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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Work Session

Talbot County Watermen's Association

March 4, 2019; 1:00 p.m.

Talbot County Community Center

Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Corey W. Pack

Chuck F. Callahan

Frank Divilio

Pete Leshner

Laura E. Price

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Good afternoon, everyone.</p> <p>4 Thank you for coming out. This is the public</p> <p>5 work session that we're having to go over some</p> <p>6 of the changes that were implemented under</p> <p>7 Bill 1407. Those changes were in the county</p> <p>8 code, section 21 of the county code.</p> <p>9 And a little bit behind the reasoning</p> <p>10 behind this. Last week the Council heard from</p> <p>11 the Farm Bureau. They normally come in every</p> <p>12 once a year and give us their update on any</p> <p>13 bills that are going before the State</p> <p>14 legislature. We normally do a farm tour with</p> <p>15 the farmers once a year to go out and look at</p> <p>16 any irrigation or crop rotation or different</p> <p>17 sciences or technologies that they're</p> <p>18 implementing in their industry.</p> <p>19 But that's never been the case with the</p> <p>20 watermen. We never had an annual update with</p> <p>21 you guys. We never had any requests, until</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 effect at the beginning of the year. And there</p> <p>2 was some discussion between myself and various</p> <p>3 persons in this room regarding having some open</p> <p>4 dialogue regarding those changes and any future</p> <p>5 changes that may come along the way in your</p> <p>6 industry.</p> <p>7 Again, we were happy to do that because we</p> <p>8 have not heard from you all on a regular basis</p> <p>9 to find out what we can do. So that's just</p> <p>10 some background as to what this work session is</p> <p>11 about.</p> <p>12 The changes are already in place. They're</p> <p>13 not going to be changed today. This is just an</p> <p>14 opportunity to just kind of get a checkup,</p> <p>15 where are we since the changes were in place,</p> <p>16 what can we look for down the road as far as</p> <p>17 any future changes, is to have a dialogue in</p> <p>18 this work session to that effect.</p> <p>19 We do have an agenda we handed out. We're</p> <p>20 going to stay tight to this agenda because</p> <p>21 there's another county session after this that</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 this year thanks to Jeff Harrison, to either</p> <p>2 support legislation in Annapolis or oppose</p> <p>3 legislation in Annapolis.</p> <p>4 So the Council thought that this would be</p> <p>5 a good opportunity to start this relationship</p> <p>6 between the County Council and the Talbot</p> <p>7 County Watermen's Association to have you guys</p> <p>8 come in at least once a year. This is normally</p> <p>9 the time that we do this. Again, the farmers</p> <p>10 came in last week.</p> <p>11 What we're hoping that this will be the</p> <p>12 initial start of those annual meetings where</p> <p>13 you all would come in, give us a report of what</p> <p>14 is going on in your industry, whatever help you</p> <p>15 may need from the Council, again, as it regards</p> <p>16 to any state legislation or any local</p> <p>17 legislation. We'll be happy to hear it and</p> <p>18 entertain it. So that's some of the background</p> <p>19 behind this.</p> <p>20 Again, Council enacted some changes under</p> <p>21 Bill 1407 last September. Those changes took</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 we have to go into. So we're going to give an</p> <p>2 hour for this workshop and then we're going to</p> <p>3 take a break and go into county session.</p> <p>4 I would ask that when you do speak, we're</p> <p>5 going to leave some time at the end in case</p> <p>6 persons want to come and talk into the mike,</p> <p>7 please speak clearly, give your name and your</p> <p>8 address.</p> <p>9 We do have a transcriptionist here who</p> <p>10 will be transcribing the meeting today. Also,</p> <p>11 members, Bruce, yourself, please announce</p> <p>12 yourself the first time so that she can get</p> <p>13 your name down for the record and likewise for</p> <p>14 any other persons who come up to give</p> <p>15 testimony.</p> <p>16 So those are the ground rules. I believe</p> <p>17 you know Council. I'll let Preston introduce</p> <p>18 the members at his table and then we'll go down</p> <p>19 the agenda with I believe the Parks &amp; Recs is</p> <p>20 going to start first.</p> <p>21 MR. PEPPER: We'll let the Watermen go</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 first.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you. Bruce.</p> <p>3 MR. COLE: I'll let them go first.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: I'll turn to you. You have</p> <p>5 your agenda. You did submit these items to us.</p> <p>6 So these items were turned into the Council</p> <p>7 ahead of time.</p> <p>8 If you wouldn't mind, sir, giving your</p> <p>9 name and then you can go ahead --</p> <p>10 MR. COLE: My name is Bruce Cole, 5</p> <p>11 Wrightson Avenue, Easton, Maryland.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Thank you.</p> <p>13 MR. COLE: I'm more or less here about the</p> <p>14 county slips, the new regulations about I'm a</p> <p>15 two slip holder, one in Bellevue for 30</p> <p>16 probably some years and one in Newcomb probably</p> <p>17 for 20 years.</p> <p>18 And with the new rules and regulations</p> <p>19 that I have to give one up, I just think it's</p> <p>20 unfair being I pay my slip rent. And they said</p> <p>21 because they had I believe a long waiting list,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 for my business. It's two different rivers,</p> <p>2 three-hour boat ride, compare oyster in some,</p> <p>3 crab in some. They move around Miles River and</p> <p>4 Tred Avon. Other people's might be Wye River</p> <p>5 and Trappe Creek or whatever. You know what I</p> <p>6 mean. Or Tilghman Island, you know. But</p> <p>7 they're needed.</p> <p>8 Some of the upgrades. Like Bellevue dock</p> <p>9 is falling apart. You guys take time to walk</p> <p>10 down the dock and look at the nails, you can</p> <p>11 see they're completely gone. A couple of guys</p> <p>12 fixed them up. (Inaudible) catwalks or boards</p> <p>13 were falling completely off.</p> <p>14 So that's more or less I was talking</p> <p>15 about.</p> <p>16 And I do think that when I got my slip 30</p> <p>17 years ago, Ms. Foster used to be up at the</p> <p>18 court house was in charge. I think it was</p> <p>19 five, six-year waiting list back then. But</p> <p>20 once you get calling them, a lot of times</p> <p>21 people don't want them or something happened or</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 which I think is not that long anymore once we</p> <p>2 got calling people I do believe. Parks &amp; Recs</p> <p>3 will have to answer that.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Yeah, they will.</p> <p>5 MR. COLE: That and some of the new</p> <p>6 regulations with the two times 60 days. Most</p> <p>7 of the time we let other watermen use the slips</p> <p>8 when we're not in the area because we're mostly</p> <p>9 family. It benefits everybody. If I'm not</p> <p>10 there, I let them tie in there.</p> <p>11 I think a lot of us been getting, what I</p> <p>12 hear, tickets that they thought was not just,</p> <p>13 you know, one day overdue or move a boat. And</p> <p>14 a couple of people, recreationals, too, have</p> <p>15 been complaining. For some reason I get all</p> <p>16 the phone calls about the complaints. And</p> <p>17 that's more or less what it was.</p> <p>18 And basically like I said, I guess a</p> <p>19 30-year slip holder, I think it's why am I</p> <p>20 getting kicked out of one of my slips for</p> <p>21 paying my bills, you know. I really need it</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 they just get available very quick. Like now,</p> <p>2 a lot of people already have slips and they</p> <p>3 know the fees are going up. They have trouble</p> <p>4 collecting money, too, I think a lot of times.</p> <p>5 Used to years ago.</p> <p>6 But that's what I was trying to get</p> <p>7 changed back or grandfathered in anyway. I</p> <p>8 mean because it will devastate me. I'm going</p> <p>9 to have to change my routine from one river to</p> <p>10 another somehow or another.</p> <p>11 MR. PACK: Okay.</p> <p>12 MR. COLE: And I think a lot of people</p> <p>13 would like to have comments about the different</p> <p>14 slips and the rules besides me. I mean</p> <p>15 hearsay. Let them tell their own stories.</p> <p>16 MR. PACK: Absolutely, absolutely. Is</p> <p>17 that all you wanted to say?</p> <p>18 MR. COLE: Yeah, more or less.</p> <p>19 MR. PACK: Okay. So I'm going to shift it</p> <p>20 over now to Mr. Peper and his staff. And then</p> <p>21 they're going to --</p>

