



Deposition of:
County Council Meeting

March 10, 2020

In the Matter of:
Talbot County Council Meeting

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

March 10, 2020; 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Corey W. Pack

Chuck F. Callahan

Frank Divilio

Pete Leshner

Laura E. Price

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Thanks everyone for joining us.</p> <p>4 We're going to go ahead and start now. Please</p> <p>5 stand as Council Member Lesher leads us in a</p> <p>6 short prayer, followed by the Pledge of</p> <p>7 Allegiance.</p> <p>8 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: Thank you. Council has its</p> <p>10 agenda in front of us. Are there any</p> <p>11 additions, deletions, or corrections to the</p> <p>12 agenda?</p> <p>13 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Pack, I have two changes</p> <p>14 I would like to make.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: Go ahead.</p> <p>16 MR. DIVILIO: I would like to add under</p> <p>17 the county manager report, letter G, which is a</p> <p>18 request for letter of support for the John</p> <p>19 Wesley Preservation Society grant application</p> <p>20 to the Maryland Heritage Areas Program.</p> <p>21 MR. PACK: Okay.</p>	<p>1 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you. Those</p> <p>3 changes are as noted.</p> <p>4 And we'll just add the Wesleyan Church</p> <p>5 matter right after the letter of support for</p> <p>6 the Phillips Wharf. Let's put it right behind</p> <p>7 that.</p> <p>8 Council, I'm going to ask also we amend</p> <p>9 the agenda in the following ways. There are</p> <p>10 two matters that were placed on the agenda</p> <p>11 dealing with items that we addressed in our</p> <p>12 budget hearing last month. One is dealing with</p> <p>13 House Bill 1300. That's the Blueprint for</p> <p>14 America's Future, which is also known as the</p> <p>15 Kirwan bill.</p> <p>16 We have not been requested to do a formal</p> <p>17 letter of support or opposition to that bill as</p> <p>18 of yet, neither have we had an opportunity to</p> <p>19 meet formally with the School Board to discuss</p> <p>20 Kirwan in full.</p> <p>21 I think it's a bit premature for a Council</p>
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<p>1 MR. DIVILIO: And then also under county</p> <p>2 manager report, deleting the letter D,</p> <p>3 recommendation to award Bid Number 19-19.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Okay. Is there a second to</p> <p>5 those changes?</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: Second.</p> <p>7 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Lesher. Any</p> <p>8 further discussion on those two changes? We're</p> <p>9 going to remove 1919 from the agenda and we're</p> <p>10 going to add on a proclamation for the -- a</p> <p>11 letter of support, I'm sorry, for the Wesleyan</p> <p>12 Church down in Oxford.</p> <p>13 No further discussion, Madam Secretary,</p> <p>14 please call your roll on those two changes.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>16 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>18 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p>	<p>1 to go into public discussion about that without</p> <p>2 first entertaining the School Board. There may</p> <p>3 be parts of the bill that we may want to</p> <p>4 support. There may be parts of the bill that</p> <p>5 we oppose.</p> <p>6 The bill is a changing dynamic. I know</p> <p>7 that there's about 70 different amendments to</p> <p>8 that bill going into the Senate side.</p> <p>9 So my motion would be to remove 1313 at</p> <p>10 this time and pick it up in the work session.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Callahan. Any</p> <p>13 further discussion?</p> <p>14 Hearing none, Madam Secretary --</p> <p>15 MR. LESHER: Mr. Pack, I'm not comfortable</p> <p>16 with that change. I think it's been properly</p> <p>17 put on our agenda.</p> <p>18 We don't necessarily need to spend much</p> <p>19 time on this, but I think it's a poor precedent</p> <p>20 to delete a matter that's been properly put on</p> <p>21 the agenda like this without the consent of the</p>

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<p>1 Council member that put it on.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Well, we're in session now,</p> <p>3 Mr. Lesher. I don't know what more I can do.</p> <p>4 We got a roomful of people. I have to move</p> <p>5 along. We started at six o'clock.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: Yes.</p> <p>7 MR. PACK: So a Council member's absence I</p> <p>8 have no control over.</p> <p>9 And we do make amendments to the agenda,</p> <p>10 as you know, as you very well know.</p> <p>11 Again, this matter is a very fluid matter,</p> <p>12 one that we can take up to the School Board to</p> <p>13 have a more open and public debate about it or</p> <p>14 work session about it. Just seems a bit</p> <p>15 premature to add it on at this time.</p> <p>16 And so that's my motion, which has been</p> <p>17 seconded. Any further discussion about House</p> <p>18 Bill 1300?</p> <p>19 MR. DIVILIO: I agree with Mr. Lesher. I</p> <p>20 would like to see a work session scheduled to</p> <p>21 discuss it as there are a lot of changes going</p>	<p>1 This is the Choptank matter. There are</p> <p>2 proposed amendments to House Bill 999. Those</p> <p>3 proposals have not yet been added to the</p> <p>4 overall drafting of the bill.</p> <p>5 I believe at that time, Council had a</p> <p>6 unanimous vote to have a position of no</p> <p>7 position on House Bill 999.</p> <p>8 Placing it back on at this time I think is</p> <p>9 basically just restating what the Council has</p> <p>10 already said previously. So my motion would be</p> <p>11 to removed it at this time.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Second it.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Callahan. Any</p> <p>14 further discussion on House Bill 999 removal?</p> <p>15 MR. LESHER: I'm going to object to the</p> <p>16 change for the same reason as for the earlier.</p> <p>17 MR. PACK: Duly noted. Any further</p> <p>18 discussion on the motion?</p> <p>19 MR. DIVILIO: I'm willing to accept that</p> <p>20 change. We did debate that. We sent a letter.</p> <p>21 And as of today, the amendments have not been</p>
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<p>1 on.</p> <p>2 It was put on the agenda last Friday or</p> <p>3 so. So it's been published. I think maybe</p> <p>4 just a brief statement tonight would be</p> <p>5 acceptable, very brief.</p> <p>6 MR. PACK: Okay. Any other discussion?</p> <p>7 Madam Secretary, please call your roll on</p> <p>8 the motion.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>12 MR. DIVILIO: Nay.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>16 MR. LESHER: Nay.</p> <p>17 MR. PACK: Second matter I'm asking for an</p> <p>18 adjustment in the agenda is dealing with House</p> <p>19 Bill 999. If Council remembers, we took this</p> <p>20 matter up during our bill night. Council took</p> <p>21 a position of no position.</p>	<p>1 drafted or included in the bill.</p> <p>2 MR. LESHER: Mr. Pack, the Office of Law.</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Yes, sir.</p> <p>4 MR. KUPERSMITH: Mr. Pack, the motion</p> <p>5 would need to be made by someone other than the</p> <p>6 chair or you can pass the gavel.</p> <p>7 MR. PACK: I didn't do that. I do</p> <p>8 apologize. I'm passing the gravel to</p> <p>9 Mr. Callahan. My motion still stands. I do</p> <p>10 apologize for not doing that.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: So the motion would be to</p> <p>12 not discuss it at this meeting?</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: Right. Madam Secretary, please</p> <p>14 call your roll.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>16 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>18 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p>

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1 MR. LESHER: Nay.

2 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Callahan.

3 So Madam Secretary, please make the

4 amendment to the agenda that House Bill 999

5 will be omitted from the agenda this evening.

6 Thank you.

7 Is there any other additional additions,

8 deletions, or corrections to the agenda?

9 Hearing none, the chair moves that the agenda

10 is now accepted by unanimous consent as

11 changed.

12 Council, you will also notice that you

13 have minutes from February the 11st. We had an

14 opportunity to review those minutes. Are there

15 any additions, deletions, or corrections to

16 those minutes? Hearing none, the chair moves

17 that those minutes be accepted with unanimous

18 consent.

19 Moving on, Council, you also have

20 disbursements from March the 3rd and March the

21 10th. You had an opportunity to speak with

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1 Ms. Lane, our fiscal officer, about those

2 disbursements. The chair would ask if there's

3 any addition, deletion, or correction to those

4 disbursements? Hearing none, the chair moves

5 that they be accepted with unanimous consent.

6 Thank you very much, Council.

7 Moving on, item number five you have is a

8 proclamation for Developmental Disabilities

9 Awareness Month in March 2020. And we have

10 Ms. --

11 MS. HARRISON: (inaudible) come forward?

12 MR. PACK: Ms. Donna, why don't you come

13 up to take the table and bring whomever you

14 wish to bring with you.

15 MS. HARRISON: Anybody that wants to come

16 up.

17 MR. PACK: Come on up.

18 MS. HARRISON: Right here?

19 MR. PACK: Yes. Then we'll hear from you

20 first before you make the proclamation. You

21 can tell us a little bit about -- have a seat,

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1 have a seat.

2 MS. HARRISON: Good evening. I'm Donna

3 Harrison, president of Chesapeake Center.

4 Chesapeake Center has been in operation 52

5 years. We're a proud business partner in

6 Talbot County, employing about 150 staff folks

7 and serving about 150 individuals with

8 developmental disabilities from Talbot County

9 and Easton.

10 So March is Developmental Disabilities

11 Awareness Month. We're proud to be here

12 tonight and very honored to accept a

13 proclamation on behalf of some board members,

14 some staff members, and some individuals that

15 we provide services to.

16 So thank you for the honor.

17 MR. PACK: Thank you for Chesapeake Center

18 for all that you're doing here for the citizens

19 of Talbot County.

20 MS. HARRISON: Thank you.

21 MR. PACK: We certainly appreciate your

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1 efforts.

2 MS. HARRISON: Thank you.

3 MR. PACK: In many, many ways.

4 And Candice, good to see you as well.

5 Madam Secretary, would you mind reading

6 the proclamation at this time.

7 SECRETARY: Proclamation, Developmental

8 Disabilities Awareness Month, March 2020.

9 Whereas, we believe in a Talbot County

10 which recognizes the unlimited potential for

11 all its citizens, including those with

12 developmental disabilities who live, work, and

13 thrive in our community.

14 And whereas, Developmental Disabilities

15 Awareness Month is an opportunity to recognize

16 the importance of ensuring inclusive

17 environments with equal access to

18 communication, education, employment, housing,

19 transportation, and public accommodations.

20 And whereas, Talbot County support those

21 with developmental disabilities to make their

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<p>1 own decisions, live where and with whomever</p> <p>2 they choose, and to receive the support they</p> <p>3 need to be successful, productive, and</p> <p>4 independent members of the community.</p> <p>5 And whereas, we are changing Talbot County</p> <p>6 for the better by promoting equality of</p> <p>7 opportunity, access, and choice for residents</p> <p>8 with developmental disabilities and are</p> <p>9 committed to the promise of a Talbot County in</p> <p>10 which all people with developmental</p> <p>11 disabilities have the knowledge, opportunity,</p> <p>12 and influence to make a difference in their</p> <p>13 lives and the lives of others.</p> <p>14 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of</p> <p>15 Talbot County, do hereby recognize 2020 as the</p> <p>16 30th anniversary of the passing of the American</p> <p>17 with Disabilities Act and proclaim March 2020</p> <p>18 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month</p> <p>19 in Talbot County and urge all citizens to</p> <p>20 recognize that our community is stronger when</p> <p>21 everybody participates.</p>	<p>1 at the Talbot County Free Library until</p> <p>2 March the 21st. And those are art submissions</p> <p>3 by folks from the Chesapeake Center, the Ark,</p> <p>4 and the Benedictine.</p> <p>5 And today was our last event for</p> <p>6 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.</p> <p>7 MR. PACK: Thank you for letting us know</p> <p>8 about that.</p> <p>9 MS. HARRISON: Well, thank you.</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: We have a second. We have a</p> <p>11 motion and a second. Madam Secretary, please</p> <p>12 call the roll.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>14 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>16 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>21 MR. PACK: Thank you. And if you wouldn't</p>
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<p>1 Given under our hands in the great seal of</p> <p>2 Talbot County this 10th day of March in the</p> <p>3 year of our Lord, 2020.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Madam</p> <p>5 Secretary.</p> <p>6 Is there a motion?</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Motion.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: Motion to accept the</p> <p>9 proclamation. Made by Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHNER: Second.</p> <p>11 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Any</p> <p>12 further discussion?</p> <p>13 Donna, are you all doing anything special</p> <p>14 this month that we need to know about for the</p> <p>15 public?</p> <p>16 MS. HARRISON: We have had three previous</p> <p>17 events. We were at the Town Council at the</p> <p>18 beginning of the month and a business seminar</p> <p>19 on Friday about inclusivity for people with</p> <p>20 disabilities in the workplace.</p> <p>21 We have an art display that's on exhibit</p>	<p>1 mind coming down in front and joining</p> <p>2 Mr. Divilio, he's going to make the</p> <p>3 presentation to you all.</p> <p>4 MS. HARRISON: Okay. Come on up, peeps.</p> <p>5 MR. PACK: Come on up.</p> <p>6 Did you want somebody to take that picture</p> <p>7 for you?</p> <p>8 MS. HARRISON: Yes, I do.</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: Who do we have out there to</p> <p>10 help her?</p> <p>11 SPEAKER: I can take it.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Can you take it? Thank you,</p> <p>13 Suzie.</p> <p>14 MS. HARRISON: Thank you so much.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: Council, next on your agenda</p> <p>16 you'll notice you have a proclamation for</p> <p>17 AmeriCorps Week, which is March the 8th through</p> <p>18 March the 14th. Who do we have -- oh, I'm</p> <p>19 sorry. We don't have anyone. That's right.</p> <p>20 We just have a proclamation.</p> <p>21 Madam Secretary, would you mind reading</p>

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1 the proclamation.

2 SECRETARY: Proclamation, AmeriCorps Week,

3 March 8th through the 14th, 2020.

4 Whereas, AmeriCorps provides opportunities

5 for nearly 75,000 Americans to serve their

6 country through an intensive commitment to

7 service and nonprofits, schools, public

8 agencies, and community and faith-based groups

9 across the nation.

10 And whereas, AmeriCorps members encourage

11 collaboration and partnerships, leverage

12 millions of volunteers and service and acquire

13 the support of business partners to increase

14 the effectiveness of their initiatives.

15 And whereas, in Maryland more than 6,800

16 AmeriCorps members of various ages and

17 background help to meet the local needs at more

18 than 700 locations in the state by tutoring or

19 mentoring children and youth, supporting

20 veterans and military families, combating the

21 opioid epidemic, restoring the environment, and

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1 responding to diasters.

2 And whereas, in exchange for their

3 service, AmeriCorps members develop valuable

4 work skills, earn money for continuing

5 education, and strength the lives of their

6 families, communities, and the State of

7 Maryland as a whole.

8 And whereas, since AmeriCorps was founded

9 in 1994, more than 28,000 AmeriCorps members in

10 Maryland have served more than 39 million hours

11 and qualified for the Segal AmeriCorps

12 Education Awards totaling more than

13 \$93.5 million.

14 And whereas, AmeriCorps Week is an

15 opportunity to recognize the dedication and

16 commitment of the more than 1 million Americans

17 who have chosen to serve their country and

18 their community partners through AmeriCorps and

19 to encourage more Americans to follow their

20 footsteps in service.

21 Therefore, we, the County Council of

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1 Talbot County, do hereby recognize March 8th

2 through the 14th, 2020, as AmeriCorps Week in

3 Talbot County, urge all our citizens to thank

4 AmeriCorps members and alumni for their

5 service, and encourage more Americans to find

6 ways to give back to their communities.

7 Given under our hands in the great seal of

8 Talbot County this 10th day of March in the

9 year of our Lord, 2020.

10 MR. PACK: Thank you, Madam Secretary.

11 The chair would entertain a motion at this

12 time on the proclamation.

13 MR. LESHER: So moved.

14 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Leshner.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.

16 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Callahan. Any

17 further discussion?

18 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call

19 your roll.

20 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.

21 MR. PACK: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.

2 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.

3 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

5 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.

6 MS. PRICE: Aye.

7 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

8 MR. LESHER: Aye.

9 MR. PACK: Since we don't have anyone here

10 to accept this, we'll make sure that this gets

11 to that party at a later date.

12 Council, moving on on your agenda, we are

13 now going to hear from our finance officer,

14 Ms. Lane. Is she somewhere out there? This is

15 going to be a presentation for recommendation

16 of the Property Tax Referendum Committee.

17 And I know we have several members of the

18 committee here present.

19 MS. LANE: There are quite a few members.

20 MR. PACK: Yes. Thank you very much.

21 And Ms. Lane will give us the background

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1 about this committee before she goes into her
 2 presentation. Ms. Botkin, good to see you
 3 there as well. Thank you for showing up.
 4 And Ms. Lane, I'm going to turn it over to
 5 you.
 6 MS. LANE: Good evening, County Council.
 7 This is a presentation by the Talbot County
 8 Property Tax Referendum Committee.
 9 This committee was formed back in the
 10 early fall by the County Council, and we were
 11 actually charged with reviewing the county's
 12 current property tax revenue cap and to make
 13 recommendations to the County Council for
 14 possible amendments to the revenue cap. That
 15 was our charge.
 16 We started meeting in October of 2019. We
 17 just wrapped up last week with our final
 18 meeting before this presentation to the County
 19 Council.
 20 The members were a very diverse group and
 21 a very engaged group. All of the members were

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1 very actively involved in this committee.
 2 Their commitment was amazing. The members were
 3 William Boos from the Town of St. Michael's;
 4 Earl Chance from the Talbot County Volunteer
 5 Fire and Rescue Association; Pamela Clay, who
 6 was appointed as an at-large member, Susan
 7 Delean-Botkin from the Talbot County Board of
 8 Board; Ron Engle from the Town of Easton; Joe
 9 Gamble, Talbot County sheriff, Kelly Griffith,
 10 superintendent of the Talbot County Public
 11 Schools; Ron Johnson, representing veterans
 12 organizations; Henry Leonard, who is another
 13 at-large representative; Brad Miller from the
 14 Talbot County Tax Payers Association; Corey
 15 Pack from the Talbot County Council; Laura
 16 Price from the Talbot County Council; Clay
 17 Stamp from Talbot County Emergency Services;
 18 Phil Starky from Talbot County Volunteer Fire
 19 and Rescue Association; and I was appointed
 20 staff member to the committee.
 21 We were obviously charged with reviewing

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1 the current tax cap, and we were asked to make
 2 recommendations to the County Council about
 3 possible amendments.
 4 We did review the current tax cap. And
 5 the committee has the following recommendations
 6 to the Talbot County Council.
 7 The first is the committee believes that
 8 the current property tax rate does need to be
 9 changed.
 10 The second is that the ballot question
 11 needs to be simple and understandable.
 12 Third is that there needs to be an
 13 education campaign to inform the voters of the
 14 county's need for additional revenues.
 15 And fourth, the committee is recommending
 16 that the County Council should send a letter to
 17 the citizens of Talbot County endorsing any
 18 proposed change to the tax cap.
 19 So our first recommendation is that the
 20 current property tax cap needs to be changed.
 21 And how we arrived at that decision was

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1 determined that the county could not adequately
 2 address the needs of the citizens with the
 3 current tax structure. Public safety demands
 4 exceed current available resources,
 5 particularly in the following areas.
 6 Law enforcement. The inability to attract
 7 and retain qualified individuals due to
 8 inadequate salaries and benefits.
 9 Emergency medical services cannot meet
 10 critical response times without additional
 11 24-hour units in underserved areas.
 12 Road infrastructure. County roads were
 13 not designed for the current traffic volume.
 14 Many roads need to be rebuilt to address safety
 15 concerns.
 16 And we have the inability to address the
 17 capital needs of the schools, sheriff,
 18 paramedic, which is emergency medical services
 19 stations, Health Department, and the library.
 20 The following chart just shows our
 21 property tax rate from 1998 to 2020, our

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1 current rate. If you notice back in the late
 2 '90s, our tax rate was, the county's real
 3 property tax rate was 55.6 cents. It actually
 4 decreased. It decreased dramatically because
 5 of the impact of what our cap forces the county
 6 to do.
 7 When assessments increase, we're limited
 8 to how much additional revenues we can generate
 9 each year. So we actually decrease our rate
 10 during times of increasing assessments. We do
 11 generate additional revenues, but unlike most
 12 jurisdictions where they might have decreased
 13 their rate, our rate decreased 12.4 cents
 14 during this time period. That's a pretty
 15 significant decrease.
 16 And Council may have decided to decrease
 17 property tax rates during that time when
 18 revenues were increases and assessments were
 19 increasing, but that was over a 22 percent
 20 decrease in our property tax rate. And it
 21 actually took us 16 years, from 2002 to 2018,

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1 to get back up to a comparable rate to what our
 2 property tax rate was in 1998.
 3 That's pretty dramatic, and it obviously
 4 has a dramatic effect on the revenues generated
 5 during that time span.
 6 MR. LESHER: Ms. Lane, for those who can't
 7 see the fine print from a distance, you might
 8 note that the recent year is on the left of
 9 this chart, the oldest year is on the right of
 10 the chart.
 11 MS. LANE: Yes.
 12 MR. LESHER: It's not in the usual left to
 13 right chronology. It's reversed.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Ours is.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Ours is. Theirs is not.
 16 MR. PACK: For whatever reason, ours is
 17 flipped over. Yours is good, but ours is
 18 flipped.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Theirs is fine.
 20 MS. PRICE: It is different.
 21 MS. LANE: Yeah. We redid them.

