsored</b> 146:2</p> <p><b>sports</b> 107:17</p> <p><b>spot</b> 107:15</p> <p><b>spots</b> 108:9</p> <p><b>spread</b> 18:15</p> <p><b>spring</b> 24:13,17 55:15</p> <p><b>square</b> 134:13 159:16,17</p> <p><b>squeeze</b> 107:8</p> <p><b>st</b> 75:8 79:6 90:14 146:3 176:11</p> <p><b>stable</b> 143:15,16</p> <p><b>staff</b> 5:4 42:8 58:7 60:21 65:2 67:14 80:1 81:8,9 84:13 87:7 88:14 125:10 127:5 151:7,21 164:13 169:14</p> <p><b>stamping</b> 22:8</p> <p><b>standard</b> 163:12</p> <p><b>standards</b> 135:4 152:1 163:2</p> <p><b>standing</b> 2:4</p> <p><b>standpoint</b> 70:16 144:14</p> <p><b>star</b> 8:14 100:1,13 103:18</p> <p><b>start</b> 15:17,19 58:13 63:3,11,17 68:12 71:21 75:6 85:20 91:14,18 94:20 108:14 112:18 122:17 135:20 136:16 138:15 144:19 146:21 150:15</p> <p><b>started</b> 16:12,15 71:14 76:3 95:19 142:17</p> <p><b>starting</b> 67:9 71:16 136:3</p> <p><b>starts</b> 15:15 25:7</p>	<p><b>state</b> 15:9 17:8 53:3,12,13 66:4 66:19 70:4,16 75:18 78:5 99:15 124:19 137:3 140:14 142:14 146:15 147:18 160:4,11,17 179:1 179:2</p> <p><b>state's</b> 139:16</p> <p><b>stated</b> 135:20 161:8</p> <p><b>statement</b> 4:8 105:21 177:3</p> <p><b>states</b> 55:9</p> <p><b>stay</b> 85:19 108:6 116:8</p> <p><b>stenographic</b> 179:6</p> <p><b>stenographically</b> 179:6</p> <p><b>step</b> 122:14 135:14 144:21</p> <p><b>stephan</b> 136:11,19 138:19 142:1</p> <p><b>stephan's</b> 149:7</p> <p><b>steps</b> 135:12</p> <p><b>stinton</b> 170:9</p> <p><b>stipulations</b> 179:8</p> <p><b>stock</b> 17:20 25:18 28:14 41:11,12,16</p> <p><b>stone</b> 48:20 124:12</p> <p><b>stories</b> 8:18 117:15 173:11</p> <p><b>storm</b> 143:19</p> <p><b>story</b> 30:3</p> <p><b>storytelling</b> 8:17</p> <p><b>straight</b> 61:1 97:6</p> <p><b>street</b> 77:1 81:13 81:14 84:17 136:15</p> <p><b>strengthened</b> 9:8</p>
---	---	--	--

<p><b>strike</b> 150:1</p> <p><b>stripe</b> 55:11,15</p> <p><b>stronger</b> 152:14</p> <p><b>strongest</b> 52:14 110:1</p> <p><b>structure</b> 137:14 142:7</p> <p><b>structures</b> 153:16 154:2</p> <p><b>struggling</b> 174:5</p> <p><b>stuck</b> 51:14</p> <p><b>student</b> 75:12</p> <p><b>students</b> 67:12,15 67:18 74:12,16 75:4,9 76:6</p> <p><b>studies</b> 44:1 137:20</p> <p><b>study</b> 43:19,20 140:8,9,10 144:3</p> <p><b>stuff</b> 48:18 103:19 142:1</p> <p><b>subdivision</b> 120:17 134:1</p> <p><b>subgroups</b> 58:17</p> <p><b>subleasing</b> 117:17</p> <p><b>submerged</b> 