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1 MR. COLE: I do have one thing. I'm  
 2 sorry. I think you sent out a letter there  
 3 where we had the Maryland thing, that is not  
 4 correct. I called the DNR.  
 5 MS. DICKEY: Yeah. I know. It's poorly  
 6 worded. Partially correct, but I still should  
 7 have --  
 8 MR. COLE: Five tons is zoned commercial.  
 9 Commercial use does not have to have that  
 10 sticker.  
 11 MS. DICKEY: Yeah.  
 12 MR. PACK: For the record, what letter are  
 13 you referring to?  
 14 MR. COLE: I can give you a copy of this.  
 15 MR. PACK: The one you gave us, okay. So  
 16 what comment do have on that, on the letter?  
 17 MR. COLE: They said we had to have that  
 18 sticker from using Maryland waterways. If your  
 19 boat cost more than five-ton.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Weighs.  
 21 MR. COLE: And the thing is a workboat,

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1 you do not have to have that.  
 2 They did that, the way they explained to  
 3 me in Centreville, is because a lot of people  
 4 have pleasure boats were saying they were  
 5 workboats and they were using them so they  
 6 wouldn't have to get the sticker. That's what  
 7 the DNR told me. So they made it five-ton and  
 8 it has to be registered as a commercial  
 9 workboat.  
 10 MS. DICKEY: Any vessel five-ton or  
 11 greater is required to be documented. Not  
 12 every vessel is that is five-ton is documented.  
 13 Sometimes they register them.  
 14 When I sent it out, I did not word it  
 15 correctly.  
 16 A decal is necessary for a documented  
 17 vessel, and it depends on the enforcement.  
 18 Most workboats have a fishery endorsement only.  
 19 However, some of the five-ton vessels which are  
 20 U.S. Coast Guard documented also have a  
 21 recreational endorsement, even though they are

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1 also used for fisheries. If they have that  
 2 recreational endorsement on their  
 3 documentation, they are also required to have a  
 4 Maryland documentation decal.  
 5 But I didn't word it correctly. I didn't  
 6 put all that in there. So it was an oversight  
 7 on my part. I should have put that little bit  
 8 in there and I did not. It's been corrected.  
 9 MR. PACK: If they're over five tons, they  
 10 have to have a decal, but not --  
 11 MS. DICKEY: No.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: They don't.  
 13 MS. DICKEY: Five tons or more has to be  
 14 documented according to U.S. Coast Guard rules  
 15 and regulations. If it has an endorsement of  
 16 recreational, it's required to also display a  
 17 decal from the State of Maryland.  
 18 MR. PACK: Let me go from the first step.  
 19 Who does the documentation of those vessels of  
 20 over five tons?  
 21 MS. DICKEY: U.S. Coast Guard.

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1 MR. PACK: U.S. Coast Guard. So how will  
 2 you know that that documentation has taken  
 3 place?  
 4 MS. DICKEY: Well, it depends. If it's a  
 5 slip holder, they provide me with the U.S.  
 6 Coast Guard documentation papers.  
 7 MR. PACK: Okay.  
 8 MS. DICKEY: If it's not a slip holder, I  
 9 have to run them through Natural Resources and  
 10 through U.S. Coast Guard.  
 11 MR. PACK: So there's no decaling on the  
 12 boat, it's just they're going to give you a  
 13 form that says they've already been documented  
 14 by U.S. Coast Guard?  
 15 MS. DICKEY: Kind of like you would  
 16 imagine your registration card is in your car.  
 17 They keep either the documentation paper in the  
 18 boat or they're supposed to keep the  
 19 registration if it's a Maryland registered --  
 20 MR. PACK: But there's also a sticker on  
 21 the back of the car letting that officer know

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1 that the car is registered.  
 2 MS. DICKEY: That's that little gray area.  
 3 In Maryland regulation, in COMAR regulations,  
 4 the Department of Natural Resources made an  
 5 exception to the law that if a boat is engaged  
 6 in fisheries only or in coastal designation  
 7 endorsement on their U.S. Coast Guard, they are  
 8 exempt from the decal. They only need to  
 9 follow the U.S. Coast Guard rules, which would  
 10 be to have the name and (inaudible) port on the  
 11 stern and on both sides of the vessel. They  
 12 have to have the name. And the number engraved  
 13 into it. They have standards they have to  
 14 meet.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Go ahead.  
 16 MR. PACK: So this has been revised, this  
 17 letter then?  
 18 MS. DICKEY: I was just sending it out as  
 19 a reminder to get them December 1st because we  
 20 had sent out the renewals in November and  
 21 didn't get a big response right away. So we

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1 sent out a December letter and we were trying  
 2 to, as we have in prior meetings, let them know  
 3 about any rules changes that may have occurred.  
 4 So I quickly did a little thing on the  
 5 bottom or putting in there the rules change and  
 6 hey, make sure you're registered, you have  
 7 this.  
 8 And like I said, it was just poorly worded  
 9 at the time. It's been corrected since. But  
 10 that's what I meant to say, but it just didn't  
 11 say that actually.  
 12 MR. PACK: So is it the second paragraph  
 13 I'm reading here --  
 14 MS. DICKEY: Yeah. Where it says  
 15 documented vessels must display the Maryland  
 16 decal.  
 17 They must if they have a fishery if they  
 18 have a recreational endorsement, if they have  
 19 on their documentation. Some of them do, some  
 20 of them don't.  
 21 MR. PEPER: So all of our current slip

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1 holders, everything is done, everything is done  
 2 correctly, everything is --  
 3 MS. DICKEY: Well.  
 4 MR. PACK: Yes?  
 5 MR. LESHER: Because these are long-term  
 6 slips. You only need to do this once at the  
 7 time that the slip is --  
 8 MR. PEPER: Right. So we'll do it  
 9 annually. They'll be every year.  
 10 MS. DICKEY: Every year.  
 11 MR. LESHER: Sure.  
 12 MS. DICKEY: Renew. And then if it  
 13 expires, I can call them and ask for a new one  
 14 to make sure it's the up to date.  
 15 MR. COLE: Why are we worried about that  
 16 anyway? That's DNR. It's not really --  
 17 shouldn't matter one way or another to Parks &  
 18 Recs or the Council. You don't have the  
 19 Council -- DNR will be on the ticket.  
 20 MR. PEPER: I think that's so we know  
 21 whose vessel is in the slip that it's in.

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1 MS. DICKEY: It says that we must obey by  
 2 all state, local and laws. So if the vessel is  
 3 not up to date, it cannot -- if it's not valid,  
 4 it can't occupy a slip.  
 5 And then a lot of problems we have what  
 6 you're talking about the slips being not well  
 7 kept or the landings, some of the vessels that  
 8 show up that are being used that have never  
 9 been titled, documented, whatever, trying to  
 10 track down and verify the owner so I can get it  
 11 removed is a problem.  
 12 MR. COLE: I don't think we have that big  
 13 a problem. It's only a couple --  
 14 MS. DICKEY: (Inaudible.)  
 15 MR. COLE: I mean all I know is a few. I  
 16 understand that's a DNR problem instead of a  
 17 Council and Parks & Recs problem. Most vessels  
 18 might not have it, but DNR is going to give you  
 19 a ticket for it if they pick up on it.  
 20 MR. PACK: Well, you know what they say  
 21 about the little foxes, right?

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1 MR. COLE: Yeah.

2 MR. PACK: So I guess to answer your

3 question, what Joanne is saying is that she's

4 just trying to verify that the vessel has been

5 documented if it's not decoyed and --

6 MR. COLE: But you have a piece of paper.

7 She gets it every year where it documents where

8 you have to renew it and stickers like. . .

9 MR. PACK: Are you using a handheld device

10 when you're out in the field?

11 MS. DICKEY: No. I call into the Tawes

12 Communication Center. We have an MOU with

13 Tawes and with -- or I can call U.S. Coast

14 Guard and they'll -- based on the information.

15 When I'm trying to find a boat if it's in

16 a slip illegally and I have to try to identify

17 it, or a boat is abandoned and left at a

18 facility and I have to identify it, that's how

19 I do it.

20 MR. PACK: You have to call in. You don't

21 have anything handheld. Okay.