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1 MR. LESHER: Okay.
 2 MS. LANE: The right-hand side is the
 3 current year, 2020. And our current rate is
 4 63.72 cents.
 5 MR. LESHER: I stand corrected. Sorry for
 6 that.
 7 MS. LANE: The next slide shows the impact
 8 of CPIU qualifier. We are --
 9 MS. BOTKIN: Again, theirs is reversed.
 10 MS. LANE: Yeah. Yours is reversed, ours
 11 is corrected.
 12 MR. PACK: Right.
 13 MS. LANE: The way our tax cap works is we
 14 have a qualifier. We cannot generate revenues
 15 above two percent or CPIU, whichever is less.
 16 So on your chart, the blue line is the
 17 two percent. So that's the maximum amount our
 18 revenues can increase from one year to the next
 19 if the CPIU is above two percent. But what
 20 this chart shows is a number of years where
 21 clearly the CPIU is below the two percent

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1 level. And in fact, in 2010, CPIU was
 2 .1 percent. So in that year, we could only
 3 increase our revenues by .1 percent, which is
 4 neglectable for property taxes.
 5 And in the last 11 years, CPIU has been
 6 less than two percent seven times. Again, this
 7 puts additional constraints on the ability to
 8 generate property tax revenues for services
 9 that are needed in the county.
 10 And this chart is just over the last seven
 11 years. It shows what the CPIU was and what the
 12 real property tax revenue increase that was
 13 allowed. Again, in the last seven years, which
 14 is a smaller time frame, CPIU was less than
 15 two percent five times. And this has, again,
 16 hindered the county from generating adequate
 17 revenues to maintain services to our citizens.
 18 MR. LESHER: Ms. Lane, when inflation is
 19 below that two percent, we can only keep up
 20 with the rate of inflation. We do keep up with
 21 the rate of inflation.

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1 When the rate of inflation is above that
2 number, we're actually not keeping up with
3 inflation.
4 MS. LANE: Right.
5 MR. LESHHER: We're capped at two percent.
6 MS. LANE: But unfortunately, inflation
7 doesn't really impact what counties buy.
8 Counties don't buy food and gasoline and
9 consumables.
10 We're buying ambulances, we're buying
11 labor, we're buying police officers, we're
12 buying specialize emergency services personnel.
13 They don't really fit into an inflationary
14 measure.
15 MS. PRICE: For those that don't know, CPI
16 is consumer price index. So that is really
17 more product based as opposed to labor based.
18 MS. LANE: So that's part of the problem.
19 It's not really a good indicator of what
20 expenses a government has compared to what
21 expenses a household has. They're very

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1 different, and it's really not a great
2 indicator of how government expenses are going
3 to trend as opposed to a household's expenses.
4 So that was some background.
5 The next area that the committee dealt on
6 was that the ballot question needs to be simple
7 and understandable. And they actually, the
8 committee is actually recommending that the
9 County Council place three questions on the
10 ballot in November to address the following
11 areas.
12 The first one is to address additional
13 revenues. The second one is to address the
14 CPIU qualifier. And third is to address the
15 Charter language.
16 The last time a question was placed on the
17 ballot, all three items were in one question.
18 So if you didn't understand any part of it or
19 didn't like one part of it, the voters were
20 going to say no. And particularly, the Charter
21 language clarification is a very complex

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1 concept and we know that people did not
2 understand that. There was not enough
3 education around that.
4 So the committee feels very strongly that
5 these need to be broken out into separate
6 questions. Then the voters can decide which
7 ones they like and can vote for or which ones
8 they don't and can vote against. And they
9 don't have to sort of say well, I don't like
10 one piece of that question, so I'm going to
11 vote no, even if they were comfortable with
12 voting yes on another part of the question.
13 MR. CALLAHAN: Angela, will it take all
14 three questions? Do they have to all be the
15 same answer to pass?
16 MS. LANE: No. They'll be three
17 different.
18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
19 MR. LESHHER: Presumably any one of these
20 will provide at least some measure of relief.
21 MS. PRICE: Well, except the Charter

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1 language clarification has nothing to --
2 MR. PACK: To clarify.
3 MS. LANE: Clarification. That's just to
4 clarify really how we calculate the increase in
5 revenues from one year to the next.
6 So where we're going through is on
7 additional revenues. And the committee
8 actually came up with three options to consider
9 for additional revenues, and we have suggested
10 ballot question language for each option.
11 So the first option is option A. And the
12 committee is recommending that the County
13 Council consider a question option that would
14 eliminate the tax cap, eliminate it totally.
15 Most governments do not have the constraints of
16 a tax cap. We are definitely in the minority.
17 If the tax cap is eliminated, then we will just
18 operate like most governments where the County
19 Council will set a rate that they think is
20 appropriate to generate the revenues necessary
21 to operate the government.

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1 The suggested language for this question
 2 would be eliminate the real property tax
 3 revenue cap from the Talbot County Charter
 4 section 614, or remove the real property tax
 5 revenue cap from the Talbot County Charter
 6 section 614.

7 We tried to work at specific words that
 8 were clear and hopefully non-threatening to
 9 individuals when they would consider a ballot
 10 question. The committee actually spent a fair
 11 amount of time looking at very specific words.

12 The second option that the committee wants
 13 to propose to the Council for additional
 14 revenues is to modify the annual percentage
 15 increase of real property tax revenues to
 16 three percent per year. So going from the two
 17 percent to three percent.

18 So suggested language for a ballot
 19 question for additional revenues is alter the
 20 cap on revenues generated by real estate taxes
 21 from two percent to three percent, or revise

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1 the cap on revenues generated by real estate
 2 taxes from two percent to three percent, or
 3 another option is modify the cap on revenues
 4 generated by real estate taxes from two percent
 5 to three percent. And the third --

6 MR. PACK: I got that, Susie.

7 MS. LANE: Yes. We're giving you three
 8 options. It's up to the Council obviously to
 9 decide what they want to --

10 MS. PRICE: They're identical except for
 11 the first word; alter, revise, or modify.

12 MS. LANE: Right.

13 And then the third option that we would
 14 like Council to consider, option C, is to allow
 15 the County Council to add an additional cent to
 16 the property tax rate every year for the next
 17 five fiscal years.

18 And the suggested language for this ballot
 19 question is permit the County Council to add
 20 one-cent increase -- sorry. Permit the County
 21 Council to add a one-cent increase above the

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1 tax cap limit in each of the next five fiscal
 2 years beginning July 1, 2021.

3 And permit is a very important word we
 4 believe. It isn't required. It's up to the
 5 Council. Council could add the penny if this
 6 is an option that Council were to put on the
 7 ballot, but it wouldn't have to be done every
 8 year. It would be up to the Council each year
 9 to decide if they are going to add it. But if
 10 this were put on the ballot and approved by the
 11 voters, it would allow an additional one cent
 12 above what would be allowed under the cap to be
 13 added for five fiscal years.

14 MS. PRICE: Question. If we skipped a
 15 year, we don't get five bites at the apple. So
 16 if we skipped a year, we would only maybe get
 17 four cents out of it?

18 MS. LANE: Right.

19 MS. PRICE: That's something maybe we
 20 should discuss up here and saying up to five
 21 times or something like that. If there was a

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1 year we had a good year or something and we
 2 didn't need to do it and we skipped a year but
 3 the following year we needed to. Anyway.

4 MS. LANE: Obviously, we're making
 5 suggestions. Council will finally come up with
 6 what is the final language and what options
 7 actually end up on the ballot.

8 The second area, second question deals
 9 with the CPIU qualifier. And the
 10 recommendation of the committee is that the
 11 CPIU qualifier language be removed from the tax
 12 cap.

13 And the suggested language for this is
 14 eliminate consumer price index urban, CPIU, as
 15 a lesser alternative cap.

16 And if this is added as a ballot question
 17 and voted in, it would eliminate those years
 18 where the rate, the CPIU, would actually be
 19 higher than two percent. Well, it would enable
 20 us to either stay at the two percent or go up
 21 to three percent if that ends up being a ballot

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1 question too.
 2 Right now, we're at two percent
 3 limitation. If the CPIU is taken off, every
 4 year the Council would have the ability to at
 5 least generate two percent if there are no
 6 other changes to the ballot, to the tax cap
 7 based on ballot questions. And that way we
 8 wouldn't have those particularly low spikes,
 9 which really do hurt us.
 10 MS. PRICE: But if that one doesn't pass,
 11 we can do none of the first option? Or can we
 12 do -- okay. So if CPIU, if the voters said no
 13 to that.
 14 MS. LANE: Then it would stay at the
 15 two percent.
 16 MS. PRICE: What about the penny?
 17 MS. LANE: If the penny ends up going on
 18 the question and is voted, ends up being the
 19 ballot question and is voted favorably by the
 20 citizens, that is above any other -- above the
 21 tax cap.

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1 MS. PRICE: So if CPIU failed.
 2 MS. LANE: If CPIU were to fail.
 3 MS. PRICE: But we did the penny, could we
 4 still add the penny?
 5 MS. LANE: Yes, if that passed.
 6 MS. PRICE: But if we choose the option
 7 going from two percent to three percent and the
 8 CPIU fails, we can't do anything.
 9 MR. PACK: You got three percent.
 10 MS. LANE: If the CPIU fails --
 11 MS. PRICE: No. If the CPIU fails.
 12 MS. LANE: And you do the two percent to
 13 three percent, if the three percent were to
 14 pass, then we could go up to three percent in
 15 years whether CPIU is above three percent.
 16 MR. PACK: Right. The ceiling is moved up
 17 from two percent to three percent.
 18 MS. LANE: Between two and three percent.
 19 MR. PACK: The lesser of the two. So if
 20 CPIU is four and you add three, now you can get
 21 three.

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1 MS. LANE: Right. So there would still be
 2 some potential room to generate additional
 3 revenues in that option.
 4 And then the third area is clarification
 5 on the Charter language. And this is really to
 6 clarify how we actually have to calculate the
 7 increase that's allowed under the cap each
 8 year.
 9 So the suggested language for this is to
 10 change the wording in the Talbot County Charter
 11 section 614 from notwithstanding any other
 12 provisions of this article, from and after
 13 July 1, 1997, revenues derived from taxes on
 14 properties existing on the county real property
 15 tax rolls at the commencement of the county
 16 fiscal year, two, notwithstanding any other
 17 provisions of this article from and after
 18 July 1, 2019, revenues derived from taxes on
 19 properties included in the constant yield tax
 20 rate certification prepared by the Maryland
 21 State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

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1 Basically the words that are in bold in
 2 the first paragraph, that's what we want to
 3 change from and the bottom paragraph is what we
 4 want to change to.
 5 And we actually would suggest that if it
 6 is possible to have the bolding on a ballot
 7 question, that that would be included, again,
 8 to make it clear to an individual reading it to
 9 say oh, we're going to change this to this, and
 10 they can see the exact wording of what is
 11 changing easily.
 12 MS. PRICE: And if they can't bold it,
 13 could it be underlined?
 14 MS. LANE: Somehow or another we'd like it
 15 to be highlighted. We think that might make it
 16 more understandable.
 17 MR. PACK: Did we get an opportunity, I
 18 know Mr. Kupersmith brought this up at the last
 19 meeting, to talk to Ms. Cook about those
 20 questions?
 21 MR. KUPERSMITH: We'll reach out to her.

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<p>1 MR. PACK: We haven't had a chance to talk</p> <p>2 with her. Okay, okay.</p> <p>3 MS. BOTKIN: She referred us to the Ethics</p> <p>4 Board, and we have a call into them.</p> <p>5 MR. PACK: So she kicked it down to the</p> <p>6 Ethics Board?</p> <p>7 MS. BOTKIN: Yes, sir.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: Okay. I understand. I don't</p> <p>9 know why.</p> <p>10 MS. LANE: And then the final phase of our</p> <p>11 recommendations to the County Council is that</p> <p>12 there needs to be an education campaign. Once</p> <p>13 the Council determines on ballot questions what</p> <p>14 they are, then we can develop an education</p> <p>15 campaign.</p> <p>16 But the education campaign would need to</p> <p>17 inform the voters of the critical needs and</p> <p>18 costs of services that are not being adequately</p> <p>19 provided. This education campaign would need</p> <p>20 to explain how additional enhanced services</p> <p>21 benefit all the citizens of the county,</p>	<p>1 this committee has been. I have been so</p> <p>2 impressed by the level of involvement they have</p> <p>3 all had throughout this process.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: I couldn't agree with you more.</p> <p>5 This committee, as you said before, very</p> <p>6 eclectic, very diverse, all engaged, all</p> <p>7 willing to roll up their sleeves and work</p> <p>8 together.</p> <p>9 There were no Is in the room. There were</p> <p>10 all team members in the room, and they all</p> <p>11 shared in with the process.</p> <p>12 So to each and every one of you, from the</p> <p>13 sheriff, I know Superintendent Griffith is not</p> <p>14 here with us today, but Susan, please pass that</p> <p>15 onto her as well, to all the members from Tax</p> <p>16 Payers Association to the Fire Association,</p> <p>17 thank you very much for your input.</p> <p>18 This is the first step what you did.</p> <p>19 Hopefully Council this evening will give some</p> <p>20 direction to you tonight because the next step</p> <p>21 is going to be the big part in my opinion.</p>
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<p>1 regardless of where they live.</p> <p>2 And finally, the message needs to be the</p> <p>3 same and consistent regardless of who is</p> <p>4 delivering the message. So we would recommend</p> <p>5 that there is one education campaign, one</p> <p>6 message, one group of data that goes out and is</p> <p>7 available to every group at town meetings, at</p> <p>8 community meetings, however the message is</p> <p>9 disbursed, but that it be very clear and</p> <p>10 consistent so you don't have different people</p> <p>11 focused on different areas. It needs to be</p> <p>12 very consistent.</p> <p>13 And that wraps up the presentation. So I</p> <p>14 don't know if you have questions.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: Well, first of all, if I could</p> <p>16 ask, Ms. Lane, if the members of your committee</p> <p>17 that are here with you wouldn't mind standing</p> <p>18 up to be recognized by Council and by the</p> <p>19 public.</p> <p>20 MS. LANE: We have quite a few.</p> <p>21 And I cannot emphasize enough how engaged</p>	<p>1 I believe that last slide you just showed</p> <p>2 up about having one unified, one consistent</p> <p>3 message is going to be very, very important.</p> <p>4 So no matter what group a citizen is in front</p> <p>5 of, they're hearing the same message. So if</p> <p>6 they're at a tax payers sponsored event,</p> <p>7 they're hearing the same message. If they're</p> <p>8 at a Sheriff's Department sponsored event,</p> <p>9 they're hearing the same message. I think</p> <p>10 that's very, very important as we go through</p> <p>11 this process.</p> <p>12 Let me just add a footnote. Anyone who is</p> <p>13 here for the public hearing at 6:30, of course,</p> <p>14 you should not be surprised, we're late. So we</p> <p>15 will get to the public hearing as soon as we</p> <p>16 possibly can.</p> <p>17 So Council, you have the recommendations</p> <p>18 of your committee in front of you. You have</p> <p>19 three options.</p> <p>20 Option A Ms. Lane just laid out and I'm</p> <p>21 going to ask her and Ms. Botkin to stay put as</p>

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1 we go through this in case we have any
 2 questions of them. And what we can do is just
 3 have conversation through this as we go through
 4 it.
 5 If any member wanted to go first on option
 6 one, the chair would yield to that member.
 7 MS. PRICE: We're just going to discuss
 8 tonight and then come back in two weeks after
 9 we've all sat on it for a while?
 10 MR. PACK: We could do it that way. We
 11 can just have some general discussion, maybe
 12 kind of point them in the direction we may be
 13 leaning towards. And then when we come back
 14 on -- what's our next meeting date?
 15 SECRETARY: 24th.
 16 MR. PACK: The 24th. We'll make a formal
 17 recommendation on the 24th.
 18 So again, as I go through it, any Council
 19 member have any leaning on option A?
 20 MR. LESHER: I simply have a question
 21 first.

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1 MR. PACK: Sure.
 2 MR. LESHER: Which is you've given us
 3 three different options for additional
 4 revenues. Did any one of these come forward
 5 with -- you're giving us a menu rather than a
 6 single recommendation.
 7 Did any one of these come with a unanimous
 8 recommendation? Is there a reason why we're
 9 looking at these three different options
 10 instead of a single recommendation from the
 11 committee?
 12 MS. LANE: I think we felt that we were
 13 charged with making recommendations, as opposed
 14 to making. . .
 15 MR. PACK: The decision.
 16 MS. LANE: One recommendation that would,
 17 yeah, be the decision. I think we felt our
 18 charge was to give Council options of how to
 19 approach a ballot question.
 20 MR. PACK: Ms. Leshner, that question did
 21 come up. And Ms. Lane is absolutely correct.

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1 The board took their charge correctly, was to
 2 give us an option of -- a menu of options I
 3 should say to select from.
 4 As Ms. Lane said, many counties in
 5 Maryland, they do not have a property tax cap.
 6 I think there's only five, three, there's only
 7 three. There's only three with the cap.
 8 So although option A may be to the far
 9 right or left, depending on which way you
 10 swing, as an option, the board I think was
 11 rightly so to give you that option to select
 12 from because 21 of 24 counties have no cap.
 13 MS. PRICE: I think what we have to
 14 consider is what is going to be palatable to
 15 the citizens, which option A, while 21 of 24
 16 don't have one, I think everybody would
 17 probably agree that that will never pass in
 18 Talbot County.
 19 MS. BOTKIN: Well, we didn't know that for
 20 sure. That's why we gave you the options.
 21 But I think it should be noted that when

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1 you decide what you decide, if you use option A
 2 as part of it, then there's going to have to be
 3 the or part B. I don't think we made that
 4 totally clear. If you're going to eliminate
 5 the tax cap, then we aren't going to modify the
 6 annual percentage rates.
 7 MR. PACK: Right, right.
 8 MS. BOTKIN: I just wanted to point that
 9 out.
 10 MR. PACK: Because once the cap is
 11 removed, then your rates start to float as
 12 according to the Council year by year.
 13 MS. BOTKIN: Right.
 14 MS. LANE: Right.
 15 MR. PACK: Correct. That's a good point,
 16 Susan. Thank you.
 17 MR. DIVILIO: I'd like to just piggyback
 18 off of what Mr. Leshner just said in reverse.
 19 Was there any group that was very against
 20 just removing CPI?
 21 MS. PRICE: It wasn't the way the

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1 committee worked. Corey and I were there.
 2 They didn't really discuss the merits and say
 3 we like this one better than another.
 4 We just put them all on there for us
 5 to. . .
 6 MS. LANE: There was some general
 7 discussion thought that CPIU isn't really a
 8 good indicator of what governments buy and how
 9 our costs change.
 10 But we didn't -- there wasn't really a
 11 lengthy discussion. I think most of the
 12 committee is comfortable with eliminating that
 13 CPIU qualifier. I don't know that I could say
 14 all because we never had a formal poll.
 15 MR. DIVILIO: Just looking at the charts,
 16 I mean that almost seems like a glaring problem
 17 that was showing there. Simplest fix.
 18 MS. LANE: It is a problem. It has been a
 19 problem recently.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: So Ms. Price, you were
 21 saying that you don't think option A would

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1 be --
 2 MS. PRICE: Well, I mean considering where
 3 we were two years ago when we were deciding
 4 what ballot question to put on and making sure
 5 that we have support, we were trying to decide
 6 between two and a half and three percent.
 7 And the feeling at the end of the day was
 8 that three percent was going to have a hard
 9 time passing. So we settled on two and a half
 10 percent but then incorporated the penny, which
 11 actually a penny is more than a half a percent.
 12 So that would have been a good option. We
 13 might want to talk about that one again.
 14 But we couldn't even get to three percent
 15 up here on the Council because there were
 16 groups that felt like three percent was going
 17 to have a hard time passing, let alone
 18 unlimited.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: So option A is very sort of
 20 very simple. And at the end of the day, that's
 21 what we're trying to achieve, to eliminate or

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1 remove.
 2 So you're recommending that that just
 3 wouldn't pass if that was written that way?
 4 That's what you're saying?
 5 MS. PRICE: Well, again, based on the fact
 6 that we couldn't get support from people going
 7 all the way up to three percent, which is going
 8 to be the next option we talk about, unlimited
 9 in my opinion is unlikely to pass if we
 10 couldn't even get to three percent.
 11 We couldn't even get two and a half
 12 percent plus a penny to pass.
 13 Now, we think that part of the problem was
 14 that Charter language, as Angela explained in
 15 the beginning of the Powerpoint. There were so
 16 many things there, and people's eyes glazed
 17 over.
 18 I don't know that the problem with that
 19 particular amendment was the two and a half
 20 percent plus the penny. I think the problem
 21 with that amendment was the Charter language

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1 that people didn't understand. When they don't
 2 understand, they say no.
 3 But when we were up here as a Council, we
 4 couldn't -- we didn't even agree on
 5 three percent because I know the Tax Payers
 6 Association said they would have fought against
 7 it.
 8 And while Brad Miller, thank you, was on
 9 this committee, I think that they would
 10 probably have something to say if we went
 11 unlimited. I don't think they would be real
 12 supportive of that one.
 13 And we want them as a partner with us. We
 14 want all the groups that are out there and
 15 everybody working in the community to be
 16 comfortable with giving us some flexibility to
 17 go up.
 18 But unfettered thing I think is going to
 19 meet with some opposition. Not only from the
 20 Tax Payers Association, but certain citizens
 21 saying I'm on a fixed income.