38:17</p> <p><b>submitted</b> 66:4</p> <p><b>subsection</b> 151:18</p> <p><b>successful</b> 8:1</p> <p><b>sudden</b> 51:13</p> <p><b>suffer</b> 32:13</p> <p><b>suitable</b> 140:14</p> <p><b>summer</b> 24:17</p> <p><b>summertime</b> 102:19 103:2</p> <p><b>summit</b> 54:20 57:19 58:2 175:12</p> <p><b>sunday</b> 52:20</p> <p><b>sunrise</b> 130:11</p> <p><b>supplies</b> 70:15 71:8 80:8 141:4</p> <p><b>supply</b> 139:15</p> <p><b>support</b> 51:9 74:21 75:3 127:8</p>	<p>127:17 134:9</p> <p>137:9 141:5 147:5</p> <p>147:21 148:19</p> <p>151:2,20 156:17</p> <p>157:3 168:13</p> <p><b>supported</b> 152:19</p> <p><b>supportive</b> 5:5 9:15</p> <p><b>supposed</b> 44:9 63:11 98:3 100:21</p> <p><b>surcharge</b> 17:11 17:12 18:6 19:7 19:11,16,21 20:9 20:11 21:2,4,7 22:3,6,11 23:5 33:4</p> <p><b>surcharges</b> 17:6,7 17:9 32:15 33:3</p> <p><b>sure</b> 5:3 11:11 51:3,4,16 57:12 60:21 66:14 67:8 67:20 69:8 70:16 71:1 72:11,15,16 72:18 73:3 74:3 77:11 78:19 83:1 93:21 104:3,9 108:12 109:3,17 110:5,10 113:15 141:17 149:11 151:5 168:10 169:2</p> <p><b>surprise</b> 65:9</p> <p><b>surprised</b> 154:9</p> <p><b>surrounded</b> 137:14</p> <p><b>surrounding</b> 127:16</p> <p><b>survey</b> 86:18</p> <p><b>surveys</b> 68:3</p> <p><b>survival</b> 140:19 143:15 144:7</p> <p><b>survive</b> 148:9</p> <p><b>susan</b> 170:8</p>	<p><b>sweater</b> 174:19</p> <p><b>sweaters</b> 175:2</p> <p><b>swing</b> 169:14</p> <p><b>switch</b> 17:14</p> <p><b>sympathy</b> 111:4</p> <p><b>system</b> 76:19 84:13 90:15 141:4 144:14</p> <p><b>systems</b> 73:14</p> <p><b>t</b></p> <p><b>t</b> 47:16</p> <p><b>table</b> 13:8 27:21 34:18 92:7 95:1 135:21 145:4 174:16</p> <p><b>tabletop</b> 73:15</p> <p><b>tag</b> 174:8</p> <p><b>take</b> 6:20 17:18 20:2 29:5 31:7 55:3 65:10 82:1,7 82:18 86:2 91:17 103:17 114:15 115:3 118:6,19 124:13 135:10 158:4</p> <p><b>taken</b> 66:17 104:20 116:19 117:1 119:20 157:8</p> <p><b>takes</b> 78:4 80:18 83:2</p> <p><b>talbot</b> 1:1 3:10 6:4 7:20 8:7,21 9:17 10:3,7,9,10 13:5,7 14:19 15:5,20 17:9,16,21 27:3 28:9 32:17 33:9 33:10 52:3,12,12 52:18 53:2,10,20 53:21 54:4,5 55:13 57:21 58:11 63:6,8 80:15 88:8 89:9 90:9 92:11 92:17 106:15</p>	<p>110:5 112:7</p> <p>120:16 133:21</p> <p>137:1 140:15</p> <p>146:16,20 147:18</p> <p>149:1 174:2 179:3</p> <p><b>talent</b> 8:17</p> <p><b>talk</b> 17:14 25:6 33:12 52:17 59:5 62:14 67:15 70:14 73:18 74:2 75:2 117:19,20 137:4 138:18 163:21</p> <p><b>talked</b> 49:16 57:2 142:1 145:21 