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1 MS. DICKEY: That's correct.

2 MR. PACK: So on this, she's saying that

3 it's not worded correctly. She's admitting to

4 that. Not that this is a trial.

5 MR. COLE: Yeah.

6 MR. PACK: It has been corrected. And if

7 you can send Council the new version of this,

8 Joanne, I would appreciate it.

9 MS. DICKEY: Okay. I'll do it.

10 MR. PACK: Just so we have the corrected

11 version.

12 Anything else, Bruce?

13 MR. COLE: No. It's just I mean I think a

14 couple of people want to talk about --

15 MR. PACK: Yeah. We're going to open it

16 up. I just want to let Mr. Peper and his staff

17 go through their agenda items, and then we will

18 open it up for comment on both sides.

19 MR. PEPPER: So the 121 amendments that

20 were brought to Council and approved, they were

21 basically slip transfers used to be for a

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1 21-day. It was very problematic from what we

2 spoke to the watermen about having to redo this

3 paperwork every 21 days.

4 So we actually extended it at a work

5 session and then extended it to two 60-day

6 transfers per year per slip.

7 The other change was that it used to be

8 that anything that was left at the landings, it

9 was a five-day time before we deemed it

10 abandoned. We actually changed that to

11 anything left overnight.

12 Now, keeping in mind that if we come

13 across equipment or something like that that

14 looks important, we've tried to track it down.

15 It's happened a couple of times. I think what

16 we're trying to do is get rid of the stuff

17 that's being left at the landings. We had one

18 that there was a mast that was left at one of

19 the landings for over four years, and they just

20 left it there because it was just easier.

21 And then as far as projects, we've done

Page 21

1 some landings projects in 2018, which were

2 Covey's Landing. We both repaved Covey's

3 Landing and re-decked it. We upgraded the

4 cameras at Trappe Landing. We re-decked both

5 Wye Landings and Tilghman Creek.

6 And then in 2019, we have re-decked

7 Claiborne, Sherwood. We installed cameras at

8 Dogwood Harbor, replacing the solar that's at

9 Oak Creek and the solar that's at Wye Landing.

10 At the same time, we are in the process of

11 re-decking Bellevue, which hopefully takes care

12 of that problem. And then Skipton and Reese's

13 both are in rebuilding phase. And then just

14 things here and there. So just trying to stay

15 on top of keeping the landings up to code.

16 The biggest other one is repaving Tonger's

17 Basin. That one takes quite a bit of beating

18 between the snow and the water and the ice. So

19 we're going to repair a little bit of the

20 bulkhead there and then it will get dredged and

21 then also repaved, the entire circuit down at

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1 Tongers Basin.  
 2 MR. PACK: With the changes that were  
 3 made, Mr. Peper, these all went before the  
 4 Parks Board, correct?  
 5 MR. PEPER: Correct.  
 6 MR. PACK: And can you give us what  
 7 decision the Parks Board made? Was it  
 8 unanimous down the line on these changes or if  
 9 you can recall?  
 10 MR. PEPER: I believe they were unanimous  
 11 down the line for the most part.  
 12 MR. PACK: Okay. And regarding the  
 13 persons who had two slips, what effect does  
 14 that have? How many did we have starting out  
 15 before you made the change, how many do we have  
 16 now?  
 17 MR. PEPER: At the time we had eight. We  
 18 had eight individuals that had two slips. Five  
 19 of those have relinquished their second slip.  
 20 And that leaves three people with two slips.  
 21 One of those eight actually relinquished

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1 both of his slips, but he doesn't have a boat  
 2 anymore.  
 3 MR. PACK: So starting before the change,  
 4 we had five individuals with --  
 5 SPEAKER: Eight.  
 6 MR. PACK: I'm sorry. Eight with two  
 7 slips. And five have relinquished. Now we're  
 8 down to three, okay.  
 9 Mr. Cole, you're one of the three  
 10 remaining?  
 11 MR. COLE: Yeah. I think a couple of them  
 12 gave them up because they were told they were  
 13 going to lose them anyway next year.  
 14 MR. PACK: Yeah. December of 2019 would  
 15 be the changeover date. So they would still  
 16 have those slips throughout the summer months.  
 17 MR. COLE: Yeah. But I think they were  
 18 just like well.  
 19 MR. PACK: Was it a case of not  
 20 understanding? I mean don't want you to  
 21 speak --

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1 MR. COLE: I couple of them here can  
 2 explain themselves.  
 3 MR. PACK: Yeah. Okay. I don't want you  
 4 to speak for anybody. Okay.  
 5 MR. COLE: I mean just going what I hear  
 6 was they were told they were going to lose  
 7 them. So make a decision up.  
 8 MR. PACK: Even though they had a whole  
 9 year?  
 10 MR. COLE: Yeah. That's hearsay.  
 11 MR. PACK: We'll hear straight from the  
 12 horse's mouth.  
 13 And just looking at your agenda, is there  
 14 anything else, Preston, you want to highlight  
 15 on the agenda that we. . .  
 16 MR. PEPER: No. I think --  
 17 MR. PACK: The 60-day transfer, is there  
 18 any problems with that that we're having with  
 19 transferring the slips from 60 days?  
 20 MR. PEPER: No. It's just getting the  
 21 transfers in. I think we've run into the

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1 problem that some people -- we just need the  
 2 transfer in. Like there's a gentleman that  
 3 came in today. He got two of them to do his  
 4 two transfers. And then once they're in, that  
 5 pretty much takes care of the transfer.  
 6 MR. COLE: Can't we make that an easier  
 7 process for people? I mean everybody is busy  
 8 working, you know. It look like there would be  
 9 an easier way. You can just call in. Hey,  
 10 this is Bruce Cole, slip four, I'm going to let  
 11 such-and-such tie in, this is his boat number,  
 12 name, phone number. They got my number.  
 13 MR. PACK: Joanne, why don't you walk us  
 14 through the process? What's the process for  
 15 the transfer? Is it as simple as a call?  
 16 MS. DICKEY: It's a simple form. It says  
 17 in the law that it will be processed on a form  
 18 designated by our department. We have a simple  
 19 form.  
 20 MR. PACK: Right.  
 21 MS. DICKEY: And both people fill it out,

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1 giving us their contact information, the boat  
 2 information, how long it will be there. So  
 3 that we know that both people are aware of it.  
 4 We have signatures on it.  
 5 I always tell them it's online under  
 6 Talbot Parks. They can go in, download it,  
 7 have it signed. They don't even have to mail  
 8 it in. They can call me.  
 9 Like today I got a call (inaudible) wants  
 10 to put a boat in a slip. He said I'll fill the  
 11 form out and send it to you. I said that's  
 12 great. I told him how to get it. I said you  
 13 don't even have to mail it in or run it up.  
 14 Just take a picture of it and text it to me and  
 15 I'll download it right to the thing and I'll  
 16 put it in your file.  
 17 MR. PACK: Right. I was thinking the same  
 18 thing.  
 19 You need the signatures, Bruce. You want  
 20 to make sure that both parties are in agreement  
 21 to the transaction. And there's so many

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1 different ways nowadays. Take a picture of it,  
 2 as Joanne said, and just transfer it by  
 3 picture. You can scan it, you can fax it.  
 4 MR. COLE: But the 60 days, people are in  
 5 and out. Like a lot of them like right now a  
 6 lot of them fishing. They might fish in  
 7 Choptank for a while. They might come back to  
 8 Miles River, Eastern Bay, or Tilghman Island,  
 9 moving around.  
 10 So they call up and ask hey, can I use  
 11 your slip, I don't have a place to tie, we did  
 12 some fishing in the Choptank or something.  
 13 I mean then you say only got to do it two  
 14 times a year, 60 days. You know what I mean?  
 15 If nobody is using it, why can't we let people  
 16 take advantage of it to help out the watermen  
 17 that don't have a place to tie so they have to  
 18 be running clear back two hours away or  
 19 whatever, wherever their home port is for that  
 20 day.  
 21 MR. LESHER: I understand that need. In

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1 the regulations, do we make any differentiation  
 2 in slip renters between -- are there different  
 3 sets of rules for a commercial and recreational  
 4 users of the slips?  
 5 MR. PEPER: There are. We have very,  
 6 very -- to be honest with you, we probably have  
 7 so few recreational. They're almost all  
 8 watermen slip holders. And the couple that  
 9 weren't are transitioning to that.  
 10 MR. LESHER: On the waiting list, do we  
 11 give preference to commercial users?  
 12 MR. PEPER: We do. That was actually an  
 13 agreement between Talbot County and DNR that we  
 14 would give preferential treatment to watermen.  
 15 MR. LESHER: Right. And I'm aware that  
 16 some municipalities do that as well.  
 17 MR. PEPER: Correct.  
 18 MR. LESHER: So I presume no 14th  
 19 amendment problems with that.  
 20 We don't have differential rates?  
 21 MR. PEPER: No.