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1 So I think we need to be reasonable with
 2 whatever we come up with here.
 3 MR. PACK: Okay. Again, that one I think,
 4 Ms. Price, kind of lays out the -- last year
 5 that question was so confusing, and many people
 6 approached me. They just didn't understand the
 7 question. And the question was very, very
 8 confusing the way it was written, the ballot
 9 question. And it had a lot of different steps
 10 to it.
 11 This is much simpler. It just streamlines
 12 it. Again, it is more towards the extreme of
 13 things, depending on which side of the room you
 14 sit on, to just eliminate the cap. Some people
 15 may not feel comfortable with that. But as an
 16 option, it is one option that the committee
 17 wanted to give us. It is probably the more
 18 extreme way to go at this time. So that's
 19 option A.
 20 Any questions on option B of Ms. Lane or
 21 the committee and your understanding of that

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1 one?
 2 That's to just basically go up from the
 3 two percent to the three percent. As Ms. Lane
 4 pointed out, should the CPIU still stay in
 5 place, if CPIU is at four, you would now
 6 capture three, as opposed to capturing only
 7 two. So this would give you a little bit more
 8 wiggle room.
 9 So that's where that one sits. Any
 10 question on that one? And you have the wording
 11 of those below.
 12 And then option C, want to put that one
 13 up, is the penny. I think a penny gives us
 14 700 -- what is a penny? 750, 720.
 15 MS. LANE: 725, \$735,000 a year.
 16 MR. PACK: So we're in that neighborhood.
 17 MS. PRICE: Backing up, currently, I know
 18 the percent will change, but what does a
 19 percent get us right now?
 20 MS. LANE: I don't have that number on the
 21 top of my head.

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1 MS. PRICE: Pennies are so easy to
 2 understand.
 3 MR. PACK: Penny would give you about --
 4 MS. PRICE: You can put a dollar figure on
 5 it.
 6 MS. LANE: I think the penny was equating
 7 close to two percent.
 8 MR. PACK: Okay. So that gives you a
 9 frame of reference.
 10 MR. LESHNER: Probably at two-thirds of a
 11 percentage.
 12 MR. PACK: Yeah, really.
 13 MS. LANE: It's different now.
 14 MS. PRICE: I guess the point is a penny
 15 gets us more than a percent.
 16 MS. LANE: A penny gets us approximately
 17 two percent.
 18 MR. PACK: So the answer is yes.
 19 MS. PRICE: Right. So the answer is yes.
 20 A penny actually gives us additional revenue
 21 rather than option B.

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1 MS. LANE: Right.
 2 MR. PACK: So that's --
 3 MS. LANE: In a vacuum.
 4 MS. BOTKIN: I think the committee wanted
 5 to give the Council an option to retain some of
 6 the losses that would have been gained when you
 7 saw those, the CPI influence and how deep and
 8 how long it took to get back from 2010. And
 9 even in the last two years, how much money,
 10 revenue, was lost because of that. By adding
 11 the penny to the two or the three percent,
 12 gives you another option to catch up.
 13 MS. PRICE: Right. Well, that's exactly
 14 what we had on the ballot a year and a half
 15 ago. We did two and a half percent with the
 16 penny because two and a half just sounds better
 17 than three.
 18 But again, it was the rest of the language
 19 that mucked that up.
 20 MR. PACK: So that would be a penny, which
 21 is the equivalence of about \$725, or roughly

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1 two percent, for five years.
 2 Again, it's not automatic. Council would
 3 have to vote that in place.
 4 C is the qualifier language, which should
 5 be a no-brainer altogether. How this ever got
 6 imposed as far as the consumer price index
 7 urban, which is the U part of that, is beyond
 8 me. This may be what the Council might want to
 9 take a real strong look at, in eliminating that
 10 one.
 11 MS. PRICE: I think probably that one and
 12 the language. I mean I would be ready to say
 13 yes, of course, those can go on.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Could we call that D?
 15 MR. PACK: Call what D?
 16 MR. DIVILIO: Just deleting CPIU.
 17 MR. PACK: Option D you mean?
 18 MR. DIVILIO: Yes. Because then we could
 19 go back to saying B and D, A and B.
 20 MS. PRICE: Well, so there's three ballot
 21 questions.

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1 So that question one has three options, A,
 2 B, and C.
 3 CPIU is ballot question number two.
 4 MR. PACK: It's a separate, stand-alone
 5 entity.
 6 MS. PRICE: Correct. The Charter language
 7 is ballot question number three.
 8 MR. DIVILIO: Okay.
 9 MS. PRICE: So they don't have --
 10 MR. PACK: If you go back to her first
 11 slide, Ms. Lane showed you there was three.
 12 They broke it up into three sections. The
 13 first section that Ms. Price was pointing out
 14 has three options within that first section to
 15 pick from.
 16 MS. PRICE: So we have no choice on ballot
 17 question two, CPIU, or ballot question three,
 18 the Charter.
 19 MR. PACK: There's only one option to pick
 20 from.
 21 MS. PRICE: So we're just saying yes or no

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1 to that.
 2 MR. PACK: Exactly. Those are your three
 3 actions there. Under additional revenue, they
 4 gave us three options under that one section.
 5 So finally, Council, we're looking at your
 6 Charter language, your legalese. This is
 7 Mr. Kupersmith, his part of this process.
 8 This language I believe has to be
 9 incorporated into the ballot question. There's
 10 no way around it. We asked many, many times
 11 can we just do away with this, can we just put
 12 an eraser towards it. But he kept on telling
 13 us no and throwing flags all around the place.
 14 So we're stuck with it.
 15 So you either have -- you see the changes
 16 in the wording there in bold. Any questions on
 17 that one?
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: So would this be after, the
 19 options and then this would be after?
 20 MR. PACK: This would be a stand-alone.
 21 MR. KUPERSMITH: This will be the

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1 separate, yeah, question number three, ballot
 2 question number three.
 3 MS. PRICE: And I think if people get
 4 confused on that and they vote no to that, it
 5 kind of covers us in a way because we've been
 6 doing it the way that -- the Charter language
 7 is different than in practice what works with
 8 the Department of SDAT.
 9 MS. LANE: Right.
 10 MS. PRICE: I mean there's no way to
 11 really do what it says right now. And so we've
 12 had to operate in a way with the way we collect
 13 the data for us. We have no choice.
 14 But we would like to incorporate it into
 15 the Charter.
 16 MS. LANE: Yeah. It would be good to get
 17 the language accurate.
 18 MR. PACK: Right.
 19 MS. PRICE: But at least we've asked.
 20 MR. PACK: So we won't get sued.
 21 So Council, that's all we have basically

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1 for this evening.
 2 Again, what we would like for us to do is
 3 if you go back to the first, the revenue
 4 questions, what I would ask of you to do is to
 5 take a look at that.
 6 You can always consult with Ms. Lane.
 7 And of those three options, which one is
 8 more palatable to you so when we come back for
 9 our next meeting, we make a selection on which
 10 one we want to go forward with.
 11 I think question two and three are pretty
 12 standard. You only have one choice. So there
 13 you go with that.
 14 Again, Sheriff, thank you very, very much
 15 for taking out of your time to attend those
 16 meetings.
 17 Ron, your busy time. I know the Town
 18 Council was under very much stress with the
 19 passing of John and then you had
 20 Mr. Silverstein out on medical leave. So you
 21 guys are kind of shorthanded there. So thank

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1 you very much for stepping in. You were acting
 2 president at the time. So thanks, Ron, for
 3 doing that for us as well.
 4 Anything further from you or Ms. Botkin
 5 before we move on?
 6 MS. LANE: No. I think we'll wait for
 7 direction from you in two weeks --
 8 MS. PRICE: I think they can start putting
 9 your thinking caps on on how to market it
 10 because either way we're going to pick
 11 something.
 12 MR. PACK: We're going to give you
 13 something on our next meeting.
 14 MS. PRICE: So start working on the
 15 marketing materials and thoughts for that would
 16 be good.
 17 MR. LESHER: The plan to move forward is
 18 to do this at our next legislative session;
 19 this would not be a workshop?
 20 MR. PACK: Yeah.
 21 MR. LESHER: -- regular meeting.

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1 MR. PACK: Yeah. You have the committee
 2 representation here if you have any questions.
 3 Ms. Price and myself also sat on it. So we can
 4 answer any questions that you may have.
 5 Are we good?
 6 MS. PRICE: Do any of the committee
 7 members have anything that they. . .
 8 MR. PACK: Sheriff, do you have anything
 9 to say?
 10 SHERIFF GAMBLE: No, sir.
 11 MR. PACK: Ron, you good?
 12 MS. PRICE: Brad.
 13 MR. PACK: Brad, you good.
 14 MR. MILLER: Yeah, I will.
 15 MR. PACK: Come up, Brad.
 16 Mr. Starky for the Fire Association.
 17 MR. STARKY: I'm good. Thank you.
 18 Mr. Stamp, anything from emergency
 19 services? You're good, okay.
 20 MR. MILLER: I won't take a lot of your
 21 time.

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1 While you're thinking about this and
 2 talking amongst yourselves over the next two
 3 weeks, I think it's very critical that we not
 4 rush into making a final decision on this.
 5 There is tremendous uncertainty at the
 6 State level regarding the Kirwan Commission.
 7 We have no idea how that's going to play out.
 8 And honestly, I don't think we'll have a
 9 complete resolution to that issue prior to the
 10 November election. That could have tremendous
 11 impact on the local property tax.
 12 Our organization supported various
 13 initiatives last time in 2018. We actively
 14 supported those both with just hard work and
 15 financial support as well.
 16 It was roundly just defeated by the
 17 voters. It was not close. And there could be
 18 discussions about complicating language and all
 19 that.
 20 I just think this is going to be a very
 21 challenging issue, and I do not want us to rush

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1 into making a final decision on this without
 2 really considering all the issues.
 3 If we are defeated again in this in 2020,
 4 I think losing two times in two years is going
 5 to make it very difficult for us to go back to
 6 the voters anytime in the near future.
 7 So as I said before, I just urge that we
 8 not rush into a final thing.
 9 Councilman Divilio, I think your idea is a
 10 good one. We very much support sticking just
 11 to the CPIU.
 12 I agree with you, Council President, that
 13 should never have been involved. That's a
 14 terrible index to use for the costs of the
 15 county.
 16 It deals with -- I just hope that we can
 17 come to an agreement. We want to be a part of
 18 the solution. We do not want to be against
 19 what you do.
 20 And that's it. I'm happy to answer any
 21 question you may have for me. I just wanted to

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1 quickly talk.
 2 MR. PACK: Thanks very much, Brad. And
 3 you've been at every meeting. So you have been
 4 a part of this process all along the way. We
 5 want to thank you very much for that as well.
 6 MR. MILLER: Thank you.
 7 MR. PACK: From the Town of St. Michael's,
 8 Council president, you have anything you want
 9 to add?
 10 MR. BOOS: No. Thank you.
 11 MR. PACK: Thank you very much for being
 12 here with us as well.
 13 Again, committee members, thank you very
 14 much. We will ask if any of you can come back
 15 next meeting. We'll have a decision on that
 16 first question, either A, B, or C. And then
 17 we'll give that to you all to go forward on.
 18 Okay. So you will have a decision at the next
 19 meeting.
 20 MS. LANE: Thank you.
 21 MR. PACK: Thank you, Ms. Lane. Okay.

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1 Council, we're now moving onto item number
 2 eight, which is a presentation on the Talbot
 3 County Hunger Coalition 2020. This is a
 4 Resource Day Expo which will take place on
 5 Saturday, April the 11th.
 6 I know Ms. Poe was somewhere in the room.
 7 She's hiding back there. I don't know why
 8 she's hiding. She should be making her way to
 9 the front of the room. She's here as the
 10 chairperson of the Talbot County Hunger
 11 Coalition.
 12 Catherine, good to see you again.
 13 MS. POE: Good to see you guys.
 14 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 15 MS. POE: I have flyers for our day.
 16 MR. PACK: Okay.
 17 MS. POE: They're in Spanish and English.
 18 So please share, duplicate, get the word out.
 19 MR. PACK: Okay.
 20 MS. POE: Before I begin, dear Council
 21 members, I'd like to just correct the agenda a

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1 little bit.
 2 The Hunger Coalition doesn't sponsor the
 3 expo, the Resource Day Expo. I'm the
 4 spokesperson for the group. That's why I'm
 5 here, in that capacity. Besides that, I'm on
 6 the Steering Committee.
 7 MR. PACK: Okay.
 8 MS. POE: But just to make sure. It's
 9 different agencies and nonprofits have come
 10 together to put this on. So it's a joint
 11 venture. It's not just the Hunger Coalition.
 12 MR. PACK: Okay.
 13 MS. POE: I just wanted to correct that.
 14 It's going to be this is our third one, so
 15 because they all have gone so well. It's on
 16 Saturday, April 4th. It will be at Easton
 17 Middle School because Moton is being taken
 18 over, as you know, by the new school. So
 19 they're in the process of moving. We won't be
 20 able to do it. It will be from ten a.m. until
 21 one p.m.

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1 There's a reason we are having such a day
 2 and that we still need such a day. Despite the
 3 economic growth, we still have deep pockets in
 4 this county of poverty and hunger. And it's
 5 not because of no jobs. It's because people
 6 are having to work two jobs to put food on the
 7 table for their families.
 8 The working poor are having to decide
 9 between medical bills and dinner, rent and
 10 transportation. And those are the facts of
 11 their lives.
 12 I see them stand in line at the food
 13 pantries often in their outfits from different,
 14 we won't name them, but different fast food
 15 places on the highway.
 16 But let me give you stats about our
 17 county. I know you just are inundated with
 18 stats and facts. But here are some more for
 19 you.
 20 One out of six children in Talbot County
 21 go to bed every night hungry. One out of nine

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1 Talbot residents are food insecure. Meaning
 2 they don't know where their next meal is coming
 3 from.
 4 Forty-eight percent of the children right
 5 now in our public schools are on free and
 6 reduced meals. That's nearly half our
 7 children. That number is, you want to know how
 8 many kids that is, that's 2,250 students. In
 9 2008, only 29 percent of children were on free
 10 and reduced meals. So we've gone from 29
 11 percent to 48 percent and yet we have what
 12 looks like a booming economy.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Can I ask you one question,
 14 not to cut you off?
 15 MS. POE: Sure.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: That 48 percent, is that
 17 percentage based off the income?
 18 MS. POE: Yes, it is. Right.
 19 And as the public schools report card has
 20 shown this year, this year we have 219 students
 21 who are identified as homeless. That's a

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1 pretty shocking number.
 2 Food stamps, or SNAP, which is what it's
 3 now called, only supplies \$33 per individual a
 4 week for food. Yet working families, and
 5 that's mainly a lot of people who have to be on
 6 food stamps, are in service jobs and
 7 hospitality jobs. And they don't pay that
 8 much.
 9 For instance, let's say the head of a
 10 household of four people works in one of these
 11 jobs and is earning the new minimum wage. As
 12 you know, it just went up in January. It's now
 13 \$11 an hour. It's up from \$10.10 in 2019.
 14 That person would earn in one year
 15 \$22,880. That's for 2,080 hours of work. That
 16 means they're working five days a week, 52
 17 weeks, no vacation, no sick time. That's their
 18 salary, 22,880.
 19 Yet we know the average rent for a
 20 two-bedroom apartment in our county average is
 21 1,100 a month, or 13,200 a year. You can

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1 imagine what that does to somebody's salary
 2 that's only 22,000.
 3 So we all know that person, of course, is
 4 on the poverty level. The poverty level is at
 5 25,926. So they are living below the poverty
 6 level by earning only about 22,000 a year. Yet
 7 they're making a minimum wage and they're
 8 working a full 40 hours. And sometimes that
 9 means they have to work two jobs.
 10 Since the backbone of the economy is
 11 hospitality and health services, particularly
 12 for the elderly, that means there's another
 13 demographic that struggles to make the ends
 14 meet, and that's the elderly. And they are
 15 often a major hidden problem simply because
 16 they are very proud people, often they don't
 17 take food stamps because they believe somebody
 18 else needs it more than they do. So they are
 19 often people who are living on one meal a day.
 20 So it's statistics like this is the reason
 21 we have in this county 16 food pantries, five

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1 meal providers, such as Meals On Wheels, just
 2 to give you an example of what a meal provider
 3 is, and we're a county of 38,000 people.
 4 Sixteen food pantries, five meal providers.
 5 Because of such data, the nonprofits and
 6 social agencies recognized we've got to do
 7 more, which is why we initiated originally the
 8 Resource Day Expo. It is a one-spot source,
 9 almost like a one-stop shopping, for assistance
 10 for people who are disadvantaged, whatever
 11 their circumstances. And they could be, like I
 12 said, working two jobs.
 13 They just need help navigating the system.
 14 And understand, there are a lot of resources
 15 out there that can help them. They're
 16 absolutely amazed when they find out what is
 17 really there, and that could them get that leg
 18 up that they need.
 19 Now, this year it's once again
 20 spearheaded, our Resource Day, is spearheaded
 21 by the Neighborhood Service Center with the

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1 Talbot County Hunger Coalition, the Talbot
 2 Family Network, this is our Steering Committee,
 3 Easton Utilities, Choptank Electric, Delmarva
 4 Power, the Talbot Library, the Talbot Public
 5 Schools, the Department of Social Services, and
 6 AmeriCorps.
 7 And we have been working since last autumn
 8 to put this together. The flyer, which I don't
 9 know if you've gotten it yet or you will see
 10 it, we will have 50 vendors again this year.
 11 And while this is more general because it's for
 12 the public, we will have 5,000 pounds of
 13 groceries to give away. And that's thanks to
 14 the Maryland Food Bank.
 15 We will have heating assistance from three
 16 utilities. We'll have private HIV AIDS
 17 testing. There will be financial literacy by
 18 Shore United Bank. There will be pro bono
 19 help, expungement assistance, mental health
 20 help, school registration both for Chesapeake
 21 College and for our public schools, free

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1 personal and hygiene items thanks to our
 2 churches that were gathering all this for us.
 3 There will be veterans services. We will
 4 even have a barber, face painting for kids, and
 5 a free family photo booth.
 6 Plus, we are serving free lunches to
 7 everyone who comes through our doors, whether
 8 it's people from the community, vendors, and
 9 volunteers. And that's thanks to Sodexo, who
 10 does the meals for the schools, as you know.
 11 And especially I got to give a shout-out to
 12 Ryan Growl, who owns Eat Sprout. They have
 13 done the meals for two years in a row and
 14 they're doing it again this year. And they're
 15 delicious lunches.
 16 But you get the idea. And you can read
 17 all about it on our flyer.
 18 Last year, 300 people came through our
 19 doors. And thanks to our tireless volunteers,
 20 and I should tell you, it's adults, high school
 21 students, and Spanish speaking interpreters.

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1 We had eight interpreters last year. And they
 2 were able to get the personal attention and
 3 leave well informed.
 4 This year we really expect more than 300
 5 because each year it's gone up another hundred.
 6 So I don't know if it will hit 400 this year,
 7 but we know it's only increased.
 8 We want to thank you for your financial
 9 support. And believe me, we make every dollar
 10 count.
 11 I would like to also invite you all to
 12 drop by and please have lunch. You're going to
 13 love it. It's a great lunch. and Corey can
 14 tell you that because he's been there two years
 15 in a row. Right?
 16 MR. PACK: Not just for the lunch,
 17 Catherine.
 18 MS. POE: He comes for other things
 19 besides the lunch. He didn't just come for the
 20 lunch.
 21 MR. DIVILIO: Mental health screening.

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1 MR. PACK: Yeah, mental health screening.
 2 That's a big one, too.
 3 MS. POE: I would like to recognize some
 4 of the organizations that are here with us
 5 tonight.
 6 MR. PACK: Sure.
 7 MS. POE: That actually support what we're
 8 doing. Obviously we don't have everybody here,
 9 but I do want to thank the people who are here.
 10 I'm going to start with the people from
 11 Neighborhood Service Center. Would you all
 12 stand up, by the way. (Inaudible) and Cardina,
 13 Steve from St. Vincent de Paul, and Della
 14 Andrew from St. Marks. Laura was here.
 15 MR. PACK: We saw her.
 16 MS. POE: You saw her. She had to leave.
 17 That's why. But she was here representing
 18 Shore United Bank.
 19 That just gives you a little flavor of
 20 some of the -- as you can see, it's a real
 21 cross section of people here, businesses and

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1 nonprofits both.
 2 So I'm happy to take any questions.
 3 MR. PACK: Other than say congratulations
 4 what you all have started here. I have been
 5 there for the last two years.
 6 What you do in getting all those resources
 7 into the elementary school, now moving over to
 8 the middle school.
 9 MS. POE: And that will be back to the new
 10 school next year.
 11 MR. PACK: It's quite impressive. And
 12 yeah. I think you're definitely on the right
 13 track as far as touching people in various
 14 degrees of their life, whether it be as you
 15 said, hunger or just having energy or fuel to
 16 heat their homes.
 17 MS. POE: Yeah.
 18 MR. PACK: Certainly have our support. We
 19 contributed last year. I think we also are on
 20 the books to contribute to it this year.
 21 MS. POE: That's right, yes, which we

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1 really appreciate. I got to tell you.
 2 MR. PACK: You're welcome. So
 3 congratulations and another successful season
 4 to you.
 5 Any other Council member?
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Just thank you.
 7 MS. POE: All right. I hope to see you
 8 all there. I realize it can't be more than
 9 three, Sunshine Law.
 10 MR. PACK: We're going to be in different
 11 parts of the building.
 12 MS. POE: Oh, I see. As long as you're
 13 not all together.
 14 MR. PACK: I'll be in the lunch section.
 15 MS. POE: We know where to find Corey.
 16 Thank you.
 17 MR. PACK: You're welcome.
 18 Council, next on your agenda you have a
 19 presentation from Delmarva Community Transit.
 20 This is an FY21 annual transportation plan. Of
 21 course, we do this every year.