146:3,7</p> <p><b>talking</b> 34:4 37:4 42:20 43:15 60:20 64:3 79:12 83:17 97:13 104:11 140:19 142:17 148:5,6,7 154:15 154:21</p> <p><b>talks</b> 5:11</p> <p><b>tall</b> 13:1</p> <p><b>tax</b> 18:5 23:20 86:15</p> <p><b>taxes</b> 89:16</p> <p><b>teachers</b> 67:16 75:2</p> <p><b>teamed</b> 174:8</p> <p><b>telephone</b> 76:19</p> <p><b>tell</b> 55:3 112:10,11 137:19 138:16 173:11</p> <p><b>telling</b> 143:12 149:6</p> <p><b>temperance</b> 116:3</p> <p><b>temperatures</b> 143:16</p> <p><b>temporarily</b> 61:3 92:12</p> <p><b>ten</b> 29:3 32:8 64:11,12,16 109:8 141:1 142:20</p>
--	---	--	--

<p>143:1 174:20  <b>term</b> 42:16 141:6  173:21  <b>terms</b> 143:14,17  168:19  <b>terribly</b> 6:14  <b>testify</b> 112:9  <b>testimony</b> 149:8  149:21 154:5  <b>testing</b> 71:3  168:17  <b>text</b> 98:1 116:8  125:18 126:17  138:10 144:9  150:21 151:2,8  157:15  <b>texted</b> 97:19  <b>tfl</b> 22:13  <b>thank</b> 2:7,8 6:3,14  7:12 10:12 11:17  11:21 12:1,19,20  13:11 47:8,15  48:2 49:9 56:16  60:18 62:19 63:1  63:2,4 66:8 73:12  77:16 83:13,14  85:11,13 87:4,13  87:16 88:11 89:1  89:4 90:4 91:10  91:11 92:7,20  94:18 101:9,10,17  105:14,15 113:17  120:12 121:3  122:13 123:5  128:5 133:15,16  135:11 146:11  164:4,5,6,9,19  166:5,12 170:13  172:21 173:1  174:11  <b>thanks</b> 53:5 60:16  62:21 85:8  <b>theme</b> 139:14</p>	<p><b>thing</b> 25:11 43:21  49:13 50:4 52:11  57:15 59:16 64:18  66:2 72:4 75:1  76:7,17 78:15  107:17 168:21  <b>things</b> 50:20 63:18  76:18 85:4,17  146:4 149:9  161:14  <b>think</b> 39:14 76:5  83:21 93:17 94:13  95:15 96:13  100:17 105:9  106:16 107:5  110:3,14,16  111:17,20 112:3  115:4 116:21  117:3,4,6,20  118:6 127:3,18  131:20 132:5,9,14  138:12,15 147:2,3  151:19 157:4,20  158:5 161:10,18  169:9 173:15  174:10 175:18  <b>third</b> 28:13 33:14  95:7 118:20 119:3  119:5 131:2,8  142:6  <b>thirteen</b> 5:20  <b>thought</b> 31:9 64:9  115:12 127:3  128:10  <b>thousands</b> 11:12  <b>three</b> 15:20 17:21  24:12 28:11 29:17  31:3 39:2 45:11  63:20 69:12 91:21  93:14 94:1 95:14  96:7 110:17  112:20 140:8  149:8</p>	<p><b>threw</b> 25:2 42:18  <b>throes</b> 142:12  <b>throw</b> 23:6,8  <b>thrown</b> 99:13  <b>thursday</b> 30:9  67:14 172:10,12  <b>tickled</b> 14:17  47:14  <b>tidal</b> 22:13  <b>tie</b> 49:18 61:8,12  62:5 96:9 102:2,2  102:3 111:14  <b>tied</b> 96:6 98:11  <b>ties</b> 167:9  <b>tilghman</b> 49:11  <b>time</b> 3:21 6:1,21  14:14 15:19 36:2  