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1 MS. PRICE: It used to be 21 days and we  
 2 switched it to 60?  
 3 MR. PEPER: Correct.  
 4 MS. PRICE: Could they do it more than  
 5 twice a year with the 21-day one?  
 6 MR. PEPER: Yeah. The 21-day they could  
 7 do as many times as they wanted.  
 8 MS. PRICE: I mean that just probably gets  
 9 to be very cumbersome to keep going back and  
 10 forth and back and forth. I don't know what  
 11 the compromise is. To be unlimited, I think is  
 12 excessive.  
 13 MR. PEPER: I think the reason between the  
 14 two 60-day was there used to be an occupancy.  
 15 It said basically you need to use your slip and  
 16 not just have one and then basically let  
 17 everybody else use it type of thing. That's  
 18 how the two 60 days. That ends up at 120 out  
 19 of 360 days that you would be out of your slip  
 20 potentially.  
 21 So I mean I think that's why we've never



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1 done the just unlimited transfers is that  
 2 way --  
 3 MS. PRICE: It's kind of living someplace  
 4 six months and a day, right?  
 5 So what if you did -- I mean would it be  
 6 helpful to do four 30-day ones and limit it to  
 7 four times a year? Thirty days is the same  
 8 period, still 120 days.  
 9 MR. PEPPER: The 60-day I think had to do  
 10 with the seasons. The 30-day is too short and  
 11 you end up having to do two of them anyway.  
 12 MS. PRICE: So could they apply for either  
 13 a 30 or a 60? I don't know if that would help.  
 14 MR. COLE: The more you give, the better  
 15 it is. You know what I mean? More days --  
 16 MS. PRICE: So what about something like  
 17 up to 120 days, either two 60-day or up to four  
 18 30-day ones?  
 19 MR. COLE: I think you'd be better, my  
 20 opinion, four 30-day. That way somebody might  
 21 else want to use it, you know. You know what

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1 I'm saying? You can always renew it to the  
 2 same person if you want to let --  
 3 MS. PRICE: Instead of having to renew it  
 4 if you wanted to do two 30-day ones, then on  
 5 the form to say I'm doing a 30-day or I'm doing  
 6 a 60-day.  
 7 MR. PEPPER: You can fill out all four  
 8 forms at the same time and turn them all in  
 9 sequentially. That's fine.  
 10 MS. PRICE: But I think the key is to  
 11 not -- to keep it 120 days or less but maybe  
 12 allow them to do it up to four times of 30, of  
 13 30 days. If that's a solution that might --  
 14 MR. COLE: More days is better. I mean  
 15 I'm in my slip half the year one and the other  
 16 half a year at the other one back and forth  
 17 just because where I work at. Everybody is  
 18 different, you know.  
 19 But I do know a couple of people I think  
 20 said they had to give up their slips because  
 21 their boat hasn't moved and they have used

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1 their boat. I mean I think you asked for a  
 2 couple of people to hey, your boat hasn't moved  
 3 in three months or four months, which they  
 4 have.  
 5 Or if even they haven't, they might be  
 6 working with somebody else on somebody else's  
 7 boat at the time fishing together or oystering  
 8 together and not using their boat. I think a  
 9 couple of them said they might have to give  
 10 their slip up.  
 11 It's hard to say whether they using it or  
 12 not using it. Like my boat has been sitting.  
 13 Honestly, the slot in Newcomb, there's three  
 14 boats there and neither one has moved probably  
 15 in four or five months.  
 16 MS. PRICE: I mean is that a problem? I  
 17 mean I think what we're trying to get at is  
 18 boats that don't move that can't move is the  
 19 ones we want to make sure that they're not  
 20 using up a slip.  
 21 MR. PEPPER: Correct. Some of them haven't

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1 moved for years. We have a couple of sailboats  
 2 that cannot move.  
 3 MS. PRICE: -- take care of those. But if  
 4 it's seasonal and someone sits for three or  
 5 four months, are we writing people up for three  
 6 or four months?  
 7 MS. DICKEY: No.  
 8 MS. PRICE: So why are we hearing that  
 9 we're getting written up?  
 10 MS. DICKEY: I haven't written anybody up  
 11 for not moving their boat.  
 12 MR. PEPPER: I think what Mr. Cole had said  
 13 was you may lose their slip.  
 14 MR. COLE: Lose the slip because they  
 15 said -- Guy probably could speak better on  
 16 that, but I think his brother was -- at one of  
 17 your meetings, people at Parks & Recs told me  
 18 they were going to take his slip because he  
 19 hasn't used it. And I know for a fact he has  
 20 because he goes out at night. And you're  
 21 probably aware of that.

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<p>1 MR. PACK: So these are vessels that have 2 been sitting for a long period of time, they're 3 deemed to be --</p>	<p>1 guys that are working to be able to use those 2 slips. We don't want it to be a storage 3 facility for three years.</p>
<p>4 MR. COLE: Well, they're not. But I mean 5 some of them -- like I said, my boat has been 6 sitting for a couple of months, but I might go 7 out on it tomorrow or the next day. Different 8 people work together oystering or crabbing or 9 fishing. So they --</p>	<p>4 MR. COLE: I don't think that happens. I 5 mean I'm at Bellevue and Newcomb pretty much 6 every day. And pretty much every boat used.</p>
<p>10 MS. PRICE: What's the policy, then? How 11 long can the boat sit there, understanding that 12 some of this stuff is seasonal or they might be 13 working someone else's boat?</p>	<p>7 I know that one incident we're talking 8 about, Joe's boat, came from Parks &amp; Rec. Guy 9 said some board told me that they were going to 10 take slips. He said hold it, I was on that 11 boat five times myself.</p>
<p>14 MR. PEPER: There is no time frame that 15 says that your boat --</p>	<p>12 MR. PEPER: So Joe Spurry losing his boat 13 slip had nothing to do with the fact that he 14 didn't use it. Joe Spurry lost his slip 15 because he did not follow the rules and never 16 filled out paperwork for his slip.</p>
<p>16 MS. PRICE: So why is the concern coming 17 up that someone's going to lose their boat slip 18 after four or five months?</p>	<p>17 MR. PACK: So he didn't register?</p>
<p>19 SPEAKER: They have lost their boat slips 20 and they have paid the rent.</p>	<p>18 MR. PEPER: Correct.</p>
<p>21 MR. PACK: Wait a minute. Hold on, hold</p>	<p>19 MS. PRICE: Right. Different reason.</p>
<p>Page 35</p>	<p>20 MR. PACK: That's the reason why.</p>
<p>1 on. We're going to open it up. We're going to 2 open it up in just a second.</p>	<p>21 SPEAKER: Register as a pleasure boat</p>
<p>3 MS. PRICE: True or false, has anybody 4 lost their boat slip for not moving their boat 5 in less than six months?</p>	<p>Page 37</p>
<p>6 MR. PEPER: False.</p>	<p>1 or --</p>
<p>7 MS. PRICE: I mean maybe it was another 8 reason.</p>	<p>2 MR. PACK: Let's do this. Instead of 3 calling out, we're going to open it up for 4 public hearing at this time.</p>
<p>9 MR. PEPER: No. It had to do with boats 10 that have not moved for a longer than that 11 period of time. And when you have a wait list 12 that's a rather long wait list that you have 13 vessels that aren't coming and going out of the 14 slips --</p>	<p>5 Anything further that you have to say? 6 Okay.</p>
<p>15 MS. PRICE: And I would hope that anybody 16 that's here is going to recognize that we want 17 these boat slips for watermen that are working 18 continuously throughout the year. And any of 19 you all I would think would have a problem if 20 someone sits in a boat slip for three years and 21 doesn't move their boat. I mean we want you</p>	<p>7 Anything further from you, Bruce? Okay.</p>
	<p>8 Again, this is a public hearing, and we 9 will allow -- we're half an hour into the 10 agenda.</p>
	<p>11 But what I'm going to ask you to do, if 12 you wouldn't mind coming up to the mike, giving 13 your name and your address, and again it's 14 being transcribed so we can have that for the 15 record.</p>
	<p>16 So we're going to open it now for your 17 public comment. So for those of us who -- come 18 up, sir.</p>
	<p>19 SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)</p>
	<p>20 MR. PACK: Yeah. Come up to the mike so 21 she can hear you. Thank you, sir.</p>