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1 Santo Grande, executive director, is here
 2 with us.
 3 Santo, good to see you, and the floor is
 4 yours, sir.
 5 MR. GRANDE: Thank you for having us.
 6 Thank you very much for having us come before
 7 you.
 8 I was here last week also. This is
 9 different, though. This is for the whole grant
 10 because you are the primary administration
 11 organization for the three counties. And so
 12 this is for the entire.
 13 So the numbers you have that would be
 14 before you are the numbers for all three
 15 counties together and then the matching funds
 16 from each county, etc. So that's all combined.
 17 And wanted to go through some of the numbers.
 18 We did have three public hearings, one in
 19 each county. That's part of the regulations.
 20 And then the funding, I talked a little bit
 21 about it last week, but it was only in

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1 reference to Talbot County. So this is in
 2 reference to the entire region.
 3 So within 5311, which is the Public
 4 Transportation Program, rural public
 5 transportation, the federal State match will be
 6 \$640,000, 640,623. The local share is
 7 contributed by Talbot, Kent, and Caroline.
 8 That is \$267,150. The total for public
 9 transportation, that's your demand service,
 10 your door-to-door service, and your public
 11 route service, that includes the total amount
 12 for that would be \$907,773.
 13 So it's a great, this is a great program.
 14 It's kind of hard to follow hunger and tax cap
 15 here, but this is a great program. It does a
 16 lot for a lot of people.
 17 And the STAP, which is the Statewide
 18 Transportation Assistance Program, that is the
 19 one that is dedicated to senior citizens and
 20 people with disabilities. The total for that
 21 is, well, the State share is \$518,405 and the

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1 local share contributed by the counties, the
 2 three counties, is 158,834.
 3 With that program specifically, again,
 4 it's door to door mostly. It's not a fixed
 5 route system. This is really all door to door,
 6 picks up seniors, people with disabilities, all
 7 types that way. It's not the public door.
 8 It's a fixed route system.
 9 This would be, the total is \$677,239. And
 10 again, as I said last week, STAP is 100 percent
 11 State funded. So it doesn't have that federal
 12 State match. This is 100 percent State. And
 13 it's really there to help strengthen services
 14 for people with disabilities and senior
 15 citizens.
 16 The ADA. Talbot County is the only county
 17 in the three counties that has an ADA service.
 18 And that's because you do have a fixed route
 19 around the Town of Easton. And when you have a
 20 dedicated fixed route, you have to have a
 21 complementary service for people with

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1 disabilities. So it complements the fixed
 2 route system. And that's what the ADA
 3 requires. And so Talbot is the only one
 4 involved with that in this region. And again,
 5 that amount coming from the State is \$41,522,
 6 and the local match for Talbot is 8,937, with a
 7 total amount of \$50,459.
 8 Capital, it's not very much this year.
 9 For the three counties, we're getting a couple
 10 of vehicles. I talked about this last week,
 11 the replacement vehicles. And also they will
 12 have -- we need some computers, the monitors.
 13 The vehicles will have cameras on them also.
 14 And then there's another category of
 15 preventative maintenance.
 16 So they give us a certain amount of money
 17 to definitely follow the preventative
 18 maintenance records. And they come in every
 19 quarter and look at our preventative
 20 maintenance records. So that's the capital,
 21 and that was 142,677 federal State and 15,853

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1 as a match, bringing the total up to \$158,530.
 2 Then additional equipment is 333,000
 3 federal and State, and 3,672 is the local
 4 match.
 5 So the grand total of the transportation
 6 program for the three counties federal State is
 7 \$1,376,276. The local matching funds required
 8 is 454,446. And it comes to a total for the
 9 region, the three-county region, comes to a
 10 total of \$1,830,722. That's the funding we
 11 receive for the total service. That's door to
 12 door, that's demand service, that's ADA. It's
 13 complete and that's for the three counties.
 14 And that's what you would be signing when
 15 you sign these later on. That's what you're
 16 basically signing for.
 17 And if you have any questions about the
 18 different budgets and how we break down the
 19 STAP, for instance. We have a complete
 20 breakdown. It's in your file. It shows you
 21 the breakdown cost wise of STAP, 5311, ADA, and

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1 then the total.
 2 And there's a portion there for medical
 3 assistance, but that's not paid for by the
 4 county. That's a federal program only, but we
 5 have to show all of our transit income.
 6 Then the other item under form B1 gives
 7 you a much clearer breakdown of the facilities,
 8 equipment, refurbishment, etc. So it's clearer
 9 and concise.
 10 If you have any questions.
 11 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Sandy.
 12 Any questions of Sandy regarding the
 13 transportation plan?
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Santo, I just wanted to say
 15 thank you for all you do. You're a big part of
 16 transportation in these three counties. You do
 17 a lot of work. It's a pleasure working with
 18 you. Your heart is into it. And we're blessed
 19 to have somebody like you.
 20 MR. GRANDE: That's great.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: That's very dedicated,

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1 kind, and looking out for citizens. So I, up
 2 here as a Councilman, I really appreciate all
 3 you do for us.
 4 MR. GRANDE: That's very nice of you to
 5 say. Thank you.
 6 But it really makes a difference when you
 7 come in and you have a county that is open and
 8 appreciative of the service you provide. And
 9 we enjoy working with Talbot County, and you
 10 have been very supportive over the years. And
 11 we do appreciate it.
 12 Thank you very much.
 13 MR. LESHER: Thank you.
 14 MR. PACK: You know, you were talking as
 15 you came to the table about your placement on
 16 the agenda.
 17 But when you think about it, we did the
 18 proclamation for Americans with Disabilities
 19 Week or Month with Chesapeake Center, which is
 20 some of your clients there. We had heard from
 21 the tax payers referendum group and the

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1 limitations that we have to assist you on
 2 various projects you wanted to do here in
 3 Talbot County.
 4 And then we heard about the Resource Day,
 5 which I'm surprised that you're not a part of
 6 that, that they didn't invite you all to be a
 7 part of that to kind of go over the different
 8 transit options that persons that they are
 9 speaking to may need. These are persons who
 10 may be financially insecure and they need to be
 11 able to find ways to get to the market or ways
 12 to get to the doctor.
 13 MR. GRANDE: And food wise, we help the
 14 senior program. We provide, we are the
 15 catering service for the senior meals program.
 16 MR. PACK: So they might want to have you
 17 added on next year.
 18 You also provided transportation to
 19 St Michael's when they lost their supermarket
 20 two years ago. And you added a route to bring
 21 these shoppers up to Easton and then taking

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1 them back down.
 2 So you're right where you need to be. You
 3 touch every one of these groups, as I was
 4 thinking about it when you came up, in some
 5 form or fashion. That transportation, having
 6 the ability to move people here on the shore,
 7 has been a difficulty. But with your agency
 8 stepping up, you touch all these groups in some
 9 form or fashion.
 10 So thank you for all that you do as well.
 11 MR. GRANDE: We've been working with the
 12 legislature because there was some severe cuts
 13 to the meals program.
 14 MR. PACK: Right.
 15 MR. GRANDE: So we have been advocating
 16 for that. We hope, we feel like we'll have
 17 some language identified so that that won't
 18 happen again, where the change was made after
 19 the session had ended and after the budget was
 20 fixed and after the budget was signed. And
 21 then all of a sudden, there was this shifting

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1 of dollars.
 2 We were cut. Other counties in the State
 3 received much more money. We were cut, the
 4 region area agency, they were cut, and
 5 Somerset. Our county, Dorchester because of
 6 the decrease in population, but we have an
 7 increase of aging, we lost 47,000 in meals this
 8 past year, 9,000 meals.
 9 So we've been advocating. So we're hoping
 10 that that won't happen again. We're also
 11 trying to find to continue to solicit with the
 12 governor and other parties to try and get some
 13 of that money back because it really harmed our
 14 county, but it also harmed the upper shore area
 15 and the lower shore also.
 16 The rurals got hit. All the rurals in the
 17 State were cut and most of the suburban. And
 18 urban wise, Baltimore also was cut by \$200,000.
 19 But the main cuts came to the rurals, and we're
 20 fighting very hard to get that money back.
 21 MR. PACK: Well, we'll join with you in

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1 any way we possibly can.
 2 MR. GRANDE: Thank you.
 3 MR. PACK: Council, at this time I need a
 4 motion on the plan. The chair would entertain
 5 a motion.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: So moved.
 7 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Callahan.
 8 MR. LESHER: Second.
 9 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Any
 10 further discussion on the transportation plan?
 11 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call
 12 your roll.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 14 MR. PACK: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 16 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 20 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

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1 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 2 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you very much.
 3 I'm going to ask Mr. Grande to stay put.
 4 We're going to move right into an introduction
 5 of administrative resolution. This is the
 6 transportation department.
 7 MR. GRANDE: Right.
 8 MR. PACK: Madam Secretary, would you
 9 please read the title of the resolution.
 10 SECRETARY: A resolution authorizing
 11 Talbot County to file an application with the
 12 Maryland Transit Administration of the Maryland
 13 Department of Transportation for a section
 14 5303, 5304, 5307, 5309, 5310, and 5311, grant
 15 under the Federal Transit Act.
 16 Whereas, the Maryland Transit
 17 Administration is a designated recipient in
 18 Maryland for grants under the Federal Transit
 19 Act.
 20 And whereas, the administrator of the
 21 Maryland Transit Administration of the Maryland

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1 Department of Transportation is authorized to
 2 make grants to counties and to local
 3 governments for a mass transportation program
 4 of projects.
 5 And whereas, the contract for financial
 6 assistance will impose certain obligations upon
 7 the applicant, including the provision by the
 8 contract, the local share of the project costs
 9 in the program.
 10 And whereas, it is required by the United
 11 States Department of Transportation in
 12 accordance with the provisions of title six of
 13 the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that in connection
 14 with the filing of an application for
 15 assistance under the Federal Transit Act, the
 16 applicant give an assurance that it will comply
 17 with title six of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
 18 and the United States Department of
 19 Transportation requirements thereunder.
 20 And whereas, it is the goal of the
 21 applicant, the minority business enterprise be

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1 utilized to the fullest extent upon in
 2 connection with this project and that definite
 3 procedures shall be established and
 4 administered to ensure that minority business
 5 shall have the maximum construction contract
 6 supplies, equipment contracts for consultant
 7 and other services.
 8 Now, therefore, be it resolved by Talbot
 9 County, Maryland, the filing of the aforesaid
 10 application be endorsed. And be it further
 11 resolved that copies of this resolution be sent
 12 to the Maryland Transit Administration of the
 13 Maryland Department of Transportation.
 14 Now, therefore, the County Council of
 15 Talbot County, Maryland, hereby endorses this
 16 resolution, thereby indicating approval
 17 thereof.
 18 Given under our hands in the great seal of
 19 Talbot County this 10th day of March in the
 20 year of our Lord, 2020.
 21 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Madam

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1 Secretary.
 2 Sandy, you want to speak to any of these?
 3 MR. GRANDE: No. That covers what we
 4 need. I mean there's so many federal statutes
 5 in regards to the Federal Transit
 6 Administration and Maryland Transit
 7 Administration that luckily we don't fit into
 8 all of them. We fit in under 5311, 5310, 5309.
 9 MR. PACK: And 13 you mentioned, right?
 10 MR. GRANDE: Right. So they're the only
 11 ones that cover us.
 12 MR. PACK: Okay. Any questions of
 13 Council? Chair would entertain a motion on the
 14 resolution at this time.
 15 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Seconded.
 17 MR. PACK: Moved and seconded. This is
 18 eligible for action this evening. Do I need to
 19 move this to second reader? No, since it's
 20 administrative. Just for action this evening,
 21 okay.

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1 So the resolution has been seconded. Any
 2 further discussion?
 3 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call
 4 your roll.
 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. LESHNER: Aye.
 15 MR. PACK: Very good. Thank you very
 16 much. We'll have that signed and over to you
 17 shortly.
 18 MR. GRANDE: Thank you all. Thank you
 19 very much.
 20 And if there's any questions, please don't
 21 hesitate to call.

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1 MR. PACK: If you bump into those things
 2 that you need us to kind of weigh in with you,
 3 just let us know.
 4 MR. GRANDE: I will keep you posted.
 5 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 6 MR. GRANDE: Thank you very much.
 7 MR. PACK: Thank you. Okay.
 8 Moving on through the agenda, we have now
 9 this is a Council letter to the Liquor Board
 10 for consideration of a conditional on-premise
 11 license consumption for class five breweries.
 12 Mr. Kupersmith, I'm going to turn it over
 13 to you or Ms. O'Donnell for just a brief
 14 explanation of how we got to this point and
 15 what this document actually does.
 16 MS. O'DONNELL: Recently it's come to our
 17 attention that State law related to the
 18 regulation of breweries had changed. And that
 19 State law now requires for a brewery in a
 20 locality, if they wish to sell beer, the beer
 21 they brew on site, a local permit is required.

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1 Our code does not have that local permit
 2 within it at this time. However, there is a
 3 business in our jurisdiction that is selling
 4 beer on site.
 5 So I received request from Council for the
 6 introduction of legislation to have the Council
 7 consider issuance of a new class of a license
 8 to allow that to happen to follow the change in
 9 State law.
 10 However, the question was posed in the
 11 interim how to handle this business's unique
 12 situation. And again, members of Council
 13 individually contacted our office and asked us
 14 to investigate that possibility.
 15 The State law that talks about the
 16 requirement for local permit also has
 17 provisions related to conditional permits being
 18 allowed and the local licensing board having
 19 the ability to issue conditional permits.
 20 As you know, Talbot County is unique in
 21 the State and that Talbot County's local law

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1 preempts, or supercedes is another word, State
 2 law. So in our code, the County Council is the
 3 local licensing board as defined in State law.
 4 So if the County Council would have a
 5 desire for the Liquor Board to issue some kind
 6 of conditional license while any legislation to
 7 create an on-premises consumption permit for a
 8 class five brewery is proceeding, the Council
 9 could delegate that authority to the local
 10 board.
 11 And so the possible letter that is before
 12 you gives the authority to the local, to our
 13 board to issue a conditional license if an
 14 application is received for an on-premises
 15 consumption permit for a class five brewery in
 16 the county and to have them appear before the
 17 board and ask them to apply, in fact, for a
 18 conditional permit.
 19 So this letter gives authority to the
 20 Liquor Board to issue a conditional permit
 21 while any possible legislation is proceeding

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1 that would then codify that ongoing license.
 2 It also indicates that if that legislation
 3 fails, then the conditional license will also
 4 terminate at the time that that legislation
 5 fails.
 6 MR. PACK: Thank you, Ms. O'Donnell.
 7 Yeah. What we're trying to do, what we're
 8 attempting to do when we discovered that this
 9 class five brewery needed to come in to get a
 10 county license is to find a way to allow them
 11 to continue operating without any interruption.
 12 We did do some research as far as if there
 13 was any violations at the location. There were
 14 none.
 15 I know when we were speaking to the owner
 16 and also to the Liquor Board there was some
 17 confusion as to whose responsibility -- and
 18 also with the State. Let me add the State in
 19 here as well. As to whose responsibility it
 20 actually was to make sure that this license was
 21 issued.

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1 So I think there was enough, in my opinion
 2 enough blame to kind of move around the table
 3 here. But in the meantime, we still had to
 4 find a way to allow some type of a permit to go
 5 forward.
 6 What this actually does is give them that
 7 temporary consumption permit while the Council
 8 goes about its duties of drafting and creating
 9 the actual license, which at this time does not
 10 exist.
 11 I offered some slight changes to the
 12 original draft, and you have those in your
 13 laptop.
 14 And Mary, do you want to go over the
 15 change or do you want me to go over the
 16 changes? Either way.
 17 MS. O'DONNELL: If you could do that, that
 18 would be good.
 19 MR. PACK: Okay. The changes are very
 20 simple. On the second paragraph, it starts off
 21 several members of the Council have introduced

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1 a bill. It actually wasn't that way when we
 2 first looked at it.
 3 My wording says are planning to introduce
 4 a bill because no bill to date has been
 5 introduced. Just to make that grammatically
 6 correct. Several members of the Council are
 7 planning to introduce a bill.
 8 If you were to drop down to the second to
 9 the bottom sentence in this same paragraph,
 10 where it reads the authority to issue such a
 11 conditional permit will be limited to the time
 12 period until the County Council has created a
 13 permanent license category in the Liquor Code
 14 and the Liquor Board has granted such a
 15 license, so what this does is eliminate that
 16 six-month period that's there, and it basically
 17 says that the permit will stay in place, this
 18 temporary permit will stay in place until such
 19 time that the license is drafted and it is
 20 granted by the Liquor Board.
 21 We wanted to make sure that, again, there

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1 was no interruption in their ability to
 2 operate.
 3 So once this, if this is approved this
 4 evening, they will still need to make
 5 application to the Liquor Board. The Liquor
 6 Board would then need to issue to them a
 7 temporary permit. That permit will stay in
 8 place until such time as we complete our work
 9 in the drafting of the language, and then they
 10 would need to go back to the Liquor Board to
 11 get that permanent license. And then this
 12 license would expire, this permit would expire.
 13 And the last change, Council, is on the
 14 last sentence, the bottom of the last
 15 paragraph. We added language on that the
 16 Council also request that the conditional
 17 permit be posted on the premises at all times.
 18 This way if anybody from the State or any
 19 inspector were to come onto the premises, as
 20 they do now in other establishments, the liquor
 21 license must be posted. So this temporary

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1 permit would be posted either on the wall so
 2 it's visible to the liquor inspectors, it's
 3 visible to anyone coming down from the State.
 4 They can simply look up at the wall and see
 5 that the provisional permit is on display.
 6 So those were the simple three changes.
 7 Office of Law did not find those changes to be
 8 substantive. They do agree with those changes.
 9 And so I'll offer those changes up as well.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: I'll make a motion that we
 11 go through with that letter and move forward
 12 with this letter.
 13 MR. LESHER: Second.
 14 MR. PACK: So there's a motion by
 15 Mr. Callahan to move the amended letter?
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.
 17 MR. PACK: The amended version of the
 18 letter be introduced. Seconded by Mr. Leshner.
 19 Any further discussion on the letter, what it's
 20 going to do, how it's going to work?
 21 MR. LESHER: Just we don't want to see a

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1 business in Talbot County catering to the
 2 tourism industry close down over this and
 3 working toward being business friendly and
 4 making sure that we can cooperate with our
 5 businesses and keep them open.
 6 MR. PACK: Exactly.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
 8 MR. PACK: Zach, do you wish to be heard?
 9 I know I told you this was happening this
 10 evening. You wish to be heard before moving
 11 forward?
 12 MR. SMITH: I don't necessarily need to.
 13 I'm happy to answer any questions and give you
 14 our perspective. But I think this is heading
 15 in the right direction. So we're happy just to
 16 see that.
 17 MR. PACK: Zach represents ESB. You're
 18 good, okay. All right.
 19 Council, we have a motion and a second.
 20 The attorney representing the establishment
 21 doesn't wish to be heard. Chair would call for

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<p>1 the vote at this time. Vote.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>5 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>9 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: This passes. So this will go</p> <p>13 over to the Liquor Board. They will set it in.</p> <p>14 You will have to make application to them for</p> <p>15 your provisional permit. And then you're on</p> <p>16 your way. Okay. Thank you very much.</p> <p>17 No. Stay put, don't leave.</p> <p>18 We have another matter. Let me find</p> <p>19 myself here. I'm jumping around. We didn't</p> <p>20 put these in order. Can I move this up?</p> <p>21 MS. O'DONNELL: The other one has already</p>	<p>1 why don't I turn it over to you for just a</p> <p>2 quick explanation and then we can go into the</p> <p>3 specifics of those recommendations.</p> <p>4 MS. VERDERY: Okay. The Short-Term Rental</p> <p>5 Review Board held several meetings and public</p> <p>6 hearings to gain information on the process</p> <p>7 that has been in place for a while now to</p> <p>8 determine if there should be any updates to</p> <p>9 that process.</p> <p>10 The Planning Office prepared a matrix for</p> <p>11 the County Council that was nine pages of</p> <p>12 recommendations from the Short-Term Rental</p> <p>13 Review Board. In addition, as noted, there was</p> <p>14 sufficient public comment.</p> <p>15 So through the process with the Short-Term</p> <p>16 Rental Review Board as well as the County</p> <p>17 Council meetings, we prepared a matrix of 24</p> <p>18 pages of public comment.</p> <p>19 The Council went through both of those</p> <p>20 matrixes and determined what they wanted to</p> <p>21 vote on and make amendments and</p>
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<p>1 been numbered.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: It doesn't matter.</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Yeah, I know. I didn't catch</p> <p>4 that. We should have had them back to back</p> <p>5 like we did with Sandy. My mistake.</p> <p>6 Next we have introduction of legislation.</p> <p>7 This is a bill to amend Chapter 190. Is</p> <p>8 Ms. Verdery somewhere in the room? Where is</p> <p>9 she? There she is. Okay.</p> <p>10 Madam Secretary, if you wouldn't mind</p> <p>11 reading the title of the bill.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: A bill to amend Chapter 190 of</p> <p>13 the Talbot County Code, zoning, subdivision,</p> <p>14 and land development, to improve and clarify</p> <p>15 the processes for licensure and oversight of</p> <p>16 the short-term rentals in the county and to</p> <p>17 amend the standards for safety for licensure.</p> <p>18 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Madam</p> <p>19 Secretary.</p> <p>20 Ms. Verdery, our planning officer, is</p> <p>21 here. Miguel, good to see you as well. And so</p>	<p>1 recommendations.</p> <p>2 There's amendments on the minimum safety</p> <p>3 standards, on the notifications, and a few</p> <p>4 other topics that were deemed to be necessary</p> <p>5 at this time to address. We tried to continue</p> <p>6 to make the short-term rental review process</p> <p>7 and the board hearings more streamlined and a</p> <p>8 process that we could help the public, as well</p> <p>9 as the staff, as well as the board to make a</p> <p>10 few modifications that will assist all of us in</p> <p>11 this process.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Okay. Do we want to go through</p> <p>13 any of those? I know there are several.</p> <p>14 MS. PRICE: Can we set for a public</p> <p>15 hearing and we can go through them at the time</p> <p>16 of the public hearing?</p> <p>17 MR. PACK: Yeah. That probably would be</p> <p>18 best, Ms. Price. Yeah.</p> <p>19 I know we have Mr. McQuay here from the</p> <p>20 STR Board. Mr. McQuay, thank you for being</p> <p>21 here with us. I know Mr. Kane, our chair, did</p>

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1 note that he was not able to attend.
 2 We do have two new members also to that
 3 board. Mr. George Harrison and also Ms. Cindy
 4 Reichart. They both could not be with us as
 5 well this evening. So we welcome them to the
 6 board as well.
 7 This is just for introduction this
 8 evening. What we can probably do is just ask
 9 for a show of hands to introduce and then we'll
 10 go through the actual changes at that time.
 11 MS. VERDERY: Okay.
 12 MR. PACK: Okay. Any questions at this
 13 time? The chair would entertain a show of
 14 hands for introduction of this bill. By
 15 Mr. Leshner, Mr. Divilio, Mr. Callahan, and
 16 myself.
 17 This will be known as Bill 1443. It will
 18 be set in for a public hearing on April the
 19 14th at 6:30 p.m here in the Bradley meeting
 20 room. So we welcome all those to come and be a
 21 part of that public hearing process. Thank

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1 you.
 2 MS. VERDERY: Thank you very much.
 3 MR. PACK: And at that time, we will go
 4 through each of the changes. Okay.
 5 Next matter is an amendment to actually
 6 amend Chapter 11 of the Talbot County Alcohol
 7 Beverage Code. Madam Secretary, would you
 8 please read the title.
 9 SECRETARY: A bill to amend Chapter 11 of
 10 the Talbot County Code, alcoholic beverages, to
 11 allow the Board of Liquor License Commissioners
 12 to issue a license for on-premises consumption
 13 of beer to class five breweries and allow for
 14 local licensure for class six, pub breweries,
 15 and class seven, microbreweries.
 16 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Madam
 17 Secretary.
 18 This matter comes on the heels of what we
 19 just previously did regarding the consumption
 20 permit that we just agreed unanimously to move
 21 over to the Liquor Board.