48:21 50:20 55:18  57:7 62:14 63:20  64:15 65:4,8 67:6  71:2 73:1 80:5  81:10,12 82:2,5  83:9 85:12 92:5  92:18 93:6,8 94:4  95:5 105:14  107:11 109:1  112:4 115:16  117:14 118:19  119:4 125:9 128:9  128:20 131:4,19  132:18 135:16  149:12 159:3,12  172:15 179:4  <b>timely</b> 174:13  <b>times</b> 49:17 71:16  <b>tired</b> 65:20  <b>tirelessly</b> 8:4  <b>titled</b> 9:2  <b>today</b> 4:2 14:17  48:13 59:13  114:18 124:16  126:16  <b>told</b> 28:15 93:8  98:1 104:21</p>	<p>142:20 173:3  <b>tomorrow</b> 151:12  <b>tong</b> 102:12,13  <b>tonging</b> 29:1  33:15 62:3  <b>tonight</b> 62:13,16  112:8 113:13,16  118:21 128:2  157:10  <b>top</b> 99:13  <b>total</b> 15:8 22:20  30:6 53:11 54:2  54:16  <b>totally</b> 117:18  <b>touch</b> 5:2 72:14  <b>tourism</b> 173:19  <b>town</b> 101:1 168:10  <b>track</b> 123:15  <b>traffic</b> 88:10 125:6  126:19 130:1,5  <b>trafficking</b> 132:17  <b>trail</b> 142:4  <b>trailer</b> 165:17  166:6  <b>trailers</b> 165:18  <b>train</b> 72:5 79:16  80:17  <b>training</b> 70:3,11  79:5,21 80:1,13  82:9 139:6  <b>trainings</b> 67:2  82:4,7  <b>transcribed</b> 179:6  <b>transcript</b> 2:1  <b>transcription</b>  179:7  <b>transfer</b> 115:13,15  118:8,9  <b>transportation</b>  18:11 88:7 123:21  <b>transporting</b>  138:7  <b>treated</b> 115:20</p>
--	---	--	--

<p><b>treats</b> 5:8  <b>tred</b> 62:4  <b>tremendously</b>  146:19  <b>tried</b> 106:8 118:7  <b>trip</b> 173:10  <b>troubling</b> 115:7  149:18 153:21  <b>truck</b> 88:10  107:18 123:20  125:6 126:19  130:1,5 132:17  <b>trucks</b> 124:9  132:7  <b>true</b> 116:10 179:7  <b>truly</b> 4:13 5:12  <b>trust</b> 27:17 36:6  <b>truth</b> 46:14  <b>try</b> 13:1 41:19  77:4,5,7 85:19  118:14 137:20  144:11  <b>trying</b> 14:3 19:2  47:19 48:15 56:2  56:4 73:3 77:10  93:14 106:21  116:12,13,14,16  144:18 155:15  156:16 157:5  <b>tuesday</b> 30:8 49:7  87:15 89:3 176:18  <b>turbidity</b> 143:17  <b>turn</b> 86:5,9,14  117:9 136:18  <b>turned</b> 94:11  117:13 169:8  <b>turnout</b> 68:17  80:4  <b>two</b> 15:20 26:7  27:16 28:8 29:21  30:11 33:19 34:13  34:17 42:9 43:13  51:13 55:14,15  58:16 60:11 63:21</p>	<p>67:9 68:11 69:13  71:12 74:10 75:1  77:2 84:14 86:12  91:8 93:8 94:8  95:11,14,15 104:4  106:5 107:16  109:9,10,20  110:17 112:20  114:7 128:17  139:20 140:20  145:17,21 149:8  158:3,20 162:13  172:10 176:5  <b>tying</b> 60:1  <b>type</b> 76:7 80:9  126:20  <b>types</b> 161:13  <b>tyrant</b> 116:11</p>	