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1 You can use that mike. That mike is loud  
 2 as well. Bruce, you can stay there if you want  
 3 to.  
 4 MR. THOMPSON: Is it working?  
 5 MR. PACK: Yeah.  
 6 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. My name is Tommy  
 7 Thompson. I live in Easton, Maryland, and I  
 8 have a slip at Newcomb.  
 9 It seems that for some reason Talbot  
 10 County is trying to make letting someone use  
 11 your slip very, very difficult. I've been to  
 12 at least two other counties. And you get in  
 13 one of their slips, it's not a big deal. You  
 14 don't have to fill out paperwork. I know it's  
 15 been told before that Talbot County doesn't  
 16 want to mimic Queen Anne's County.  
 17 Queen Anne County has got a little metal  
 18 tag, much like the plastic one I stick on the  
 19 back of my boat. It's not adhesive. You stick  
 20 it in your back window. You only get one. If  
 21 someone wants to use your slip and you're not

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1 there, you give it to them, they stick it in  
 2 their back window.  
 3 The people that rule all this look and say  
 4 oh, there you go, that's the right tag for the  
 5 right slip, he's got to have permission or I  
 6 wouldn't have given him the tag to begin with.  
 7 It's just so -- I don't know why it's got  
 8 to be so terribly, terribly difficult. It's so  
 9 easy to do. I've never filled out paperwork or  
 10 none of that kind of stuff in at least two  
 11 other counties I've been in their facilities.  
 12 MR. PACK: You said just by checking the  
 13 sticker off the window and handing it to  
 14 somebody else?  
 15 MR. THOMPSON: They didn't have a sticker,  
 16 per se. I have it. It was a little metal  
 17 plastic plate with the corresponding slip  
 18 number on that thing. And you just stick it in  
 19 the back of the window. And they couldn't have  
 20 this if I didn't give it to them, you know.  
 21 I've got to be aware that they're there. And

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1 then when they leave, they give it back to me  
 2 when I got ready to come back.  
 3 It's just so simple.  
 4 MR. PACK: Okay.  
 5 THE WITNESS: That's about my biggest  
 6 gripe.  
 7 And my boat, (inaudible), my boat is at  
 8 Newcomb. And sometimes in the wintertime, I do  
 9 use it. The last few winters I have not. It  
 10 just sits there. It's documented. It's fully  
 11 functional. Everything works fine other than  
 12 the fact I just do not use it.  
 13 I haven't heard anything about me not  
 14 actually using my boat. But it gets used. Any  
 15 other time when I'm not on someone else's boat,  
 16 then I'm using my boat. That's about it.  
 17 MR. PACK: We got you. That's a good  
 18 idea. Thank you.  
 19 MR. THOMPSON: The little thing in the  
 20 back window, it's so simple. You don't have to  
 21 do paperwork or nothing.

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1 MR. PACK: We got it down.  
 2 MR. THOMPSON: It's so simple it's just  
 3 overlooked I guess.  
 4 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Thompson.  
 5 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.  
 7 MR. PACK: Anyone else? Yes, sir. Come  
 8 on up.  
 9 MR. DWYER: My name is Russ Dwyer. I live  
 10 in St. Michael's, Maryland.  
 11 A couple of things I was concerned with  
 12 and I worked with Parks Boards when all this  
 13 was getting drawn up. I'm a slip holder in Oak  
 14 Creek. And I'm not there very much with my  
 15 boat to use it. I do use it some, but very  
 16 seldom. I will use part of the river and I get  
 17 a slip closer to that.  
 18 And I want to keep that slip in case I  
 19 lose a slip and can't get any place else, I  
 20 will use it all the time. I've had this slip  
 21 probably somewhere around 12 to 15 years. When

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1 I'm not in that slip, it's another workboat in  
 2 a slip for one of the other watermen.  
 3 A couple of them, the one that was in  
 4 there last year, after 60 days, he is a slip  
 5 holder in Bellevue, pays his slip fee over  
 6 there. I let him come over and use my slip in  
 7 Oak Creek. I don't see why there should be a  
 8 limit of 60 days that I can transfer that if he  
 9 wants to stay longer.  
 10 It never has been a problem. When it was  
 11 21 days, it wasn't a problem. We just called  
 12 up the Parks and said I don't have a problem  
 13 with John Smith using my slip if you don't have  
 14 a problem. But I'm still responsible for that  
 15 slip and responsible for his actions in that  
 16 slip.  
 17 As far as the wait list goes, I'm not sure  
 18 if it's up there now. I asked for that back  
 19 when last year. I think that list should be  
 20 posted on a wall out here or at least on their  
 21 website so we know who is on that waiting list.

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1 The waiting list could have been cut way down  
 2 if we had known that. A lot of them are dead  
 3 on that list. So that should be posted or  
 4 we'll be able to go online to see who is on it  
 5 or where you stand in line to get your slip.  
 6 I guess that's basically it.  
 7 And as far as keeping your boat in that  
 8 slip all the time, if it stays the way it is,  
 9 all I'll do is buy other boat, put that boat in  
 10 this slip, take it out once a month and use it.  
 11 And that to me, that is wasting that slip.  
 12 Working watermen could be in that slip using  
 13 it.  
 14 MR. PACK: Are you currently holding two  
 15 slips or one?  
 16 MR. DWYER: One slip.  
 17 MR. PACK: Just the one. And you're in  
 18 Oak Creek?  
 19 MR. DWYER: One slip in there and I pay  
 20 the county for it. Another slip, I use the  
 21 other two slips and I pay separate. And I

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1 could lose them any day and not have a place to  
 2 tie my boat up.  
 3 MR. PACK: So when you're doing your  
 4 transfers, are you calling it into the county  
 5 office?  
 6 MR. DWYER: Yeah. I filled out since  
 7 Ms. Dickey came on charge.  
 8 I just think this whole thing has gotten  
 9 too nitty-gritty with law stuff. I mean I know  
 10 there's rules, but she's holding them to the  
 11 tee.  
 12 When you go up Route 50 at 55 miles an  
 13 hour, you can go 64 and not get a ticket. So I  
 14 think you need to be a little flexible with the  
 15 watermen. We're out there trying to make a  
 16 living.  
 17 MR. PACK: Right.  
 18 MS. PRICE: So what about something added  
 19 that would have authorized users. So it would  
 20 be -- and this is not necessarily directed to  
 21 you. But in general if somebody is responsible

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1 for the boat slip, rather than -- it's just an  
 2 idea. I'm talking out loud -- always doing the  
 3 transferring, what if there's a list of  
 4 authorized users. And maybe the first  
 5 gentleman who suggested whatever the tag was,  
 6 that if it's your boat slip and you want to let  
 7 Bruce use it, he's already listed. Like you  
 8 would have to identify who you typically trade  
 9 with. And I know you probably have the same  
 10 group of people.  
 11 MR. COLE: Like he said before, it used to  
 12 be if you had a slip, you're responsible for  
 13 whoever ties into it.  
 14 MS. PRICE: Right. But we need -- so I  
 15 think what we do need to know is that if you're  
 16 going to pass a tag over to Bruce, that Bruce's  
 17 boat is registered so that we don't want you to  
 18 give the tag to somebody who has an  
 19 unregistered boat.  
 20 So if you had let's say three people that  
 21 you would maybe trade with, that we know that

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1 those authorized users do have their  
 2 certification or registration from the State so  
 3 that you don't -- you can say okay, so this is  
 4 Bruce's boat, yeah, he's registered, he's good,  
 5 but they don't necessarily have to constantly  
 6 go through these transfers because I think we  
 7 all agree that we want working watermen to be  
 8 able to use these slips.  
 9 It seems like you are wasting your slip,  
 10 that maybe somebody else -- because you're kind  
 11 of tying up someplace else.  
 12 MR. PACK: I'm going to let them talk.  
 13 MS. PRICE: But I'm just saying as they  
 14 come up to talk, if that is an idea that might  
 15 work.  
 16 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Dwyer.  
 17 Let's bring someone else up who wants to  
 18 speak. Yes, sir.  
 19 MR. FOSTER: My name is Alan Foster. I'm  
 20 on 24099 Old (inaudible) Road, Wye Mills,  
 21 Maryland.