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1 It does a couple of things actually.
 2 Inside this bill, there's actually the wording
 3 to create the license, which currently doesn't
 4 exist, and then giving the authority of the
 5 Liquor Board to then issue said license once it
 6 is created.
 7 We generally hold work sessions to work
 8 this out. We get the principal at the table.
 9 We talk about it, same way we did when we
 10 drafted the craft beer legislation. We sat
 11 down with the principals, with the attorneys,
 12 and we talked about what we wanted to see in
 13 the license.
 14 This is kind of putting things out of
 15 sequence because you now have a bill going
 16 forward without having the opportunity to kind
 17 of go through it and really have those
 18 discussions face to face with the principals.
 19 It does exactly what we want it to do. It
 20 gives the principals the license that's needed
 21 that the State of Maryland said that they

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1 should have. It also gives the authority of
 2 the Liquor Board to issue the license as well.
 3 So I think it does what we want it to do. It
 4 just sequentially is a bit out of order the way
 5 we normally do business here in the county.
 6 Any other questions, comments?
 7 MR. LESHER: Mr. Pack, I know that perhaps
 8 in the past we've held workshops in order to
 9 get input from the petitioner to learn what is
 10 needed, that we take that information, take it
 11 to the Office of Law to draft this up.
 12 We received that information in terms of
 13 in the form of model legislation forwarded to
 14 us from the petitioner. And I used that to ask
 15 the Office of Law.
 16 So I don't know that we need a workshop
 17 for this since we now have, already have that
 18 legislation drafted. I'm hoping that we can
 19 proceed expeditiously in order to, again, keep
 20 this business open.
 21 MR. PACK: The only reason why I would beg

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1 to differ is that allowing the public, as we
 2 want to be transparent in this day's culture,
 3 to hear that open work product is important.
 4 It was an important part of when we did the
 5 drafting of the noise ordinance, when we did a
 6 drafting of the sprinkler, when we did the
 7 drafting of the craft brewery ordinance.
 8 Having those public work sessions were
 9 very, very important to get input on both sides
 10 before you draft the bill.
 11 This kind of wipes that out because the
 12 bill has now been introduced, if it's
 13 introduced tonight. And it's now put on a
 14 45-day clock, as I was explaining before. That
 15 it has -- action has to be taken on the bill in
 16 45 days or it dies.
 17 So now that puts Council on a faster clock
 18 to get there, if the Council decides to do any
 19 work sessions, which I hope it does so you
 20 won't basically disenfranchise the public, it
 21 now puts Council on that clock to get it done

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1 while you're also trying to do your budgeting
 2 and other things.
 3 The bill does what we want it to do. As I
 4 said before, it's just sequentially out of
 5 order.
 6 MS. PRICE: So we will have --
 7 SECRETARY: One point. It's a 65-day.
 8 MR. PACK: Sixty-five-day?
 9 SECRETARY: Sixty-five.
 10 MR. PACK: I thought it was 45-day.
 11 Sixty-five-day gives us a little bit more time.
 12 That makes me feel better.
 13 MS. PRICE: And the public hearing, you'll
 14 be able to hear from both sides and we
 15 certainly can ask questions.
 16 MR. PACK: You sure can. It's not like a
 17 work session, but you certainly can.
 18 MR. DIVILIO: I'm for this. I think the
 19 establishment has got a great track record.
 20 This was something that was caught. It
 21 was a flaw that should have been fixed. Shows

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1 that they don't need a license to operate
 2 within compliance and not have -- they don't
 3 need our guidance to stay out of trouble. And
 4 I appreciate that.
 5 So I'm fine with going a little bit out of
 6 order because unfortunately sometimes things
 7 just don't fall in place exactly as they
 8 perfectly should. I have yet to meet a perfect
 9 person yet. So I'm willing to step outside the
 10 realm of what we normally do to go ahead and
 11 move forward with this and give the business
 12 the license that they deserve that they should
 13 have.
 14 MR. PACK: Again, the letter of giving
 15 them the on-site consumption permit does that.
 16 It does that. And they can hold that license
 17 until the drafting of the bill is done.
 18 This is out of order as far as the way we
 19 normally would do things. Again, in the past
 20 when we had changes, when we created
 21 legislation, we always had that work session up

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1 front.
 2 If this is the way we're going to do it
 3 going forward, I'm going to remember this day.
 4 I'm going to remember this day. So when
 5 there's a bill that's being offered without a
 6 work session, I'm going to look to my left and
 7 to my right and say remember this day when we
 8 moved forward without a work session on a
 9 matter.
 10 So I think it's important that we do
 11 follow procedure. It has its reasons for it.
 12 It allows the public to have input on both
 13 sides. We've done it on every other drafting
 14 of an ordinance when it comes to a new creation
 15 of a code as far as a liquor code or a license.
 16 We've always had the work session beforehand.
 17 Always, always.
 18 And you're setting a very dangerous
 19 precedent. And if you do it today, you better
 20 be ready to do it the next day when you're not
 21 in favor of something. Okay.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: So I would like to ask when
 2 can we -- so could we have a work session
 3 before the next meeting?
 4 MR. PACK: We can have a work session
 5 whenever we want. Again, Ms. Price has just
 6 showed her agony.
 7 What I'm saying is that you're now
 8 compressing your time unnecessarily. That's
 9 all the point I'm trying -- I am not saying
 10 this is bad. I am not saying this is bad.
 11 I've spoken to Zach about this.
 12 I am saying you are unnecessarily putting
 13 yourself on the clock when you don't need to.
 14 You can have your work session, discuss it, go
 15 through it in a more relaxing manner, and then
 16 introduce the bill.
 17 She works, he works, you work. I'm
 18 retired. And we have budget stuff to do as
 19 well. You're putting yourself on the clock
 20 when you don't have to. That's all I'm saying.
 21 When you don't have to.

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1 MS. PRICE: This particular piece is a
 2 little bit different than a lot of other times
 3 when we're changing code.
 4 MR. PACK: It's no difference. You're
 5 actually creating language. You're actually
 6 creating the code.
 7 Just like we did with the noise ordinance,
 8 like we did with the sprinkler ordinance, and
 9 just like we did with the drafting of the craft
 10 beer ordinance. We are creating something.
 11 And we always did the work session before the
 12 bill.
 13 But again, if we're going to set the
 14 standard today, be ready to do it tomorrow.
 15 Any other questions, comments? Chair
 16 would ask for a show of hands for introduction
 17 at this time. Introduced by Mr. Leshner,
 18 Mr. Divilio, and Mr. Callahan.
 19 And we will hopefully set this in for a
 20 work session. I'm sorry. Let me back up.
 21 Since this is now a bill, it has a bill number.

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1 1444 in the bill number. We will set it in for
 2 a public hearing.
 3 MS. PRICE: Why don't we push the public
 4 hearing back a bit. And if we can work out a
 5 work session, great. If we can't, we'll do the
 6 public hearing.
 7 But normally we do the public hearing two
 8 meetings in advance, like not the next one, but
 9 it would be the April meeting.
 10 SECRETARY: The public hearing would be
 11 April 14th.
 12 MS. PRICE: Can we push that another
 13 couple of weeks out so that if we can find time
 14 in our schedule, we can do the work session and
 15 kind of compromise a little bit here?
 16 SECRETARY: Yes. The legislation would
 17 expire on May 14th. So you could push the
 18 public hearing to April 28th.
 19 MS. PRICE: Well, either one in April.
 20 Why don't we try to do a public hearing
 21 later --

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1 MR. PACK: I'm fine. I think we need to
 2 do one. So I'm fine whatever date we can get
 3 it in.
 4 SECRETARY: The regular schedule is
 5 April 14th. So if you want to push it out --
 6 MR. DIVILIO: Yeah. Let's do April 28th.
 7 MR. PACK: April 28th for the work
 8 session.
 9 MS. PRICE: No, no. For the public
 10 hearing.
 11 MR. PACK: I'm sorry. Public hearing.
 12 MS. PRICE: And then try to plan a work
 13 session so at least the majority of us could
 14 get here for a work session. Does that work?
 15 MR. PACK: I got you.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: That's what I was thinking.
 17 MR. PACK: Is that what you were thinking?
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: That's what I was trying to
 19 do.
 20 MR. PACK: I'm sorry, Mr. Callahan. I
 21 couldn't read your thoughts.

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1 So the public hearing on Bill 1444 would
 2 be on April the 28th. It's going to be at
 3 6:30. Council will look to schedule a work
 4 session, a public work session between now and
 5 the 28th date.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Are you all right now?
 7 MR. PACK: I'm fine, man. I'm fine.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good. Score keeper.
 9 MR. PACK: Moving on, we don't have a
 10 public hearing tonight.
 11 Dr. Wadley, where are you?
 12 Council, it's been crossed out.
 13 MS. PRICE: Oh, okay.
 14 MR. PACK: Council, we're now going to
 15 move forward. We're going to be taking off our
 16 hat and now I'm going to ask you to put on your
 17 hat as the Talbot County Board of Health.
 18 For those who do not know, this Council
 19 does also sit as the Board of Health. So we
 20 will be making a transition. Don't adjust your
 21 TV screens. But we are now sitting as the

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1 Board of Health, and we'll be hearing from our
 2 health officer, Dr. Wadley.
 3 Good to see you.
 4 DR. WADLEY: Thank you. And as some of
 5 you have already said, the biggest thing right
 6 now that everybody is talking about is
 7 coronavirus. So they asked me to do an update.
 8 I waited until noon to print out the
 9 handout. And as they say, this is changing
 10 hourly, not daily. So I had to actually, after
 11 they were printed out, by three o'clock change
 12 the figures, okay. Because the governor had a
 13 press release, a press conference this
 14 afternoon.
 15 Was announcing that Maryland now has eight
 16 confirmed cases of COVID-19. All of those are
 17 related to travel. We have none transmitted
 18 within the community. By that I mean that
 19 someone not related to travel or someone with
 20 travel is transmitting it within the community
 21 to another person.

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1 So the status now is as of today, Maryland
 2 has eight. They're in three counties. There's
 3 no confirmed case in Talbot. We have tested
 4 one that's traveled, and that was negative.
 5 As of today, there's across the globe
 6 117,000 confirmed cases, about 117 countries,
 7 and about 4,000 deaths.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Dr. Wadley, excuse me one
 9 second. So we have the ability to do the
 10 testing here?
 11 DR. WADLEY: Well, that's a big question.
 12 Okay.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I was just curious.
 14 DR. WADLEY: As of before last week, CDC
 15 was the only one doing for Maryland and several
 16 other states.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 18 DR. WADLEY: Around Tuesday, our lab came
 19 on at the State. By Thursday, LabCorp, a
 20 private lab, had been approved to do the
 21 testing. And now waiting is Quest

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1 Laboratories, the two private labs.
 2 I say that because the State says it has
 3 tested 68 people. So that doesn't mean there's
 4 been widespread testing.
 5 Now, as the testing increases, we normally
 6 would expect to see more cases. Remember,
 7 80 percent of these cases are very mild. You
 8 couldn't tell them from a cold or flu. So
 9 pretty much we know because of the cases that's
 10 scattered around.
 11 For example, we know have about 750 within
 12 the US. Concentrated are California,
 13 Washington, and New York. They all have over
 14 100. Those three states are having community
 15 transmission. Most of the other states are
 16 very low numbers, like us, from one to ten or
 17 something like that. But those three states
 18 know that they're having community
 19 transmission.
 20 That's the reason you see the governor
 21 saying consider travel. If you're senior or if

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1 you have an immune deficiency, you might want
 2 to even think about traveling within the
 3 country.
 4 But especially the cruise ships should be
 5 thought of carefully before you get on those
 6 because those incubate those little germs so
 7 well, almost like a kindergarten room.
 8 The good thing about this virus, if you
 9 can say there's anything good about a virus, is
 10 that it has not adversely hit children. In
 11 fact, they have had very little, maybe less
 12 than two percent of the cases. Some theories
 13 on that, but that is a good.
 14 The bad thing is it has been bad on
 15 seniors and those who are immunity deficient.
 16 So those are the ones that's having the worst
 17 disease when they get infected.
 18 There's been 26 deaths in the country, 19
 19 of those in Washington, and a lot of that has
 20 to do with the outbreak in the long-term care
 21 facility, two in California, and two in

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1 Florida. So we've had 26 deaths.
 2 The flu is still with us. So you'll have
 3 people that when they get the symptoms, they
 4 think they've got the flu. Last night they
 5 were crowding the emergency room, which is the
 6 last thing that we want them to do.
 7 What we ask them to do if you've got
 8 symptoms like that, call your private
 9 physician. They need to know and often will
 10 say you don't need to come in, but they can
 11 also ask you questions to know if you've
 12 traveled or if you are at risk for COVID-19.
 13 But as I said, right now the only cases we
 14 have in Maryland can be related to direct
 15 travel, and about six of those to one
 16 particular cruise line. So when we put that in
 17 perspective, I think everybody is saying well,
 18 will the cases increase. Yes, they'll
 19 increase. I have no doubt about that. This is
 20 sort of like the flu. How long it will go on,
 21 I'm not for sure.

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1 But if the question is what is the risk
 2 for everybody, for those that are not older
 3 with chronic conditions and weakened immunity,
 4 then it's very good. It's like the flu.
 5 So we need to be -- what we're pressing is
 6 to be extremely cautious about the seniors in
 7 long-term care facilities.
 8 As of today, the Maryland Department of
 9 Health has communicated with those facilities
 10 to say we think now you ought to think about
 11 visitors being checked, make sure that they
 12 have no symptoms whatsoever and even more
 13 visiting by telephone and all instead of
 14 everybody just coming in to visit, which is a
 15 very good thing to do even when you're just
 16 talking about the flu.
 17 So I think we'll see increased
 18 recommendations about the senior population.
 19 Today also was announced that University
 20 of Maryland System would, after they have their
 21 spring break, have online classes for everyone.

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1 That group is not the one that has the biggest
 2 problem with this virus, but I think people are
 3 still trying to contain it.
 4 The next phase, we're almost in that, is
 5 mitigation because the containment phase is
 6 about over because we have so many of the
 7 states already that you have individuals with
 8 confirmed cases.
 9 So what everybody is concentrated on is
 10 having good communication. I think the State
 11 has done that very well.
 12 The frustration I think is with the
 13 testing. And so I've presented there sort of
 14 the protocol that the State has given us to
 15 use. And if you're on a cruise ship or maybe
 16 in an airport, you might get a letter from that
 17 cruise line saying after the ship docked or
 18 whatever, someone was diagnosed within 14 days
 19 of the COVID-19 virus, you need to go in and
 20 see if you need to be tested. So some of those
 21 letters are going out now. Some of them

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1 exposed in an airport, was not a significant
 2 exposure, they might have been in the same
 3 airport, was not in close proximity for any
 4 period of time.
 5 So that's what is going on. And a lot of
 6 those are being tested by the State when they
 7 meet CDC criteria. So the frustration is if
 8 you ask for the State lab to do this test and
 9 you do not meet those criteria, they will not
 10 do it. That's not because they don't want to
 11 do it. It's because of the test materials and
 12 all have to be -- they have to be sure that
 13 they can test those that are high risk of
 14 having this. And so because there's been some
 15 delay, those individuals, if they want, can go
 16 and get a LabCorp, get their private physician
 17 to request a LabCorp or Quest if they come on
 18 line. But the State has to reserve enough to
 19 do the cases that they know are high risk.
 20 They have gotten some more for next week.
 21 So their testing potential may go up some, but

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1 I don't expect widespread testing unless the
 2 private labs come on rapidly.
 3 Now, when the private lab come on, they've
 4 developed their own test, not these test kits
 5 that have been handed out that's been developed
 6 for the State and CDC. So when they develop
 7 their own test, they have to be checked out by
 8 FDA to make sure that it's a valid test and you
 9 get the right positives when it's positive and
 10 negative when it's negative.
 11 So that takes time. And I don't think
 12 people understand that this test wasn't ready
 13 on the shelf and you just pull it off and do
 14 this virus. The virus is new. We have not
 15 tested for it before. So it took some time to
 16 develop that test, then prepare enough, ship
 17 them out. So there hasn't been -- the
 18 government agencies haven't been flooded with
 19 the tests for COVID-19.
 20 And that's been part of the frustration
 21 and the unknown. And people when they get a

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1 little cold or something saying I want the
 2 COVID-19 test. Well, you can understand why if
 3 tests are limited with CDC and the State, then
 4 they have to use them for the ones that really
 5 meet the criteria.
 6 MR. DIVILIO: That's certainly going to
 7 drive up the numbers there with that, though.
 8 Right? I mean if they're giving out the test
 9 to people who are very specifically most likely
 10 to have had it.
 11 DR. WADLEY: Yes.
 12 MR. DIVILIO: The percentage of positive
 13 tests are going to be --
 14 DR. WADLEY: If they've traveled to the
 15 countries, okay, and there are several of them
 16 that are the really hot ones, if you had close
 17 contact with somebody that is a known COVID,
 18 okay, and that might have been the other person
 19 traveled, but they were a family member or you
 20 had contact with them at the office. So you
 21 start doing that protocol to see if you've

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1 really got a high risk for having COVID-19.
 2 Any other questions about the test?
 3 MR. PACK: They're trying to get these
 4 tests produced as quickly as possible and get
 5 them out to various states and counties.
 6 DR. WADLEY: Yeah. I think probably the
 7 private labs, I think additional ones will come
 8 on. They'll be able to do the ones that the
 9 private physicians order. And whether positive
 10 or negative, that will make people feel better
 11 because they can get a test when they want it.
 12 MR. PACK: I heard the governor's press
 13 statement on this regarding the tests
 14 themselves and waiving that test fee.
 15 DR. WADLEY: Yes.
 16 MR. PACK: For Marylanders.
 17 DR. WADLEY: There's been quite a bit gone
 18 out to the insurance commissions, first of all,
 19 about if you have insurance, no copays, it
 20 covers it and all that. And so then also if
 21 you don't have insurance, then they'll cover

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1 that.

2 So they don't want a copay or lack of

3 insurance to keep anybody from getting the test

4 when they need it.

5 MR. PACK: Right, exactly. Don't want

6 that to be a hurdle. Go ahead and get the

7 test, go to your physician, have your physician

8 go ahead and order the test, and go get it

9 done.

10 DR. WADLEY: Well, the physician will

11 always order the test or the private provider.

12 Then LabCorp would do it.

13 Only the State is where they have to have

14 an approval after they've had an

15 epidemiological assessment.

16 MR. PACK: Okay. We had a meeting over at

17 the emergency operations center with a number

18 of principals that was at the table. Eastern

19 Shore Health Systems was there, as well as from

20 the Department of Social Services and some

21 other area departments.

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1 I think one of the things that I remember

2 hearing from that discussion was to not rush

3 off to the hospital. If you're feeling poorly,

4 to contact your primary physician and get a

5 visit in to them first.