<p><b>understood</b>  155:11  <b>underway</b> 140:12  <b>underwriting</b>  139:2  <b>underwrote</b> 140:8  <b>unethical</b> 35:1,2  <b>unfair</b> 111:2  <b>unheard</b> 52:17  <b>unintended</b>  113:21  <b>unique</b> 8:18 110:6  131:21 136:21  147:17  <b>uniqueness</b>  132:14  <b>university</b> 42:11  <b>unlucky</b> 5:21  <b>unmeasurable</b>  148:8  <b>unnecessarily</b>  117:6  <b>upcoming</b> 42:4  <b>update</b> 13:5 14:16  50:17,17 63:6  66:10,20 70:3  83:15  <b>updates</b> 66:13  69:8 72:3  <b>updating</b> 69:5,6,8  70:8 71:10  <b>uplifting</b> 9:15  <b>ups</b> 111:14  <b>usda</b> 90:9 167:6  <b>use</b> 20:7,18 34:12  39:18 61:10,11,14  81:5 107:7 109:2  116:15 120:19  121:2,11,19 122:5  124:6,7,7,16,17  125:3,7,15 126:10  126:11,15,18  127:2,21 129:9,10  129:21 134:14</p>	<p>150:6 155:12,15  <b>users</b> 84:19  <b>uses</b> 123:18  124:21 125:12,16  125:20 126:4  129:20 135:5  <b>usually</b> 15:14 24:9  80:14,17,18  <b>utilities</b> 76:20  <b>utilized</b> 70:9 78:7</p>
	<b>u</b>	<b>v</b>	
	<p><b>ugly</b> 174:19 175:2  <b>ultimately</b> 125:17  137:6 151:19  <b>unanimous</b> 2:13  2:20 3:7 142:11  <b>unanimously</b>  125:18  <b>uncomfortable</b>  112:17  <b>undercut</b> 27:18  34:16  <b>underlining</b>  116:20  <b>underlying</b> 87:3  <b>underneath</b>  149:17  <b>understand</b> 62:9  64:5 100:3,6,14  100:17,19 101:1  107:14 109:8,16  111:5 114:10  128:1 160:1  <b>understanding</b>  40:19 114:20  116:4</p>	<p><b>vacant</b> 97:11  <b>vacated</b> 93:20  <b>vacation</b> 55:18  <b>valorem</b> 89:16  <b>value</b> 9:8 141:2  <b>vanhooser</b> 173:20  <b>variance</b> 162:17  162:20 163:17  <b>various</b> 9:21  142:18  <b>vegetation</b> 38:18  125:5  <b>vehicle</b> 88:5  <b>vehicular</b> 138:6  <b>verbally</b> 85:3  <b>verdery</b> 121:5,7  122:11,14 128:10  128:14 129:10  130:6,12,15,21  133:16 134:4,6  135:12,13 145:6  150:16 153:13  158:9,15 161:12  161:18 162:4,6,10  162:13 163:8,14  163:21  <b>vest</b> 43:8  <b>vetoed</b> 26:11 27:6  34:8  <b>vims</b> 44:2 45:13  <b>violations</b> 35:10  35:16,16</p>	

<p><b>virginia</b> 15:18 24:11 25:1 44:1,3 45:4,7 <b>visits</b> 71:13 <b>visual</b> 172:8 <b>vital</b> 106:16 <b>voice</b> 77:4 <b>voluntarily</b> 117:9 117:12 <b>volunteer</b> 72:6 <b>vote</b> 59:20 66:15 66:15 72:8 119:1 119:19,20 120:1 131:18 133:4 134:10 157:10 <b>voted</b> 99:14,15 111:8 112:12,15 112:16 <b>voter</b> 71:11 72:3,6 <b>voters</b> 65:2,5 66:13 67:21 68:1 