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1 I'm not very good at speaking, but I've  
 2 got two slips. I've had two slips ever since  
 3 Wye Landing came up. I've had one there and  
 4 I've had one at Bellevue.  
 5 Well, all of Wye River is a oyster  
 6 sanctuary. So you can't oyster out of Wye  
 7 River unless you run to Eastern Bay or Miles  
 8 River. You can't oyster nowheres in the water.  
 9 So that puts you out of oystering out of the  
 10 Wye anymore.  
 11 I mean back years ago you could oyster in  
 12 there. The water business has changed so much.  
 13 It's nobody works the same harbor all year  
 14 round that's working full time like they used  
 15 to.  
 16 Used to be you could go work out of  
 17 Choptank all year round and make a good living.  
 18 Now you can't do it anymore. You got to go  
 19 where you can make a day's work.  
 20 That's basically all I have to say. You  
 21 make me choose between a slip, it's going to be

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1 a real burden on me. I mean I'm five minutes  
 2 from my boat now. If I go to Bellevue, I'm a  
 3 half an hour. And I work out of there most of  
 4 the summer. Wintertime I come back home and we  
 5 fish down on the wharf because of the oyster  
 6 situation. Most of the time I fish all winter  
 7 from November on.  
 8 And a lot of times it's two or three ahead  
 9 of us on a boat. And my boat either will be  
 10 sitting and we'll work on somebody else's or  
 11 their boat will be sitting and we'll work on  
 12 mine. So I mean a boat sitting, that's no  
 13 reason why we should lose a slip.  
 14 And another thing. My understanding with  
 15 the 60-day, if I sign my slip over to somebody  
 16 else for 60 days, I'm not eligible to tie in it  
 17 anymore until that 60 days is up. Well, I mean  
 18 I'm not sure, but that's what I've been told.  
 19 MR. PACK: No. That's your slip.  
 20 MR. FOSTER: Okay. That's what I was  
 21 told, someone told me.

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1 MR. PACK: And that's why we're having  
 2 this discussion, to knock down all the rumors.  
 3 MR. FOSTER: I'll never sign my slip over  
 4 to somebody if I can't go back into it.  
 5 MR. PACK: No, sir. That's not true.  
 6 MR. FOSTER: That's basically all I had to  
 7 say.  
 8 I know we've had two slips for a while,  
 9 and we've always let people tie in, especially  
 10 I got a lot of friends uptown. If they go to  
 11 Bellevue oystering in the winter, I'm not in  
 12 there right now. I'm tied at Wye Landing. I  
 13 have no problem with them going in there.  
 14 But to sign it over to somebody for 60  
 15 days, I thought we weren't allowed to tie in.  
 16 So that's why I haven't been doing it.  
 17 Anyway, that's all.  
 18 MR. PACK: Your two slips are where,  
 19 Bellevue and?  
 20 MR. FOSTER: Wye Landing.  
 21 I was saying they did re-deck the boat ramp

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<p>1 at Bellevue, but the finger pier -- I mean at  2 Wye Landing. But the finger piers were never  3 re-decked, and they're the same way. We had to  4 put screws down into them to hold them down.  5 You know what I mean? That's no big deal.  6 It's just putting a few screws in some boards.  7 The ramp was done, whatever re-decked, but  8 the finger piers and little pier down there  9 wasn't re-decked. So I mean the slip holders,  10 they didn't re-deck the thing for them.  11 The lights that they got down there, they  12 put a new solar light up just in the last  13 month. And it's a nice light, don't get me  14 wrong. But it's at the boat ramp. It's  15 nothing to do with the slips. So those slips,  16 that light didn't help the slips at all.  17 That's all I have to say. Thank you.  18 MR. COLE: Mr. Foster, his mother was in  19 charge of it for years when it was in the '80s.  20 That's who did all the slips at the court house  21 when you had to do it like in the early '80s.</p>	<p>1 Bellevue certain time of the year, the crabs  2 come on sooner. Later he goes to Wye River,  3 crabs are later.  4 It's like you're crippling the industry  5 doing that with the two slips because it's a  6 vast area. You can't travel back and forth.  7 So in St. Michael's, what we did is if  8 Mr. Thompson wants to come use my slip, just  9 pick the phone up to call around the office.  10 You have people sitting in this office there  11 right now. Hey, slip eight, Greg Kemp, Tommy  12 Thompson, boat Lady Marie.  13 Nobody's got a boat that's not been  14 through the DNR.  15 SPEAKER: Simple.  16 MR. KEMP: DNR or documentation because  17 the DNR checks our boats once, two, sometimes  18 three times a year.  19 My son got a new boat. He tied in at Oak  20 Creek. Somebody come there say you got to move  21 this boat, it's not your boat. Paperwork was</p>
<p>Page 51</p> <p>1 MR. PACK: Come on up, sir.  2 What finger pier is he talking about, Wye  3 Landing?  4 MR. COLE: Wye Mills.  5 MR. PACK: Wye Mills, okay.  6 MR. KEMP: Greg Kemp, St. Michael's,  7 Maryland. My son and myself have a slip at Oak  8 Creek.  9 (Inaudible) chairman of the waterways in  10 St. Michael's for a couple of years. Also, we  11 had the regs you all call them, the rules  12 change for commercial as in the recreational.  13 Commercial watermen, all we do, they don't  14 let anyone use the slip in St. Michael's. Once  15 you got a slip, nobody tie in. I worked on  16 that for two or three years. So now  17 commercial watermen can use another waterman's  18 slip. As Mr. Thompson, I've told him hey, if  19 you go to St. Michael's, you can use my slip.  20 Mr. Foster, he didn't explain it. More  21 clearly, he's in Bellevue. The reason he's in</p>	<p>Page 53</p> <p>1 already up here. So that wasn't checked  2 properly, but they were telling him to move  3 that quickly.  4 I think you can have two sets of rules.  5 If not, all these sailboats that aren't in  6 these slips all winter long that are pulled up,  7 why aren't you taking those slips around the  8 county.  9 I mean as he explained, he dives. He's  10 the top man for someone. He doesn't use his  11 boat but he's working as a commercial waterman.  12 And it falls in the same as you -- when I feel  13 you're saying a man cannot have two slips and  14 two different rivers, I feel that that's the  15 same as saying there's a farm there. Hey, you  16 can't farm beyond Oak Creek Bridge, you got to  17 stay up the road. Or a real estate office say  18 hey, you got to have your office in Easton and  19 not in St. Michael's. Falls the same way  20 because we're a business.  21 You're crippling individuals saying that</p>

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1 you can't move around.

2 MS. PRICE: Can I ask you one question on

3 that, though? But there's watermen who don't

4 have any slips.

5 MR. KEMP: Yes.

6 MS. PRICE: You're crippling that -- let's

7 say there's three right now. That's three more

8 watermen that we could get out there working.

9 So I think that's the reason about the two

10 because now one waterman gets two slips and can

11 be convenient for him, but then there's three

12 other watermen who have no slips because of the

13 waiting list.