6 DR. WADLEY: Exactly. Because if

7 everybody rushed to the ER, if it's the flu,

8 you're going to spread it worse. So that's not

9 the place.

10 If you're having really trouble breathing,

11 then, of course, ER is fine. But if you've got

12 a runny nose, a little congestion, low grade

13 fever, not feeling well, then you really ought

14 to see your private provider and not go into an

15 emergency room because that crowds them and

16 that keeps them from seeing the ones that

17 really need to be seen.

18 MR. PACK: Right. Okay.

19 DR. WADLEY: So I think the State has done

20 well in getting channels for communication to

21 come down and having a specific individual for

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1 that channel. For example, there's one for

2 private physicians, there's one for long-term

3 care, there's one for schools. So they've

4 tried to keep that communication line open.

5 And we've had so much communication we haven't

6 been able to do anything but read the

7 communication, but that's good.

8 So I think the next few days will see a

9 little bit more on the long-term care. We may

10 see visitors totally blocked like they have

11 when they have an influenza outbreak. But I

12 think that's the area where you concentrate

13 your energy right now because that is the group

14 that is responding worse to the virus.

15 MR. PACK: Right.

16 DR. WADLEY: And not children, thank

17 goodness. Okay. They're doing very well.

18 One reason may be that the common cold is

19 a coronavirus. It's just a weaker virus. And

20 the SARS virus, the severe, acute respiratory

21 symptom and the Middle Eastern respiratory

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1 syndrome that we've had over the past 12 or 15

2 years, those were coronaviruses, too. They

3 were mutations that were worse and actually

4 worse than the flu.

5 At this point in time, there's a lot of

6 speculation is this one more contagious than

7 the flu, is this one really worse than the flu.

8 Probably they got enough evidence to say it's

9 worse than the flu for seniors.

10 Until they do more widespread testing,

11 they have no idea what the denominator is. So

12 how do you figure out how contagious it is if

13 you haven't done a lot of tests. And how do

14 you figure out the mortality rate if you don't

15 know how many people were infected.

16 So we're not saying that we don't have any

17 concern for this virus. We're saying we're

18 trying to get prepared. We're saying it might

19 be like the flu for the younger. And for the

20 older individuals and with immune problems,

21 then we want to take far more precaution.

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1 MR. PACK: Right. And nothing spreads
 2 fear faster than the unknown or misinformation.
 3 DR. WADLEY: Yes.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Pack, I see that we've
 5 got Director Stamp back there. And I was
 6 wondering if he could come up and just give us
 7 a little brief rundown of how prepared we are
 8 because we have if you're feeling sick, call
 9 your doctor.
 10 DR. WADLEY: Yes.
 11 MR. DIVILIO: Hopefully --
 12 DR. WADLEY: Same old thing that your
 13 kindergarten teacher told you. Okay. Wash
 14 your hands, wash them good, wash them off, and
 15 use the -- cough in your sleeve, don't touch
 16 him, keep your hands to yourself. And if
 17 you're sick, stay home.
 18 MR. PACK: Yeah, exactly.
 19 Mr. Stamp from the Emergency Services
 20 Department, our director. A lot going on with
 21 this virus, a lot of misinformation, a lot of

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1 good information. How do we all blend it
 2 altogether?
 3 MR. STAMP: Well, with this emerging
 4 infectious disease issue, this is squarely in
 5 the wheelhouse of public health. This is what
 6 they plan for.
 7 The Emergency Management System is
 8 designed to support them in this. What we try
 9 to do is strike a balance between ensuring the
 10 public is prepared but not overreact so that we
 11 can maintain public trust. And I think that's
 12 what we're trying to do here.
 13 We're fortunate in Talbot County that we
 14 have Dr. Wadley, a pediatrician, a former state
 15 secretary of health in Tennessee. And she is
 16 overseeing this for the county. There's a lot
 17 of confidence in her capability. The emergency
 18 management system stands to wrap around her,
 19 support her to ensure we're communicating with
 20 the public.
 21 MR. PACK: Okay.

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1 DR. WADLEY: Let me just say one thing.
 2 Okay?
 3 MR. PACK: Sure.
 4 DR. WADLEY: I've lived through a few of
 5 these. And there's a lot of criticism going on
 6 now one way or the other.
 7 Let me just say there's no way you can win
 8 in a scenario like this. Some is going to say
 9 you overreacted, and some is going to say you
 10 waited too late regardless of what you did.
 11 Okay.
 12 I think Maryland has taken really good
 13 precautions. I think they've done well on
 14 preparing, from emergency services to the
 15 Health Department and all the other agencies
 16 and down through the health system. So I give
 17 them some good points on communication,
 18 transparency, and getting the word out. But
 19 you're always going to hear the criticism of
 20 should we do more or less.
 21 MR. STAMP: Well, what I was going to say

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1 is common sense precautions are what you're
 2 seeing happen.
 3 I mean internally here we know that our
 4 911 Center is a critical group of employees.
 5 So we've instituted enhanced cleaning
 6 procedures in the 911 Center, we're monitoring
 7 our employees to make sure they don't come to
 8 work sick. These kinds of things so that we
 9 don't start seeing absenteeism increase in that
 10 critical area.
 11 Our EMS employees are on the front line,
 12 both volunteer and paid EMS responders. So
 13 we're making sure that they are briefed on
 14 procedures that are coming down from the State.
 15 We have protocols and they have equipment to
 16 ensure that both their patients and themselves
 17 are protected if they encounter somebody with
 18 symptoms.
 19 So these kind of things that we're doing,
 20 those are the kind of things that are common
 21 sense type of things that people should do

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1 themselves.

2 And again, try to find that balance

3 between overreacting and acting responsibly.

4 Like Dr. Wadley did say, this seems to be

5 affecting elderly and people that are

6 immunocompromised more than anybody else. So

7 those individuals should probably think twice

8 about going to gatherings, large gatherings

9 indoors or altering their behavior a little bit

10 to steer away from crowds.

11 But again, I guess one of the takeaways

12 with this is this is emerging very rapidly.

13 And so we are communicating with you night.

14 She's probably had about 15 versions today, and

15 it's going to change tomorrow.

16 The key is is that we're on top of it,

17 we're monitoring it, we're engaged, we're

18 involved in coordination calls. And we're

19 going to do the right thing for the people and

20 we're going to try to communicate a calm

21 message.

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1 MR. PACK: Right. I think you're right on

2 both points. There's something about going to

3 the extreme of something and fanning the flames

4 of panic. And then there's another to be too

5 complacent and let things get spiraled out of

6 control.

7 Communication is key. Correct information

8 is very, very important. Making sure that

9 those steps are in place to keep people safe.

10 So those things are what we're trying to get

11 across to the public.

12 I think you're absolutely right. The

13 governor has taken the lead on this. They have

14 put those action plans in place declaring a

15 State of Emergency I think was a good early

16 call so that those federal funds could be

17 requested if needed, if needed. And then going

18 about those weekly, if not daily, briefings so

19 that you stamp down some of those fears that

20 are out there because of the unknown or because

21 they heard something from a neighbor across the

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1 street about standing in the doorway you might

2 get it.

3 So I think that you have to kind of temper

4 it. You want your messaging to be clear. You

5 want to make sure you're giving clear and

6 accurate messaging. But you also want to take

7 those behind-the-scene precautions in case you

8 do need to draw down federal funds for

9 specific, targeted action.

10 So any other questions or comments as we

11 go through this together?

12 We do have our Purell. And wouldn't you

13 like to have stock in Purell right now.

14 DR. WADLEY: The last time you asked about

15 an N95.

16 MR. PACK: I did, an N95 mask.

17 DR. WADLEY: I got one.

18 MR. PACK: You got one for me?

19 DR. WADLEY: I got one.

20 MR. PACK: Okay. I'll pick it up later.

21 DR. WADLEY: I can't give you one without

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1 giving them one.

2 MR. PACK: They're okay. They're fine.

3 Thank you very much.

4 See here, Mr. Hollis. It's almost a

5 quarter after the hour. We're going back into,

6 here we go, Council discussion following the

7 Maryland General Assembly legislation.

8 One matter was pushed back from our first

9 annual bill day, which was HB 388. I believe

10 Mr. Leshar asked for us to push this back until

11 today. He wanted some more reading of that.

12 So let's pick up on that one first.

13 MS. PRICE: Is Sheriff Gamble here for

14 that?

15 MR. PACK: Well, he's here. I don't know

16 what he's here for. But he is still in the

17 audience.

18 SHERIFF GAMBLE: I'm here just in case

19 anybody has any questions.

20 MR. PACK: He's here just in case anybody

21 needs to talk to him.

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1 So Madam Secretary, let me get that in
 2 front of me first.
 3 MR. HOLLIS: I think the sheriff had given
 4 you some responses on House Bill 388.
 5 MR. PACK: He did. Yes, he did.
 6 MS. PRICE: Right.
 7 MR. PACK: So where is the title? Madam
 8 Secretary, do you have the title in front of
 9 you for the bill?
 10 SECRETARY: Yes.
 11 MR. PACK: Could you just read the title.
 12 SECRETARY: House Bill 388, criminal
 13 procedure, civil immigration enforcement,
 14 restrictions.
 15 MR. PACK: Thank you. And Mr. Leshner, you
 16 did ask Council to move this, hold it over.
 17 And we are now. So if I could turn to you for
 18 any comment on this particular matter before
 19 we --
 20 MR. LESHER: I guess my question, I don't
 21 know who really initially put this on our

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1 agenda. I don't know what the origin was. And
 2 I'm just curious whether anybody feels that
 3 Talbot County Council, I mean the Sheriffs
 4 Association or the sheriff individually may
 5 want to speak to the Assembly on this, but
 6 whether it's important for the Talbot County
 7 Council to speak on this issue.
 8 MR. PACK: Okay. If you're asking me if I
 9 remember who it came from, I don't remember who
 10 asked us to weigh in on this. I don't know
 11 whether it was Matt Peters from the
 12 Multicultural Center. I don't have that packet
 13 in front of me today. It was a rather big
 14 packet. If you remember, 34 bills.
 15 MR. LESHER: I asked Mr. Peters, and he
 16 said he did not.
 17 MR. PACK: But it was added on our list,
 18 HB 388. I don't recall who requested us to
 19 take action.
 20 SECRETARY: I believe it came from
 21 Delegate Mautz's office.

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1 MR. PACK: Is that where it came from,
 2 okay. It came from Delegate Mautz's office.
 3 Again, I don't have that file with me.
 4 So with that question being answered, do
 5 you have another? So your next question was
 6 whether or not Council should. . .
 7 MR. LESHER: Whether Council needs to
 8 weigh in on this.
 9 MR. PACK: Whether Council needs to weigh
 10 in on it, okay.
 11 MS. PRICE: Can we ask Sheriff Gamble?
 12 MR. PACK: Let's ask the Council first.
 13 He wants to know if Council needed to weigh in
 14 on it and he did ask for it to be moved back.
 15 So what's the Council's opinion? We've
 16 been asked by Delegate Mautz's office for a
 17 position on this particular bill. And we have
 18 a Council member asking should we be involved.
 19 We can always take a position of no position.
 20 MS. PRICE: So I have a question for
 21 Sheriff Gamble.

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1 MR. PACK: Okay. We'll --
 2 MS. PRICE: No. It's a yes or no. I want
 3 to know if the Sheriffs Association took a
 4 position on this bill as a Sheriffs
 5 Association?
 6 SHERIFF GAMBLE: I don't believe they did.
 7 MR. PACK: Okay.
 8 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Individual sheriffs took
 9 positions.
 10 MR. PACK: Not the association. Anyone
 11 else have any other comments of Mr. Leshner's
 12 question regarding HB 388?
 13 MR. DIVILIO: I don't have any
 14 conversations with Johnny Mautz or any
 15 information from him about his position.
 16 MS. PRICE: Well, the House hearing is
 17 done. I'm looking online. I don't see a cross
 18 filed.
 19 MR. LESHER: The legislation, there's no
 20 cross file. The legislation has not passed out
 21 of committee. This may be a non-issue.

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1 Mr. President, if it's in order, I'll move
 2 for a position of no position.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Second it.
 4 MR. PACK: Before we do that, I don't see
 5 Mr. Peters in the audience.
 6 I know we did take comment from the public
 7 before we moved on the other matters. Is there
 8 anyone here to speak to the Council regarding
 9 HB 388? Yes, sir, come forward, identify
 10 yourself.
 11 MR. BARBAROW: My name is Davis Barbarow,
 12 24997 Back Creek Drive, St. Michael's.
 13 I'm here representing the task force for
 14 humane treatment of immigrants, over 100
 15 residents of Talbot County, six congregations.
 16 I want to talk very briefly. Thank you
 17 for taking the time to consider it.
 18 What the bill does do and what the bill
 19 doesn't do. What the bill does do is allow law
 20 enforcement to concentrate on its assigned
 21 public safety tasks. And the other thing the

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1 bill does try to do is remove fear in the
 2 immigrant community of getting hassled when
 3 they have not done anything other than being an
 4 immigrant.
 5 The bill does in effect block local law
 6 enforcement from serving as ICE agents.
 7 What the bill does not do is provide
 8 sanctuary, waivers of crimes as established in
 9 normal law. It does not block any agreed forms
 10 of cooperation with federal law that are
 11 already in effect. So in a way, it's a rather
 12 innocuous bill, which would not change the
 13 normal practice in most Maryland counties.
 14 Thank you very much.
 15 MR. PACK: Thank you very much,
 16 Mr. Barbarow.
 17 Anyone else wish to be heard on HB 388 at
 18 this time? Okay.
 19 For the record, we did receive comment
 20 electronically from the sheriff as well as from
 21 Director Kokolis over at the Detention Center

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1 as to how the bill would, if any, impact their
 2 duties. It doesn't appear that it would have
 3 any impact on their duties at all.
 4 We do hold persons at the Detention Center
 5 who has committed a crime. Immigration, ones
 6 immigration status is not a State or county
 7 offense. It's a federal offense. So those
 8 persons, unless there's an underlying State
 9 crime, would not be held at the Detention
 10 Center.
 11 MR. DIVILIO: Did I read this wrong? I
 12 thought it was only if you were incarcerated or
 13 already charged with something. Then this
 14 doesn't just freely allow the police to just
 15 stop and question anyone.
 16 MR. PACK: Exactly. That's right. I mean
 17 if you go back to the days of stop and frisk in
 18 New York City, the bill would basically put
 19 that on the record, that stop and frisk, if you
 20 would, put it that way, based on one's physical
 21 appearance would not be allowed.

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1 MS. PRICE: Right. But there are certain
 2 questions it seems like that law enforcement
 3 officers must ask that this bill might prevent
 4 them from asking.
 5 Again, I don't know that we need to weigh
 6 into it.
 7 But there are certain things that they are
 8 required to ask when they are stopped for a
 9 potential crime. So I certainly wouldn't want
 10 a bill to hinder the ability of a law
 11 enforcement officer when they stop somebody for
 12 a specific reason to be able to ask the
 13 questions that they need to ask to keep the
 14 rest of us safe.
 15 But again, I'm not saying that we need to
 16 weigh in on it. If the Sheriffs Association as
 17 a whole hasn't weighed in, the individuals have
 18 and I don't know that the County Council has a
 19 role in doing that either.
 20 MR. PACK: I don't think the bill would
 21 block the officer from asking those pertinent

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1 questions that he or she may need to ask. If
 2 there's a reason for the stop, if a crime has
 3 been committed, of course, asking name and
 4 identification is not an unreasonable request.
 5 I don't think the bill stops that from
 6 happening.
 7 MS. PRICE: I guess it's at the arrest
 8 portion.
 9 MR. PACK: If there's an arrest, right.
 10 MS. PRICE: So we have a motion and a
 11 second.
 12 MR. PACK: So the motion was a position of
 13 no position on the matter.
 14 We have heard one testimony from the
 15 public.
 16 It was seconded I believe by Mr. Callahan.
 17 Okay.
 18 So Madam Secretary, on the motion for Bill
 19 388 for the County Council to take a position
 20 of no position on the matter, please call the
 21 roll.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 2 MR. PACK: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 8 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 10 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 11 MR. PACK: Okay. So the Council has taken
 12 a position of no position on 388.
 13 Another matter that was not part of the
 14 bill day is now HB 1069. This now appears -- I
 15 don't think we've had any request that I know
 16 of. Is anyone asking us to take action on
 17 1069?
 18 MR. HOLLIS: You did receive a request
 19 from Queen Anne's County.
 20 MR. PACK: From Queen Anne's County.
 21 MR. HOLLIS: It may have been an

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1 administrator asking for --
 2 MS. PRICE: Well, yeah. The Eastern Shore
 3 counties had some conversation about it because
 4 it does -- it's actually a repeat of a bill
 5 that was introduced last year and a bill that
 6 was introduced earlier this year.
 7 I'm not sure why Senator Miller introduced
 8 almost an identical bill late in session.
 9 Don't know if it will get through the rules
 10 committee, but I certainly -- we have opposed
 11 this legislation before last year and this
 12 year. And like I said, it seems to be a
 13 duplicate.
 14 So I would certainly make a motion to copy
 15 Queen Anne's County's letter and send a letter
 16 of opposition on Senate Bill 1069.
 17 MR. LESHER: Second.
 18 MS. PRICE: This is, for the public's
 19 knowledge, this is the one that takes away the
 20 veto power of an affected county on the Eastern
 21 Shore.

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1 We discussed this a little bit earlier
 2 this year I think when it came up the first
 3 time that there is I guess it's I270 and over
 4 there on the western shore there was some --
 5 they're trying to fix a problem on the western
 6 shore of having the majority of counties that
 7 are affected on a big toll road over there.
 8 And I think at the time that was inadvertently
 9 affecting this.
 10 You know, whether this one is
 11 specifically -- this one is specifically aimed
 12 at us. This one is just for the Eastern Shore
 13 counties. The other one was to encompass all
 14 24. The other bill was all 24 counties would
 15 be able to weigh in on whether they're affected
 16 or not. This one, again, is targeting the
 17 Eastern Shore counties specifically.
 18 And I'm not sure why that's happening, but
 19 we certainly want to retain our ability to give
 20 consent before the State sticks something on --
 21 MR. HOLLIS: Council should consider a

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1 position of opposition to this bill.
 2 MS. PRICE: Yes. So I made that motion to
 3 oppose.
 4 MR. PACK: Is there anyone here to speak
 5 on Senate Bill 1069?
 6 We do have a letter that is in Granicus.
 7 This would be from Senator Hershey. Well, to
 8 Senator Hershey I should say.
 9 MR. HOLLIS: We received more than one,
 10 Mr. President, to different elected officials
 11 with a cover e-mail from Queen Anne's County
 12 asking for your consideration to do a similar
 13 letter.
 14 MR. PACK: Anyone on 1069?
 15 We have a motion for Council to consider a
 16 letter of opposition of 1069.
 17 MR. DIVILIO: I'll second that.
 18 MR. PACK: I think we have a second
 19 already by Mr. Leshner.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Okay.
 21 MR. PACK: So your second is out of order.

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1 MS. PRICE: Would you like to third?
 2 MR. DIVILIO: Yeah. I'll go ahead.
 3 MR. PACK: If there's no further
 4 discussion on --
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Just real quick. It's
 6 Senator Miller wrote this bill from, where is
 7 he.
 8 MR. LESHNER: Calvert County.
 9 MR. DIVILIO: Calvert County. So the
 10 section applies to Caroline County, Cecil
 11 County, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's,
 12 Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester.
 13 MS. PRICE: He's targeting us.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Yes.
 15 MS. PRICE: He is.
 16 MR. DIVILIO: There's my stance.
 17 MR. PACK: So a motion for a letter of
 18 opposition to 1069 is made and seconded. Madam
 19 Secretary, call your roll.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 21 MR. PACK: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 2 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 6 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 8 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 9 MR. PACK: We'll fax a letter to oppose
 10 1069.
 11 Another item that was not a part of bill
 12 day is now HB 1300, the Blueprint for
 13 Maryland's Future. This is also known as the
 14 Kirwan legislation.
 15 Did we receive anything on this requesting
 16 Council to offer an opinion?
 17 MS. PRICE: That would be me.
 18 MR. PACK: Other than Ms. Price, did we
 19 receive anything else?
 20 MS. PRICE: Does that matter?
 21 MR. HOLLIS: Not that I'm aware of. I

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1 believe Ms. Price asked for it to be put.
 2 MS. PRICE: I asked for it a couple of
 3 weeks ago.
 4 I will keep this quite targeted because we
 5 have -- it has passed in the Senate. It has
 6 moved very rapidly through the House. Hundreds
 7 of amendments were offered. Only about 65 were
 8 deemed quality, shall we say, to move through
 9 the House.
 10 And so that I mean it was just all done in
 11 a matter of days. So they passed that Friday
 12 night. I watched all of those hearings for
 13 amendments, all of that stuff that happened on
 14 Friday.
 15 They sent it over to the Senate. And
 16 Monday, what is today? Monday they did a bill
 17 walk-through with the amendments that were
 18 incorporated in the House.
 19 So there was an amendment that they tried
 20 to get through the House that had to do with
 21 median household income. Delegate Ghrist had

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1 offered it during the week. It was not one of
 2 those selected. It was offered again from
 3 Delegate Jacobs from the floor on Friday and
 4 promptly voted down.
 5 Two senators are proposing a median
 6 household income amendment worded slightly
 7 different. They're still working that out.
 8 Tomorrow those will be offered, and then they
 9 will be voted on on Thursday.
 10 So specifically median household income.
 11 I think we've all talked for ten years or so
 12 about the wealth formula being unfair to
 13 counties like Talbot, Kent, Worcester, who
 14 might have high property values but the divisor
 15 is the number of children. Number of children
 16 we educate has nothing to do with our wealth.
 17 And there are many counties who are well below
 18 the median household income.
 19 So what the senators are working on, the
 20 language is pretty close, that's why I was late
 21 to the meeting. So I apologize. I was

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1 actually on the phone with Senator Carozza.
 2 She was going over the language with me.
 3 Basically what it would say is for the
 4 current funding through today, it would retain
 5 the wealth formula that exists, property plus
 6 income divided by (inaudible). For any
 7 additional dollars that are required because of
 8 Kirwan or Maintenance of Effort, and I'll get
 9 to the second one, that would be done on a
 10 factor of median household income.
 11 Talbot County is 18 percent below the
 12 median income. So I think that all you guys
 13 really need to know is that it would give more
 14 State dollars to Talbot County and similar
 15 counties so that we don't have to foot the
 16 whole bill.
 17 The price tag between State and the
 18 counties stays the same. But the difference is
 19 instead of Talbot County having to foot about
 20 75 percent of the bill, we would get additional
 21 State dollars, which is what we've been talking

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1 about for years.
 2 So what I would like the Council to do is
 3 to please offer a letter of support for the
 4 median household income amendment that will be
 5 offered tomorrow. This is what we've been
 6 asking for for ten years.
 7 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Pack, you were asking
 8 also -- and thank you very much for that
 9 information. Yes, that is something that we
 10 have been trying to fight for forever. It
 11 makes sense to try to balance things out.
 12 I received one correspondence with the
 13 Teachers Association. I would certainly like
 14 the opportunity to have more time. And I would
 15 like to schedule a work session, because that's
 16 a popular thing to do tonight, with the Board
 17 of Education and with Kelly Griffith to go
 18 through Kirwan and see exactly what we're
 19 expecting, what we like, what we don't like,
 20 and address it at that time.
 21 MS. PRICE: Well, all the numbers are out.