72:2 73:1,3 74:9 74:14 77:10 81:10 <b>votes</b> 83:3 <b>voting</b> 70:1,10,19 70:21 71:10 74:21 79:5,17 80:1,3,4,6 82:8</p>	<p>52:11 61:19 66:8 69:16 72:11,18 74:1 77:9,11 83:1 83:10 93:20 98:15 108:11 112:1 116:15 155:17,19 156:6 173:18 174:11 <b>wanted</b> 25:1 29:6 76:8 126:13 139:4 154:1 168:9 169:2 169:5 <b>wants</b> 66:15 88:16 136:16 <b>warehouse</b> 77:20 82:14,16 <b>warrants</b> 163:2 <b>warren</b> 128:2 <b>washington</b> 79:3 <b>wasted</b> 96:5 <b>wastewater</b> 89:12 90:14 167:8 <b>watch</b> 20:16 <b>water</b> 18:16 20:16 25:12 37:13 44:17 53:16 101:13 106:11 107:12 137:8,9,18 141:13 142:18,21 143:1,5 143:6,8,13,14,16 143:17,21 144:4,8 144:10,15,17,18 144:20 146:9 147:3,7,10,13 148:8,13 153:17 161:2 <b>waterman</b> 32:11 97:15 98:9,10,18 <b>watermen</b> 19:9 31:10 33:10 37:5 46:1,15 47:12 58:14 96:9 97:11 98:7 106:13,15 108:13,13,21</p>	<p>110:4,9 112:2 113:8,11,12 115:1 139:5,6,9,11 141:4 149:2,4 <b>watermen's</b> 13:5,7 14:19 47:20 52:13 110:1 112:7 <b>waters</b> 147:6 <b>waterway</b> 160:19 <b>waterways</b> 154:2 154:13 164:2 <b>wave</b> 143:18 <b>way</b> 4:15 7:7,9 14:1,8 23:14 25:2 41:12 48:4 51:5 69:7 73:10 74:2 81:19 83:6 94:5 95:19 98:5,7 101:1 110:9,12 112:3 116:6 125:13 137:21,21 147:10 179:11 <b>ways</b> 112:2 <b>we've</b> 17:17 24:12 26:19 30:5,6,7 31:16 37:18 41:18 42:9 52:4 55:11 66:20 67:19 71:13 73:16 76:14 79:18 107:6 113:10,13 117:15 143:1 146:18 158:11 <b>wearing</b> 138:21 <b>weather</b> 26:8,8 30:7,13 <b>website</b> 100:4,15 172:14 <b>wednesday</b> 29:7 30:9 59:3 172:10 172:12 <b>wednesdays</b> 37:6 <b>week</b> 15:16 16:16 29:6,18 30:11,14 32:7,9,11,13 33:8</p>	<p>33:9 75:5 105:3,5 172:11 173:16 <b>weekdays</b> 80:21 <b>weekend</b> 176:14 <b>weekends</b> 80:20 <b>weekly</b> 50:17 <b>weeknights</b> 80:20 <b>weeks</b> 31:20 42:9 50:13 55:14,15 67:9 77:2 84:14 <b>weigh</b> 117:21 <b>weight</b> 88:1,5 130:6 <b>weighted</b> 117:7 <b>welcome</b> 12:17 48:11 114:14,15 176:15 <b>welcoming</b> 9:18 <b>went</b> 16:20 26:10 30:1 34:14,15 98:17,20 99:5 111:6,17 114:5 <b>west</b> 136:14 142:19 <b>western</b> 16:8 52:4 54:17 <b>wetlands</b> 160:4 <b>wharf</b> 140:15 143:11 145:13 147:8 <b>whatsoever</b> 47:7 <b>wheel</b> 132:7 <b>white</b> 42:18 142:4 <b>whoa</b> 38:10 <b>wholesale</b> 134:15 150:10 <b>whoo</b> 62:20 <b>wide</b> 9:5 134:19 138:5 151:1 <b>width</b> 135:1 159:4 160:16 <b>wife's</b> 6:19 <b>willing</b> 38:1 57:18 118:10</p>
<b>w</b>			