14 MR. KEMP: I was on a waiting list for 20

15 something years in St. Michael's.

16 MS. PRICE: But this is eight more people,

17 because we had eight with two slips --

18 MR. KEMP: So you're going to tell this

19 man you got to work here and most likely you

20 can't move around because you're a full-time

21 waterman, you're stuck here and you might be

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1 liable to lose everything you own because you

2 can't work.

3 MS. PRICE: -- that didn't have a slip at

4 all that can't work at all --

5 MR. KEMP: -- working. They're tied to a

6 county facility.

7 MR. COLE: Or they're going to use my slip

8 because I'm somewhere else.

9 MR. KEMP: And most of --

10 MR. COLE: Most of the time I don't let my

11 slip to somebody unless he's a watermen. Guy,

12 like Guy's son come to me. I was in Miles

13 River. Said Bruce, can I use your slip in

14 Bellevue. I said yeah, go up to the county and

15 get it straight, you get the paperwork, I'll

16 sign it.

17 Well, he got a ticket because he didn't do

18 it, but I let him use it because I wasn't

19 there. So --

20 MR. KEMP: Those three people are most

21 likely using someone's slip they're letting

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1 them use.

2 And on top of that, the guy that gets my

3 clams, he goes to Miles River. He ties in my

4 slip because the wind is so bad in the

5 Choptank.

6 You got to keep all these variables.

7 Certain time of the year, winds.

8 So about the time that I'm done crabbing

9 on the Choptank side that I want to move to

10 Miles River, he moves back.

11 It's simple as a phone call. Everybody

12 has a phone and we all got them to our head all

13 the time. You can call the office, say

14 such-and-such is in the slip, very easy.

15 She rides around or he rides around, the

16 office calls and says such-and-such is in the

17 slip, he checks it out. That's what we do in

18 St. Michael's. It's very easy. No paperwork,

19 no tags, no nothing.

20 MR. COLE: I do believe that list has

21 really gone downhill once you got calling them

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1 people that didn't want them.

2 Am I correct, the waiting list?

3 MR. PEPER: It has gone down, yes.

4 MS. PRICE: How many are there now,

5 Preston?

6 MR. COLE: There's not that many.

7 MR. PEPER: It's going to vary from

8 landing to landing. It's just going to vary.

9 I mean Dogwood obviously has the longest

10 wait list. And then you got a couple of

11 landings that --

12 MS. PRICE: Ballpark county wide; ten, 50?

13 MS. DICKEY: Pardon?

14 MS. PRICE: Ball park county wide?

15 MR. PEPER: You mean altogether?

16 MS. PRICE: Yeah.

17 MR. PEPER: Altogether watermen on the

18 wait list.

19 MS. DICKEY: Oh, I have no idea because

20 they duplicate. They're in more than one

21 place.

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1 MR. PEPER: Right. So somebody might --

2 MS. DICKEY: Some put in for all of

3 them --

4 MR. COLE: -- waiting list a year and a

5 half ago. He just got a slip in Bellevue I

6 believe.

7 MS. DICKEY: Some of them we've gone

8 through faster because we didn't have that many

9 watermen on the list or because for various

10 reasons they don't want the slip.

11 MS. PRICE: Okay. I'd be curious to know

12 how many total watermen. I don't want to

13 duplicate it, to consolidate that list just to

14 get an idea of how many watermen have no

15 place --

16 MR. PEPER: So how many individuals need a

17 slip?

18 MS. PRICE: And how many individuals need

19 a slip. And then maybe we can get some

20 information from some of you guys. Those

21 people that have nothing right now that are on

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1 the waiting list, are they transferring

2 sometimes. I want to know who's got absolutely

3 nothing and who is able to transfer, make use

4 of a slip that --

5 MR. COLE: You got a lot of things there

6 because you got St. Michael's, Oxford.

7 Like I just put my name on the list for

8 St. Michael's because I might have to get a

9 slip there now. So I'm on the waiting list. I

10 don't want one because I have one in Royal Oak.

11 But if I lose that, I want to be on their

12 waiting list so I have one in St. Michael's.

13 A lot of people have a slip in Oxford

14 because the Town of Oxford --

15 MS. PRICE: I'm looking for individuals --

16 MR. PACK: That's a municipality. We

17 wouldn't have any control over that.

18 MR. KEMP: Another thing we talked about

19 as far as a waiting list, cut it down, we also

20 talked about you put your name on a waiting

21 list, put 50 bucks on there. Pay to be on the

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1 waiting list. You won't believe how many

2 people take it off. And after some of them

3 took it off, some of them already had a slip,

4 but they used their wife's name because they

5 had a second home. These were recreational

6 people, not commercial watermen.

7 MR. PACK: Okay. Well, thank you.

8 Who else? We got about ten more minutes

9 here. Go ahead, Jeff.

10 MR. HARRISON: Yeah. Jeff Harrison. I'm

11 with Talbot Watermen's Association. I live in

12 Tilghman. I just have a few things.

13 First off is the usage. We actually -- I

14 think Chuck and Andy and some people came down.

15 We talked about the usage of the harbor because

16 we really want these things to work for the

17 watermen.

18 Some of that has changed now. I know in

19 Bellevue I went down there the other day.

20 There used to be a place where boats could

21 (inaudible), but now it's all load and unload

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1 only. And it could be as much as 300 yards

2 down one whole side where some boats actually

3 could tie.

4 The reason there's so many people on the

5 waiting list is because people need places to

6 tie.

7 So mine is a little bit about maybe we can

8 get together with people that are there and use

9 that harbor a lot and get with them kind of

10 like we did down there and say this is what we

11 want it to look like so the place actually

12 works better.

13 Another thing is something that I see now

14 is parking is really a problem. And I don't

15 know what we can do about it, but there's a lot

16 of signs now that say slip holder only, which I

17 think is in the rules. The slip holders have a

18 parking spot.

19 But the problem is is that if you don't

20 have that tag on there, you're going to get a

21 ticket if you pull in there.



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1 And so what happens in the summertime, I  
 2 see a lot of times people pull in there and  
 3 park. Might be getting out, walking around the  
 4 harbor, taking pictures. Are they going to get  
 5 a ticket?  
 6 Like in Oak Creek, I looked there. Yeah,  
 7 it was Oak Creek the other day. There must be  
 8 like 30 signs there that say no parking. It's  
 9 almost not inviting to the public. You know  
 10 what I mean? It's a little park there that's  
 11 been established. And yet when people come in  
 12 there, if you ride in there and look around, it  
 13 almost looks like we don't want you there.  
 14 So I see that in the future as possibly a  
 15 problem. And I've heard of a few people that  
 16 have gotten parking tickets, and they're \$50  
 17 tickets. And I don't know if it was a guy down  
 18 there the other day and I seen them down there  
 19 putting a paper. I don't know if it was a  
 20 ticket or a warning.  
 21 But what I think that we need to do now,

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1 there's probably 40 places to park down there.  
 2 There was four vehicles parked there. Three of  
 3 them must have had their sticker and the other  
 4 person didn't and he ended up getting a piece  
 5 of paper. I don't know if it was a warning or  
 6 a ticket. But I think we need to use a little  
 7 bit of discretion in situations like that.  
 8 Also, I did have a complaint from one guy  
 9 down in Tilghman, Lawrence Tyler. He was tying  
 10 a duck boat down to it's a floating dock down  
 11 Bar Neck. I don't even -- it used to be a  
 12 stable dock there. When Isabel come through,  
 13 it took it out. They put a floating dock back  
 14 in. But he ended up getting a ticket for being  
 15 there. There was no signage. He didn't  
 16 realize that he shouldn't be there, and yet he  
 17 still got a ticket.  
 18 So it's a lot of times --  
 19 MR. PEPPER: Jeff, the boat was tied to the  
 20 sign that said loading and unloading 30  
 21 minutes.