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1 And this will be done by the end of the week.
 2 So while we can talk with Kelly and the
 3 School Board about how this is going to get
 4 implemented, the introduction of amendments is
 5 tomorrow. The vote in (inaudible) is Thursday.
 6 And it will probably be out of the Senate by
 7 the end of the week, if not the very first of
 8 next week, because they have to get it under
 9 the governor's desk by about the 24th or 25th
 10 of March.
 11 So these floor votes, I mean it was in
 12 committees in the House last Tuesday,
 13 Wednesday, and it was done by Friday.
 14 So while I think that it's good for us to
 15 work through some of these things with them, as
 16 far as the funding piece of it, we can talk
 17 policy with them and how they're going to
 18 implement it and all of that, but as far as the
 19 funding policy, all I'm asking for tonight is
 20 to support a bill that gives us more State aid.
 21 And I can't imagine that you wouldn't be

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1 supportive of an amendment being offered that
 2 would help counties like Talbot with more State
 3 aid.
 4 MR. PACK: Okay.
 5 MR. LESHER: I see no reason to object.
 6 This is -- there's clearly a lot of -- well,
 7 there's widespread acknowledgment that what
 8 we're doing in education needs to change.
 9 Maryland has commissioned an expert panel that
 10 has laid out a plan for how that is.
 11 And really the controversy in this is not
 12 what needs to be done, not how to go about
 13 this.
 14 The controversy really is entirely how to
 15 pay for it. And what Ms. Price has been
 16 offering here and following very closely is
 17 that part of the legislation. It has to do
 18 with not so much the content of what we need to
 19 do to fix education in Maryland, but -- and to
 20 become a leader among states in this. But
 21 really how to figure out how to pay for it, how

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1 to proportion those costs appropriately, and in
 2 particular, how this cost should be apportioned
 3 to the county.
 4 If the funding formula can be adjusted in
 5 a way that does not land so heavily on Talbot
 6 County, that seems to me would be something we
 7 all would support.
 8 MS. PRICE: And if you remember, MACo's
 9 position was that the State should pay for all
 10 of Kirwan, that we didn't feel like the
 11 counties, because we are already funding over
 12 50 percent of the total education cost, that
 13 MACo's position was that this new layer of
 14 Kirwan funding should fall squarely on the
 15 State because they have the ability to do
 16 other -- we saw the sales tax rise and fall
 17 last week during the same time period. But
 18 they have more room in their budgets if they --
 19 to shift some things around.
 20 We know. We just had a conversation on
 21 putting something on the ballot. We don't have

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1 anything that we can cut from our budget to
 2 help pay for this. So our only resource is to
 3 raise property taxes. And the numbers that
 4 after it passed on Friday are \$69 million by
 5 2030 for Talbot County, which is a 40-cent
 6 increase in the property tax rate. There's
 7 nothing we can do about that.
 8 The only thing we can hope for is that we
 9 get some semblance of this amendment through so
 10 maybe it takes it down to 65 or 64 million or
 11 something.
 12 This amendment could mean millions of
 13 dollars in State aid rather than having to put
 14 it squarely on our citizens' backs to pay for
 15 it. We're still going to have to go up quite a
 16 bit, but we need to support this.
 17 MR. DIVILIO: Who offered that amendment
 18 that was shot down?
 19 MS. PRICE: So last week Delegate Ghrist
 20 had one drafted. It never made it through.
 21 And so the only thing that they could do -- and

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1 there were 16 or 17 or 18 amendments offered
 2 from the floor on Friday afternoon. Most of
 3 them were amendments that they had tried to
 4 draft in advance that leadership wouldn't allow
 5 to get through.
 6 So your last resort is to offer a floor
 7 amendment. And that was Delegate Jacobs.
 8 And so now the senators are revising that
 9 language, and the Senate is a much smaller
 10 body. They -- it will at least get a debate.
 11 It won't be -- it will get hurt. It will be
 12 discussed tomorrow. It's not like the leaders
 13 are going to say no, you can't talk about the
 14 bill. The senators, it's a much smaller group
 15 of legislators. You don't have 140 some
 16 people. You have a much smaller group of
 17 senators. And each senator has the respect to
 18 be able to be heard.
 19 So I think it's important that those
 20 senators can say we have the support of Talbot
 21 County, Worcester County, Kent County, Garrett

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1 County, all of those counties that would be
 2 able to benefit and change a very unfair wealth
 3 formula.
 4 MR. PACK: Anything additional?
 5 Questions?
 6 I haven't seen the amendment, so I'm not
 7 in a position to --
 8 MS. PRICE: So Mr. Pack --
 9 MR. PACK: I'm just --
 10 MS. PRICE: Mr. Pack, let me just --
 11 MR. PACK: Ms. Price, I let you speak. I
 12 didn't say anything for the last ten minutes,
 13 ten minutes. I'm just giving my --
 14 MS. PRICE: Amendments have to go through
 15 committee --
 16 MR. PACK: Ms. Price, I've given you ten
 17 minutes.
 18 MS. PRICE: -- first before you see the
 19 language.
 20 MR. PACK: I've given you ten minutes, and
 21 I didn't say a word. I --

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1 MS. PRICE: So you don't support getting
 2 additional State --
 3 MR. PACK: I haven't opened my mouth, ten
 4 minutes.
 5 So I haven't seen it. I don't know
 6 whether maybe Mr. Leshar has. I haven't
 7 personally seen it, nor have I talked to
 8 anyone --
 9 MS. PRICE: So --
 10 MR. PACK: Ten minutes I gave you.
 11 MS. PRICE: You won't see it until after
 12 committee tomorrow.
 13 MR. PACK: I did not interrupt you, I did
 14 not interrupt you.
 15 So this is just I'm not in a position to
 16 vote tonight. We patched things over before.
 17 I'm not in a position to vote.
 18 If others are, that's fine. We have a
 19 second to the motion.
 20 I will be abstaining. I'm not in a
 21 position to vote tonight. That's it. That's

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1 just me. I just want to be on the record
 2 saying that. That's me.
 3 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.
 4 MS. PRICE: I just want to clarify one
 5 thing.
 6 Understand that we're all still learning
 7 some more about the Annapolis process.
 8 MR. PACK: Absolutely.
 9 MS. PRICE: But what I have learned, and
 10 we learned it on the Choptank bill, we're
 11 learning it on this bill, you can't see the
 12 official amendment language until it passes
 13 through the committee.
 14 So when the senator or the delegate
 15 introduces it in committee and it passes or
 16 fails from the committee, that's when that
 17 language actually becomes public. So you have
 18 to work off a draft. That is the way it works
 19 in Annapolis.
 20 We, the County Council, will never, ever
 21 see amendment language before being asked to

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1 take a position on it because that's how it
 2 works in committee. Just so you understand
 3 that.
 4 MR. PACK: I will say thank you for that,
 5 Ms. Price.
 6 I will say that I certainly agree with the
 7 offer that was made by Dr. Salmon to hold a
 8 work session with the Board of Education on
 9 this. This is a very fluid --
 10 MR. DIVILIO: Dr. Griffith.
 11 MR. PACK: Dr. Griffith. I said
 12 Dr Salmon, didn't I. Thank you.
 13 To hold a work session with Dr. Griffith
 14 and the Board of Education. This is a very
 15 fluid bill.
 16 MS. PRICE: No.
 17 MR. PACK: It's been changed and it
 18 probably will change several more times before
 19 we have an actual final draft of it.
 20 I think sitting down with the Board of
 21 Education --

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1 MS. PRICE: This is the third reader in my
 2 hand --
 3 MR. PACK: Again, Ms. Price, if I could
 4 just get through my statement. I know that you
 5 have a lot to say.
 6 So I certainly do welcome that, that
 7 opportunity, and hopefully we can make that
 8 happen sooner than later to have that
 9 discussion with them.
 10 That's all I have to say on it. Again,
 11 it's a very thick bill. A lot of changes been
 12 added to the bill. It's going over to the
 13 House. Had some amendments. Probably will
 14 have additional more amendments to it.
 15 So hopefully we can have that sooner than
 16 later with the School Board.
 17 With that being said, as the hour is
 18 now --
 19 MR. DIVILIO: So Ms. Price has made a
 20 motion, Mr. Leshar seconded?
 21 MR. PACK: Yes.

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1 MS. PRICE: To support the amendment for
 2 the median household income amendment.
 3 MR. DIVILIO: Would you consider just
 4 sending a letter in support that they use
 5 median household income or --
 6 MS. PRICE: Sure. Yeah. because we
 7 haven't see the -- that's really all I'm asking
 8 for is we support a median household income
 9 amendment. To me, that's simple. A couple of
 10 sentences, absolutely.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: But you're supporting
 12 something that we haven't -- and I don't think
 13 it's a matter not supporting it. It's --
 14 MS. PRICE: So you just support it so that
 15 Senator Carozza and Senator Edwards, when they
 16 go into committee, can say I have a letter of
 17 support from this county.
 18 And you think that -- this is on the media
 19 right now. Do you think if we don't support
 20 this --
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: I don't think that's -- it

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1 could be on the media all it wants --
 2 MS. PRICE: No, no. I'm saying --
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: -- I don't think --
 4 MS. PRICE: -- it won't get to them and
 5 say you don't even have a letter of support
 6 from your county that you're trying to help.
 7 And when Senator Eckhart gets into B and T
 8 and she wants to say -- how is she going to
 9 defend the fact?
 10 This is really important. If you believe
 11 that we should get more State aid --
 12 MR. PACK: I don't think they even asked
 13 us for a letter of support. I mean if it was
 14 so important for them to get a letter of
 15 support from Talbot County, wouldn't they have
 16 reached out to us for that? They didn't ask us
 17 for a letter of support.
 18 So to say that they're going to go into
 19 didn't you get a letter, you didn't get a
 20 letter of support from a county that you were
 21 willing to help. When did they ask us?

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1 MS. PRICE: I'm not going to disclose the
 2 details of the last five days.
 3 MR. PACK: We did not get a request either
 4 in writing or verbally from them for a letter
 5 of support. So if that statement is --
 6 MS. PRICE: If this is a position you all
 7 want to take, go for it.
 8 MR. PACK: I mean you can't argue both.
 9 You can't say you didn't get it if you didn't
 10 ask for it. They didn't ask for it.
 11 MS. PRICE: Do you or do you not support
 12 an amendment that would make a median household
 13 income adjustment to give us more State
 14 dollars? Yes or no? That's all we need to
 15 say.
 16 MR. PACK: Let's move the point forward.
 17 We have a motion and a second.
 18 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 20 MR. PACK: I'll abstain.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.

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1 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm going to abstain.
 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 5 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 7 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 8 MR. PACK: Okay. So you have the letter
 9 to be drafted on that.
 10 MS. PRICE: And there's one more. There's
 11 one more amendment that came through that is
 12 very problematic. The same bill.
 13 And this one you could actually look at.
 14 And this is --
 15 MR. PACK: Wait a minute. What do you
 16 mean there's one more amendment?
 17 MS. PRICE: Yes. There's an amendment
 18 about a Maintenance of Effort escalator that
 19 was added back into the bill on Friday.
 20 So I would like a letter of oppose for
 21 this particular amendment that was offered.

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1 MR. DIVILIO: What's the number or who
 2 offered it?
 3 MS. PRICE: It's on page 53 and page 54 of
 4 the bill. Okay.
 5 Let me give you a -- I promise it will be
 6 90 seconds or less.
 7 Kirwan was supposed -- Maintenance of
 8 Effort will forever be in our midst. You can
 9 never fund less per pupil. We know that.
 10 What Kirwan was supposed to do was take
 11 out the escalator, which we've been on, which
 12 is the additional two and a half percent when
 13 you fall below the State average. We've been
 14 stuck with that.
 15 Because Kirwan is specifically formulas
 16 telling you how much you need to spend for each
 17 type of pupil, English language learner,
 18 special ed, it is very formula driven.
 19 So a legislator from the House decided to
 20 throw the escalator back in.
 21 Again, even if -- there are always going

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1 to be 12 counties who are behind. Why would
 2 you add an escalator on top of a very specific
 3 amount? So it adds the escalator back in for
 4 two years and then allows MSDE to decide
 5 whether or not they want the additional money.
 6 MR. PACK: Where is this language that
 7 you're talking about? Where is it on Granicus?
 8 MS. PRICE: Page 53.
 9 MR. PACK: Do we --
 10 MS. PRICE: You have the bill.
 11 MR. PACK: I have the bill, yes. I have
 12 the whole bill sitting right here.
 13 MS. PRICE: Correct. And whether they've
 14 updated it on here. It should be pages 53 and
 15 54 where it says specifically --
 16 MR. PACK: So where did this request come
 17 from?
 18 MS. PRICE: Me. Who has been up there
 19 every day for the last two weeks working on
 20 this.
 21 I can read you the paragraph.

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1 MR. DIVILIO: You're looking at Senate
 2 bill?
 3 MS. PRICE: No. House bill.
 4 MR. PACK: House bill. It's just gone up
 5 to the Senate. Hasn't even --
 6 MS. PRICE: So understand the process
 7 again. They are letting --
 8 MR. PACK: I understand the process again.
 9 MS. PRICE: They're only having one side
 10 work the bill right now. So instead of having
 11 the House bill do it and the Senate do it at
 12 the same time, the House went through their
 13 process and they're moving it over.
 14 So the final reader of the House bill,
 15 which passed on Friday, states except, and this
 16 is right now it's on page 53. You can look at
 17 it if you'd like.
 18 MR. PACK: Fifty-three.
 19 MS. PRICE: Except as provided in
 20 subsection C2 of this section, in fiscal years
 21 22 and 23, if a county's education effort, as

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1 defined in subsection J of this section, is
 2 below 100 percent of the Statewide five-year
 3 moving average of the education effort, the
 4 required Maintenance of Effort required for
 5 amount for that county shall be adjusted by
 6 increasing the per pupil amount by the lesser
 7 of.
 8 This is current Maintenance of Effort law.
 9 They're adding it back in. It was taken
 10 out. And so it adjusts the up to two and a
 11 half percent on the Statewide moving average.
 12 And no matter what happens with the other
 13 amendment, we will always be one of those
 14 counties that's below the Statewide average.
 15 So on top of the formula, which is very
 16 specific, this actually makes no sense. It
 17 makes no sense at all to add two and a half
 18 percent to a specific dollar amount.
 19 So we need to be against this provision in
 20 the bill, that we are opposed to an escalator.
 21 The language would be simple. We would be

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1 opposed to the escalator on top of the Kirwan
 2 formula.
 3 MR. PACK: So that's another motion on HB
 4 1300.
 5 MS. PRICE: Correct.
 6 MR. PACK: To oppose. This is on page 53.
 7 Well, I have no page 52. I don't know why I
 8 can't (inaudible).
 9 MS. PRICE: Because there's no third
 10 reader now.
 11 MR. LESHER: Now, is --
 12 MS. PRICE: Do you have that page now, the
 13 underlying language, because it was added in on
 14 Friday? So you might not have this language.
 15 MR. PACK: Okay. Do I have a second?
 16 MR. LESHER: Mr. Pack, I have a question.
 17 MR. PACK: Yes, Mr. Leshar.
 18 MR. LESHER: The Statewide five-year
 19 moving average of education effort. Is that a
 20 fixed dollar figure or is that a percentage of
 21 increase?

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1 MS. PRICE: I can answer that. It's not a
 2 fixed dollar figure.
 3 So what happens, let's say a county like a
 4 Howard County or a Baltimore County or a
 5 Montgomery County decides to give a whole bunch
 6 of extra money to their county Board of
 7 Education because they choose to raise taxes or
 8 they want to do it, it makes the rest of us
 9 look bad.
 10 So that's why this was a flaw in the
 11 Maintenance of Effort bill is because if
 12 another county has the ability to give more to
 13 their county Boards of Education but other
 14 counties don't have the ability -- and it does.
 15 Kind of there's a difference between sometimes
 16 the bigger counties have a little more room to
 17 do stuff than the smaller rural counties.
 18 And so the Kirwan bill was very specific.
 19 I mean I sat through all the funding workgroup
 20 meetings, every single one of them for six
 21 months. And --

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1 MR. PACK: I'm going to ask that we
 2 call --
 3 MS. PRICE: DLS was very specific that
 4 this would be removed.
 5 So this was very surprising that it ended
 6 up back in the bill. So any of 12 counties
 7 should be opposing this.
 8 MR. LESHER: This is a percentage?
 9 MS. PRICE: Right. So if you are below --
 10 so we just talked about the wealth formula.
 11 And if you are below the State average,
 12 just simplifying. If you're below the State
 13 average in your per pupil funding, if you're
 14 below the State average, then you have to
 15 continually play catch-up. It's a hamster on a
 16 hamster wheel because as one county catches up,
 17 another one falls behind.
 18 MR. DIVILIO: It harbors innovation, too.
 19 Like the laptop initiative that we tried,
 20 that was a success. But if it wasn't and we
 21 decided to cancel that because we couldn't

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1 afford to continue doing it or libraries pop
 2 up, kids have better access to it, anything
 3 like that, then we're stuck trying to find the
 4 next thing to pop into the pocket. Right?
 5 Because we've already funded that thing.
 6 And if it didn't work, we need the ability to
 7 try things and innovate. Some years the
 8 technology is going to cost more. Some years
 9 it won't cost as much to try new things.
 10 I think that that's always been my problem
 11 with Maintenance of Effort is that it scares
 12 the Council and it prevents us from, or
 13 previous Council, from being able to try
 14 different projects that may really benefit the
 15 kids because they're afraid that they are going
 16 to have to do it for life.
 17 MS. PRICE: Right. But the main thing is
 18 I can give you three dollar amounts. The new
 19 funding per pupil for a base student is about
 20 \$11,000, and a pre-K is 19,500, and a special
 21 ed student is 28,000.

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1 If that's what the formula says we need to
 2 fund for that student, what are you going to do
 3 with the extra two and a half percent? And
 4 then another two and a half percent on top?
 5 So you'd be overfunding what the formula,
 6 the Kirwan formula, has already said.
 7 Again, this one makes zero sense because
 8 they have spent over three years studying how
 9 much each of these policy areas should cost.
 10 We can debate the policy, but we're not
 11 doing that. This is what the Kirwan Commission
 12 said a special ed student, 28,000 per pupil.
 13 Now we have to fund another two and a half
 14 percent on that top?
 15 MR. PACK: I'm going to call the vote. I
 16 didn't get a second. I'm sorry. Is there a
 17 second?
 18 Again, I'm not prepared to move forward on
 19 this this evening.
 20 MR. LESHHER: I think there's more that I
 21 need to understand about this.