<p><b>w</b> 1:14 <b>wacked</b> 23:21 <b>wait</b> 19:17 39:15 46:11 51:11 78:4 87:10 <b>waiting</b> 75:17 94:4 94:6,10 115:9 <b>walker</b> 174:1,12 <b>walkers</b> 86:5,9,14 <b>walking</b> 6:21 43:9 <b>want</b> 3:16 6:3 12:2 12:16 14:10,12 22:5,15 26:13 35:7,17 38:2,8,14 41:19 49:5,8</p>			

<p><b>wilson</b> 58:19  <b>wings</b> 151:11  154:6  <b>winter</b> 16:12  102:20 173:16  <b>wisdom</b> 8:4,16  <b>wish</b> 10:11 87:8  <b>wit</b> 8:15  <b>witness</b> 179:13  <b>wonderful</b> 4:10,15  5:12 6:9 9:18  158:6  <b>word</b> 75:10  113:18 116:15  <b>words</b> 5:16 73:16  <b>work</b> 4:11 6:5 7:4  8:5 9:14 16:7  27:21 29:19 35:19  37:6,21 38:1  46:16 48:8 50:12  57:10 59:4 77:4  80:16 84:20 87:5  98:6 102:18  110:12 114:7,7,11  114:13,17,19  117:5 118:11,17  137:5 159:12,20  161:4,5 174:12  <b>workday</b> 29:12,13  <b>workdays</b> 30:15  <b>worked</b> 31:21  48:13 115:18  151:6  <b>working</b> 7:20 24:2  32:7 35:12 42:10  51:18,21 56:1  66:6 72:9 73:13  77:17 82:17 85:1  98:3 107:12  115:17 125:11  139:17 141:11  159:19  <b>works</b> 29:10 37:14  37:17 59:18 77:6</p>	<p><b>world</b> 66:11 73:17  76:4,4,5 142:19  154:7 175:1  <b>worms</b> 111:20  <b>worries</b> 69:19  <b>worry</b> 38:4  <b>worth</b> 33:2  <b>wow</b> 52:8  <b>write</b> 6:18 12:7  <b>writing</b> 8:8 57:12  58:3  <b>written</b> 8:14 108:5  163:12  <b>wye</b> 101:20 102:1  102:7,9</p>	<p>140:17,18 141:12  144:12 169:21  <b>years</b> 4:13 5:1,18  7:5 8:13 9:4,20  19:18,20 24:12  27:17 29:10 33:19  34:13,17 39:2  45:11 48:16,19,21  60:11 61:21 64:10  64:11,12,16 68:11  84:7 95:16 96:7  100:18 101:19  106:12 109:12  139:1,1,9 140:8  140:13 146:1  148:1 155:17  <b>yelling</b> 153:15  154:10  <b>yellow</b> 26:14,16  <b>yesterday</b> 37:1  <b>ymca</b> 168:17  169:3  <b>york</b> 52:5,18  <b>young</b> 76:3</p>
	<b>y</b>	
	<p><b>y'all</b> 127:12  <b>yard</b> 60:11  <b>yeah</b> 5:21 14:14  21:19 22:7 26:5  28:5 32:5 44:11  44:15 52:19 53:21  66:7 84:1 85:2  97:4 112:14  159:15 162:8  <b>year</b> 15:6,19 16:1  16:2,3,11 17:19  18:9,15 21:5,14  22:18 24:4,10,19  25:21 26:11 28:15  28:17 29:16 30:18  30:19,19 31:2  39:14,15 40:12  42:3,5 47:21 48:9  49:5,6 54:2,10,14  55:2 64:4,4,6 65:6  70:4 74:19 75:15  78:17 92:13 93:4  96:13 97:3,4 99:2  99:5,6,10,12  103:12,13 104:19  104:21,21 109:1  111:6 117:10  137:9 139:19</p>	
		<b>z</b>
		<p><b>zone</b> 162:2  <b>zoning</b> 120:17  121:14,21 134:1  134:21 142:13  144:7 156:15  161:13,15 162:7</p>