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1 MR. PACK: As well as I.
 2 MR. LESHHER: I just don't -- I need to
 3 parse this language a bit.
 4 MR. PACK: Okay. Is there a second?
 5 Hearing none, the motion dies.
 6 Let's move on. County manager's report.
 7 MR. HOLLIS: Mr. Clarke, you're a patient
 8 man.
 9 Recommendation to award Bid 19-10, request
 10 for proposal for engineering services,
 11 preliminary engineering report, enhanced
 12 nutrient removal upgrade, region five Tilghman
 13 wastewater plant, Talbot County, Maryland.
 14 Requesting your approval to award it to
 15 RK&K in the amount of \$28,989.73, contingent
 16 upon approval by Maryland Department of the
 17 Environment.
 18 MR. PACK: Is there a motion?
 19 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.
 21 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Divilio. Seconded

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1 by Mr. Callahan. Any further discussion?
 2 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call
 3 your roll.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 5 MR. PACK: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 7 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 10 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 11 MS. PRICE: I'm sure it's fine, but I'll
 12 pass since I was getting water.
 13 MR. PACK: She abstains.
 14 MS. PRICE: Yes.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 16 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 17 MR. PACK: Next matter.
 18 MR. HOLLIS: Bid 1916. Request for
 19 proposals, engineering design services,
 20 extension of sewer to the Villages of Bozman
 21 and Neavitt from the region two St. Michael's

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1 wastewater treatment plant, as outlined in
 2 Resolution 250, Talbot County, Maryland.
 3 Mr. Clarke went back and spoke to Maryland
 4 Department of the Environment, the rest of the
 5 Council, as well as county manager and is now
 6 recommending that the Council reject all bids
 7 and rebid this project.
 8 Is that correct?
 9 MR. CLARKE: Yes, sir.
 10 MR. PACK: Wait a minute, Mr. Clarke.
 11 Hold on, hold on. I'm back -- now, we were
 12 asked whether or not when you first came before
 13 us on this, the question was that if we could
 14 take the lesser bid and still get the State
 15 dollars, could we do that, again, with the MDE
 16 formula that you guys worked out, could we do
 17 that.
 18 And reading through your memo.
 19 MR. CLARKE: Right.
 20 MR. PACK: And conversations we had with
 21 the county manager's office, is that that

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1 answer is no. We have to use whatever the
 2 outcome of your formula was.
 3 And the outcome of your formula had this
 4 going to a higher bidder, a higher bidder based
 5 on the formula.
 6 So I think you answered the question that
 7 Council asked of you.
 8 Having to send this out to bid, pushing
 9 this project back even further is the last
 10 thing we want to do. The last thing we want to
 11 do is delay this project any more than it
 12 already has been.
 13 If you followed the formula and the
 14 formula has led you and your staff to where you
 15 ended up, we just asked a simple question,
 16 could we go with the lower bid and still be
 17 eligible for the State funding. I believe your
 18 answer is no.
 19 MR. CLARKE: We cannot.
 20 MR. PACK: We cannot. So that's all we
 21 were asking.

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1 So with that being said, I'm willing to
 2 accept and move that we accept the
 3 recommendation that you offered initially,
 4 which was to go with the second.
 5 MR. CLARKE: Which would be Century.
 6 MR. PACK: With Century, absolutely,
 7 absolutely.
 8 I think you made your case based on
 9 following the formula that the State laid out.
 10 That's their formula. If you want their money,
 11 follow their rules. And you all did that.
 12 We had one question. You've answered that
 13 question. I'm fine with your answer, I'm fine
 14 with your answer.
 15 MR. CLARKE: But I guess so the Council
 16 knows and the public knows as well, we also
 17 talked with the State. And they indicated that
 18 as long as we go through the process, and we
 19 did, we changed it to a low bid, we would be --
 20 that low bid now would be eligible for the
 21 grant funding.

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1 So that was the issue that we did not
 2 have, and I didn't have an answer for you at
 3 that time.
 4 So what would happen if we rejected the
 5 bids, and let's say the low bidder was Lane
 6 again, now that low bid of 200 or 400 and some
 7 odd thousand dollars, now would be \$200,000
 8 would be eligible for grant or would be grant
 9 funded.
 10 MR. PACK: Now, again, don't muddy my
 11 water too much here.
 12 You said that changed the process. I
 13 thought the process was already laid out by MDE
 14 that we had to follow.
 15 MR. CLARKE: We did.
 16 MR. PACK: How can we change their
 17 process?
 18 MR. CLARKE: We did. We sent an e-mail to
 19 them and got an answer back that basically says
 20 we could basically go and do an amendment or an
 21 addendum to the bid, but we had already opened

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1 the bids. So there's no way for us to do an
 2 addendum on the bid, changing the process of
 3 selection.
 4 So because the bids were opened, we have
 5 to either reject the bids or we award to the
 6 bidder who is selected.
 7 MR. PACK: Are you comfortable with the
 8 process that you and your staff did initially
 9 to arrive at the conclusion that you arrived at
 10 two weeks ago?
 11 MR. CLARKE: I think --
 12 MR. PACK: Are you comfortable?
 13 MR. CLARKE: I'm comfortable with it. My
 14 position was the same as yours.
 15 If you all are good -- if you do not want
 16 to incur another delay, then my recommendation
 17 would be to award to Century because they --
 18 MR. PACK: Me, personally, I don't want to
 19 incur any further delays.
 20 I think that, again, the folks in Bozman
 21 and Neavitt have waited patiently with this.

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1 They're the ones that brought this to Council's
 2 attention some, I don't know, 24 months or more
 3 ago. They told us the stories that they were
 4 having down there with very small lots and not
 5 having the ability to improve them.
 6 If you are comfortable with your bid, with
 7 your process, I'm sorry, I finally found the
 8 memo underneath all this stack of stuff I have
 9 up here, to go with Century, this is Bid 1916,
 10 I will support that, if you're comfortable with
 11 that.
 12 MR. CLARKE: I would support that as well.
 13 Again, my position was on time.
 14 MR. HOLLIS: If that is what the Council
 15 direction is, so be it.
 16 I just want on the record to be the reason
 17 we went back and asked this question was
 18 because there was almost a \$400,000 spread
 19 between these two bids.
 20 MR. PACK: Yes. You're absolutely right.
 21 800,000 was the Century bid and the -- the

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1 Century bid was \$800,000, the Lane bid was
 2 \$400,000.
 3 MS. PRICE: And I'll say another four
 4 weeks after it's already been two years, and if
 5 we can save \$400,000 is where I am on this.
 6 It's not -- another month, since it's already
 7 been a couple of years, is not going to be the
 8 be all end all. If we can rebid it and get
 9 MDE, right?
 10 MR. CLARKE: That's right.
 11 MS. PRICE: To accept that bid, then I
 12 think four, six weeks in the whole grand scheme
 13 of this project, isn't going to. . .
 14 MR. HOLLIS: The frustration is MDE should
 15 have given us direction before we put it out to
 16 bid the first time.
 17 MS. PRICE: Right. But we shouldn't spend
 18 nearly a half a million dollars, too, just
 19 because they didn't give us the proper
 20 direction. If we can do it late April, why
 21 not.

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1 MR. CLARKE: That's why I gave my memo the
 2 way I did.
 3 MR. PACK: Let me speak to that point,
 4 Ray.
 5 The Century bid, it's double. It's
 6 \$800,000.
 7 MR. CLARKE: Correct, correct.
 8 MR. PACK: Of that, how much would MDE
 9 cover? Is it a 50/50 split?
 10 MR. CLARKE: Roughly right now it's a
 11 50/50 split is what we were estimating. It
 12 could be a little more. It could be more grant
 13 money that would be applied to that. So that
 14 would then drive --
 15 MR. PACK: Let me stop you right there, to
 16 Mr. Hollis's point.
 17 If it's a 50/50 split on an \$800 project
 18 and they're going to pay \$400,000, we're going
 19 to pay \$400,000, it's the same money as the
 20 Lane, but you're going to delay this six weeks
 21 for the same money.

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1 MS. PRICE: No because --

2 MR. CLARKE: Technically --

3 MR. PACK: 200,000. Yes, you're right.

4 200,000 and 400,000, yes.

5 But what I'm saying is that if their

6 matrix that they followed led them to Century

7 and they're comfortable with that, I'm just

8 saying I'm comfortable where they are.

9 But if you're saying that you'd rather go

10 with someone else and not go with Century,

11 then. . .

12 MS. PRICE: I would also say that even

13 though -- we shouldn't vote in a vacuum of

14 what's local dollars.

15 MDE is still State tax payer dollars of

16 which we all pay into. Even though you're

17 going to cut it in half and say we're going to

18 split 800 and 400,000 and now it's only an

19 extra 200,000 for us, but it's an extra

20 \$200,000 for them, too. And that is a waste --

21 MR. PACK: No, it's not a waste. The

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1 money is there to be used for these type of

2 projects. That's what the money is there for.

3 It's not a waste.

4 MS. PRICE: But if it can be less money,

5 then maybe there's money there for another

6 project in another jurisdiction.

7 We shouldn't just think about us. I mean

8 there's a finite amount of resources from MDE.

9 They're not an unlimited pot of money.

10 And so if it can save them \$200,000 or

11 something similar to that, then maybe there's

12 another protect that, whether it's another

13 project of ours or another project for another

14 jurisdiction, I just think that we need to be

15 cognizant of the total price of the project

16 because it's all tax payer dollars, whether it

17 comes specifically from Talbot County or from

18 citizens around the State. And I'm not willing

19 to waste \$400,000.

20 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Clarke, wasn't there a

21 difference in the product that was offered?

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1 One had GIS and one didn't?

2 MR. CLARKE: Yes, yes.

3 MR. DIVILIO: Is that a \$200,000

4 difference?

5 MR. CLARKE: There was a different

6 strategy in moving forward with the protect.

7 I mean Lane, the local firm, would

8 probably would be less, probably less

9 technical. It would be more of preparing the

10 plans that they've done in the past kind of

11 scenario, where the other firm, Century, would

12 be more electronically based kind of setup.

13 What would happen is once we've moved out

14 of that, let's say gone to a bid process for

15 construction, then those documents, or that

16 GIS, now becomes a useful tool for us in the

17 management of the system, the overall system.

18 So with Lane, we would probably have to

19 basically take their plans and then get their

20 AutoCAD documents and convert those into the

21 GIS system, which we would have to do that.

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1 MR. PACK: Which means you're probably

2 bringing another vendor in to do that.

3 MR. CLARKE: We probably could do it

4 ourselves, but it's going to take some time.

5 MR. PACK: So that's time away from other

6 projects, which means that that \$400,000 cost

7 is probably going to go up a little bit more

8 because if you're sending it out to another

9 company to do it, then you're going to be

10 paying out more money.

11 MR. CLARKE: The hardest part, I'll be

12 honest with you, if you try to do a fixed lump

13 sum proposal like we're trying to do here, it's

14 going to be very hard to capture every detail.

15 So there will be change orders.

16 MR. PACK: Sure. A project like this,

17 absolutely.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Century, have we used them

19 before --

20 MR. CLARKE: I've not used Century before.

21 But Century is actually doing work up in Queen

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1 Anne's County, doing the Queen Anne's County
 2 system right now. The pressurized system up
 3 there is being done by Century.
 4 MR. PACK: Okay.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: So if I understand what
 6 you're saying, Ray, so really what you're
 7 really saying is that you think it's in
 8 Council's and our best interest, even though
 9 it's a pretty good delta there difference, that
 10 Century is just sort of a better scenario for
 11 the situation that your department is in?
 12 MR. CLARKE: There will probably -- in all
 13 fairness, I think Century will probably be able
 14 to handle what I would call the salary survey
 15 as well as the economic analysis probably a
 16 little better than Lane would, in my opinion.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: And you sort of feel like
 18 even though you haven't used them before, that
 19 they're not going to be hitting us with change
 20 orders. Do you have any sort of thought
 21 process with any fear of hey, I haven't used

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1 them before?
 2 I mean you know what you have with Lane.
 3 MR. CLARKE: Right. And I think with
 4 Lane, to be honest with you, I mean I think in
 5 both cases both firms are going to be able to
 6 do the job in my opinion.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 8 MR. CLARKE: I mean I hear the Council.
 9 If we waited, if we did a rebid and then
 10 ultimately did it on a low bid, Lane will
 11 probably be the winner on that and we would be
 12 eligible for 50 percent grant funding. Then
 13 the cost would be let's say 200,000 versus
 14 let's say 400,000.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 16 MR. CLARKE: So I understand that. With
 17 that, if that's the direction we're taking,
 18 we'll do that. We can do that and we'll make
 19 it work.
 20 The same thing with Century. If the
 21 objective now is to move forward with Century,

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1 we can do that. I mean we can get this thing
 2 moving forward now.
 3 I said the information that we received
 4 from MDE was a little frustrating on my end as
 5 well because I wish I had known all this
 6 beforehand so we could have set the bid up
 7 based upon a low bid rather than being caught
 8 like we are right now.
 9 MR. PACK: Okay. So my last question and
 10 then I'll go ahead and call the matter.
 11 Is the GIS mapping that you're going to
 12 get from Century more of importance to you than
 13 going for the low bidder in this particular
 14 case? Because it sounded like you can use
 15 those drawings or those maps for --
 16 MR. CLARKE: To be honest with you,
 17 Council, I can't sit up here and tell you that
 18 the GIS element is a \$200,000 element. I can't
 19 tell you that.
 20 MR. PACK: Do you think with a lower bid,
 21 you think you can outsource that work for less

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1 than 200,000?
 2 MR. CLARKE: Yeah.
 3 MR. PACK: All right.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Is there a motion?
 5 MR. HOLLIS: There's not yet.
 6 MR. PACK: He's asking that we do away
 7 with 1916 --
 8 MS. PRICE: I'll make a motion to go out
 9 for rebid.
 10 MR. PACK: -- entirely and then rebid it
 11 out so we can capture -- now, you're going to
 12 use a different measure?
 13 MR. CLARKE: We're going to -- the measure
 14 that we're going to be utilizing is a low
 15 responsive responsible bid. So that's how it's
 16 going to be set up.
 17 And also to try and expedite this, we're
 18 going to send it out to all the firms that
 19 already submitted proposals to us. Let them
 20 know that the bid was rejected and that we're
 21 bidding this as a low --

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1 MR. PACK: And you got something in
 2 writing from MDE saying that this process is --
 3 MR. CLARKE: Yes, yes.
 4 MR. PACK: -- kosher? Okay.
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Are all these numbers
 6 public?
 7 MR. CLARKE: Yes. We were on the camera
 8 too. Whenever we open those numbers, I have to
 9 sign a bid tab and then we have to post those
 10 bid tabs to all bidders.
 11 MS. PRICE: So I'll make a motion that we
 12 go out and rebid this.
 13 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 14 MR. PACK: So we're going to do away --
 15 your request is to do away with 1916 and then
 16 send it back out?
 17 MR. CLARKE: Yes.
 18 MR. PACK: Okay.
 19 MS. PRICE: So you have a motion and a
 20 second.
 21 MR. PACK: Okay. Madam Secretary, call

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1 your roll.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 3 MR. PACK: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 9 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 11 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 12 MR. PACK: We'll resend it out.
 13 MR. CLARKE: Thank you.
 14 MR. HOLLIS: Council, grass cutting
 15 services for Parks & Recreation. We're
 16 requesting extension to the current contract
 17 for the 2020 season, same price as 2019,
 18 \$41,999.
 19 MR. PACK: Thank you. Is there a motion?
 20 MS. PRICE: Motion.
 21 MR. PACK: Motion to approve by Ms. Price.

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1 MR. LESHNER: Second.
 2 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Any
 3 further discussion on the grass cutting?
 4 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.
 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. LESHNER: Aye.
 15 MR. HOLLIS: Same type of request for
 16 portable sanitary chemical toilet service.
 17 Same price as 2019 and 2020, 19,044.50, to
 18 Pearson Comfort Group.
 19 MS. PRICE: Motion to approve.
 20 MR. PACK: Motion is made by Ms. Price.
 21 Is there a second?

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1 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 2 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Divilio. Any
 3 further discussion on Bid 1717?
 4 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call
 5 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. Leshner.
 15 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 16 MR. HOLLIS: Requesting a letter of
 17 support for Phillips Wharf Environmental Center
 18 grant application to Maryland Heritage Areas
 19 Program. It's for renovation and expansion of
 20 their operation.
 21 MR. PACK: Thank you very much,

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<p>1 Mr. Hollis.</p> <p>2 Anyone here to speak on -- let me first</p> <p>3 check the public now. We got to do this thing</p> <p>4 right. Anyone here to speak on Council issuing</p> <p>5 a letter to Phillips Wharf for their</p> <p>6 application?</p> <p>7 No one is coming forward. Chair would</p> <p>8 entertain a motion at this time.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: So moved.</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>11 MR. DIVILIO: Second.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Divilio. Any</p> <p>13 further discussion?</p> <p>14 MR. LESHHER: Mr. Pack, I need to recuse</p> <p>15 myself on this matter since the governor has</p> <p>16 seen fit to appoint me to the Maryland Heritage</p> <p>17 Areas Authority, and this would be effectively</p> <p>18 writing a letter to myself.</p> <p>19 MR. PACK: So Mr. Leshher is recused due to</p> <p>20 a conflict.</p> <p>21 Anyone else has a problem? I shouldn't</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Callahan. Any</p> <p>3 further discussion?</p> <p>4 MR. LESHHER: And once again, for the same</p> <p>5 reason, I need to recuse myself.</p> <p>6 MR. PACK: Mr. Leshher is recused. Same</p> <p>7 reasons.</p> <p>8 MS. PRICE: Just go home.</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: Anyone further?</p> <p>10 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call</p> <p>11 your roll.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>15 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>19 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>20 MR. HOLLIS: Council, finally, we received</p> <p>21 information earlier today that the Maryland PSC</p>
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<p>1 say it that way.</p> <p>2 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>6 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>10 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>11 MR. HOLLIS: Similar letter of support for</p> <p>12 the John Wesley Preservation Society grant</p> <p>13 application to Maryland Heritage Areas Program.</p> <p>14 MR. PACK: Thank you very much. Anyone</p> <p>15 here from the public to speak on Council</p> <p>16 issuing a letter of support for the Wesleyan</p> <p>17 Church Preservation Society.</p> <p>18 No one is here to address Council. Chair</p> <p>19 would entertain a motion.</p> <p>20 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.</p> <p>21 MR. PACK: So moved by Mr. Divilio.</p>	<p>1 is having input on Delmarva Power's proposed</p> <p>2 request for an increase. The average monthly</p> <p>3 bill would increase by \$5.10 or 3.6 percent.</p> <p>4 Talbots County's hearing is on Monday,</p> <p>5 March 23rd, at 6:30 at Chesapeake College in</p> <p>6 the Health Professional Building.</p> <p>7 Thank you.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: Thank you very much,</p> <p>9 Mr. Hollis. Okay.</p> <p>10 Ms. Morris, you have anything?</p> <p>11 MS. MORRIS: No, no sign-ins.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: There are no public comment.</p> <p>13 Council comment. Who wishes to go first?</p> <p>14 I'll take bids.</p> <p>15 MR. DIVILIO: I'll go first.</p> <p>16 MR. PACK: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>17 MR. DIVILIO: I have nothing.</p> <p>18 MR. PACK: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, I have nothing.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: He has nothing. Ms. Price.</p> <p>21 MS. PRICE: I'll just say I'm looking</p>

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1 forward to doing the vast majority of our
 2 budgeting process out in public. I think
 3 that's going to be a really great addition, and
 4 it will give the citizens of Talbot County a
 5 wonderful opportunity to watch the struggles
 6 that we go through.
 7 So I would encourage people to come out
 8 and watch that process, which I think really
 9 publicly starts next week.
 10 MR. PACK: Mr. Leshner.
 11 MR. LESHER: I have nothing further.
 12 MR. PACK: And I don't have anything
 13 myself other than my last instruction here.
 14 County Council's next legislative meeting
 15 will be held on Tuesday, March the 24th,
 16 beginning at six p.m. The Council will be
 17 convening in open session at four p.m. and then
 18 immediately adjourning into closed session to
 19 discuss real estate, legal, personnel matters
 20 as listed on the statement for closing that
 21 meeting.


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1 Tomorrow, Wednesday, March the 11th, the
 2 Talbot County Council will hold two work
 3 sessions. First starting at four p.m., work
 4 session to discuss the Ferry Point preliminary
 5 engineering report. And then at five p.m., the
 6 work session with Emergency Services Advisory
 7 Board. Both work sessions are open to the
 8 public and will be held at the Wye Oak Room at
 9 the Talbot County Community Center.
 10 Talbot County Council will hold a budget
 11 workshop as follows in conference room number
 12 one, Talbot County office building which is at
 13 215 Bay Street here in Easton.
 14 Here are those dates. Starting on March
 15 the 12th, Thursday, at four p.m. and then on
 16 March 17th, which is a Tuesday, at four p.m.
 17 and on March the 19th, which is also a
 18 Thursday, at four p.m. Those are the dates for
 19 the budget workshops.
 20 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn
 21 this meeting and reconvene as noted?

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: So moved.
 2 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 3 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Callahan.
 4 Seconded by Mr. Divilio.
 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. Leshner.
 15 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 16 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 17 (Meeting concluded at: 9:11 p.m.)
 18
 19
 20
 21

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1 STATE OF MARYLAND
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and
 3 for the State of Maryland, County of Anne Arundel,
 4 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot
 5 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me
 6 at the time and place herein set according to law,
 7 was interrogated by counsel.
 8
 9 I further certify that the examination was
 10 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed
 11 from my stenographic notes to the within printed
 12 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription
 13 in a true and accurate manner.
 14
 15 I further certify that the stipulations
 16 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my
 17 presence.
 18
 19 I further certify that I am not of counsel
 20 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,
 21 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way
 interested in the outcome of this action.
 AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 17th
 day of March, 2020, at Easton, MD.
 14
 15

 16
 17 Diane Houlihan
 18 Notary Public
 19
 20 My commission expires September 16, 2021
 21

&	120:11,17 121:5	2019 22:16 40:18	333,000 85:2
& 207:15	15 137:1 142:14	72:13 207:17	34 147:14
1	15,853 84:21	208:17	38,000 74:3
1 19:16 29:2,3	150 12:6,7	2020 1:7 11:9 13:8	388 145:9 146:4
36:2 40:13,18	158,530 85:1	14:15,17 15:3	146:12 147:18
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