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1 MR. HARRISON: Yeah. But why -- see,  
 2 that's because who made it like that?  
 3 MR. PEPPER: It's a floating dock to --  
 4 MR. HARRISON: -- little floating dock  
 5 where boats used to tie --  
 6 MR. PACK: Jeff, if you're going to give  
 7 Council testimony, you got to give all the  
 8 testimony now.  
 9 If he's tied to a dock that says 30-minute  
 10 loading and unloading, that should be clear  
 11 that he's there to unload his materials and get  
 12 on his way, not to stay there for an extended  
 13 period of time.  
 14 MR. HARRISON: He didn't tell me that. I  
 15 didn't know that because if I did, I wouldn't  
 16 have brought it up. It was just one incident I  
 17 brought up.  
 18 But that's another incident in which who  
 19 made it loading and unloading? Who did that?  
 20 MR. PACK: Well, it's a county piece of  
 21 property, county pier, and we set the code.

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1 Now, we do have a Parks Board. And the  
 2 Parks Board reviews these things and makes the  
 3 decision. So to answer to your question.  
 4 MR. HARRISON: I'm on it.  
 5 MR. PACK: You're on it. So obviously you  
 6 know the answer. It comes from the Parks  
 7 Board. It's not us. We take information from  
 8 the Parks Board.  
 9 MR. HARRISON: Just another thing, though.  
 10 I think that it should be just a little bit  
 11 more customer service kind of thing like you  
 12 know, hey.  
 13 MR. PACK: Well, if you're there to  
 14 unload --  
 15 MR. HARRISON: -- sign loading, unloading.  
 16 MR. PACK: And you're there for two  
 17 days --  
 18 MR. HARRISON: -- he was duck hunting down  
 19 there. He runs parties actually.  
 20 And that's another problem with the  
 21 parking, too, is he runs parties and they pull

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<p>1 in, duck hunting parties and fishing parties.  2 They're parking right there in these slips.  3 Now, he tries to stay out of the way or,  4 you know, where other people aren't using the  5 boat. He tries to do that, but are these  6 people going to get tickets down the road. So  7 that's just a concern.  8 MR. PACK: That's --  9 MS. PRICE: We sell permits for our  10 landings 40 bucks a year or whatever it is.  11 MR. HARRISON: Right.  12 MR. PEPPER: And I see. What he's saying  13 is there's nowhere to park.  14 So the problem that we run into is that  15 the watermen complain that people are parking  16 in their spots. So it's kind of a -- so what  17 Jeff is saying is you have slip holder parking  18 spots right by your slip. And then the general  19 public will just park in someone else's slip  20 because they're there to meet somebody to go  21 out on a boat.</p>	<p>1 MR. PACK: The parking spot or the parking  2 area that I don't belong in, and so I moved my  3 truck to other area.  4 MR. COLE: Okay.  5 MR. PACK: But I do get your point. We do  6 want to be user friendly to the guest. I was a  7 guest on someone else's boat. But I got to  8 follow the rules. So I just moved my truck to  9 the other side of the parking area.  10 MR. HARRISON: There's really not a lot of  11 places that you can park (inaudible). There's  12 a park there. So it's kind of saying come to  13 our little park but --  14 MR. PACK: But don't park.  15 MR. HARRISON: We really don't have a  16 whole lot of places to park.  17 MR. PACK: We'll look into that, Jeff.  18 That's a new one, about parking.  19 Anyone else? We have about five more  20 minutes? Anyone else on the agenda items that  21 we have here? Yes, sir, come on up.</p>
<p>Page 67</p> <p>1 Well, then the problem we run into is that  2 the waterman that owns that slip now issues a  3 complaint to us because he can't put his  4 vehicle in his slip.  5 So what is our -- so that's why there's a  6 sign to basically say this is slip holder  7 parking only --  8 MR. PACK: Right. And I know Oak Creek,  9 when I went out a few times, I was a guest, I  10 parked my vehicle on the left-hand side because  11 I think that's where the guest parking was. I  12 didn't park on the front portion of it. I  13 think I ran into you that day I was down there.  14 So I just read the sign. The sign said park  15 over here, and I went and parked over there out  16 of the way.  17 You guys that he's a slip holder down  18 there, I know he wouldn't want to come down and  19 have my vehicle in his slip or in the parking  20 lot.  21 MR. COLE: We don't have assigned parking.</p>	<p>Page 69</p> <p>1 MR. HUTCHISON: My name is Jim Hutchison.  2 And I came down here because I had slip number  3 22 at Bellevue. I have a sailboat that had not  4 been moved for quite a while actually. And I  5 was -- when I got the notice that my lease  6 wasn't going to be renewed, I sent a letter in  7 asking to be -- you know, if they could  8 reconsider that because I had been on a waiting  9 list for six years and I live in Bellevue  10 community. So I go to the Bellevue Landing  11 almost every day.  12 And so even though I wasn't taking my boat  13 out -- and I had a cordial relationship with  14 all the people who had been running that  15 previously. And if there was a problem down  16 there, I would call in. And I had -- it just  17 seemed like it was handled a lot different.  18 This has turned into a very legalese  19 battle. And of course, I understand from this  20 meeting that basically the whole genre of what  21 is going on down there is that this is to be</p>

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<p>1 used as a watermen's kind of place so that they 2 can take off. And with all the problems with 3 the watermen, I understand the problem 4 completely. 5 My problem is that when I sent in a letter 6 asking to be reconsidered, I never really 7 received any kind of response until I got a 8 subpoena for abandoning my vessel, which to me 9 is totally inconsistent with the word 10 abandoning your vessel. I know there's a 11 definition for it, but I visited my vessel 12 almost every day. So it's hard for me to 13 conceptualize that that was something that I 14 abandoned. 15 But after being in this meeting, I 16 understand that -- and most of the recreational 17 vessels have left. I know one person that was 18 down the way donated his boat to the Sea 19 Scouts. They came and towed it away. 20 I wasn't able to get mine out in time. 21 It's out of there now. It's been out for quite</p>	<p>1 about five minutes and then we're going to come 2 back out for a public hearing. But go ahead. 3 MR. COLE: Yeah. I mean I just think like 4 he said, I think it could be done a lot nicer, 5 a lot convenient for people. I mean everybody 6 don't have to get a ticket. I know some of 7 them said they got a ticket they were just one 8 day late getting out of a slip, something come 9 up. I mean a lot easier way to handle things I 10 think. 11 We all work in Talbot County or in Talbot 12 County, live in Talbot County. And I think 13 it's a lot easier to handle things. 14 I don't want to lose mine. I'm a two-slip 15 holder. That's really why I'm here. I don't 16 want to give up my slip and I want to try to 17 fight for whatever I can because I'm 30 years. 18 Why should I lose it because somebody is on a 19 waiting list that I was on there for nine years 20 before I got mine in Bellevue. 21 And like I said, should I give it up</p>
<p>Page 71</p> <p>1 a while. But I've had to donate my boat also. 2 I understand the scope of the problem now. 3 And the plight the watermen who are trying to 4 rotate around with the seasons and fight with 5 the different pieces of the industry that they 6 have to deal with. 7 So I think my complaint is mute in the 8 face of what everybody else is facing here. 9 I'm just sorry that this whole legal process 10 that to me, this was a very cordial 11 relationship with Parks &amp; Rec. And I was in 12 constant response form and now I'm in court. 13 But I'm just going to have to deal with that. 14 Thank you. 15 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Hutchison. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. 17 MR. PACK: I'm going to stop the public 18 part of this right now. 19 Bruce, I give you maybe the final word. 20 We have five minutes. Council has to go into 21 another hearing. We're going to recess for</p>	<p>Page 73</p> <p>1 because somebody else is waiting. Yes, might 2 be somebody waiting. But what am I going to 3 do. Then I'm going to be back waiting for one. 4 I tied up in Pier Street before I got a slip. 5 I rented a slip over there. 6 But yeah. I think the waiting list has 7 gone way down. I do believe it would be a good 8 idea if you're on the list, pay for a year in 9 advance. When one comes available, you're paid 10 up. That will cut the list down big times. 11 Ms. Dickey will probably tell you once you 12 get called down there, people don't want them 13 and it really goes boom, boom, boom. 14 The same way with me. I was number 40. 15 And when they called and told me I had a slip 16 in Bellevue, I was like I was number 40, what 17 do you mean, I'm already up there. 18 That's why we got to call them. People 19 don't have the money or don't want the slip 20 now. Good enough. 21 But that. And like I said, I think it</p>

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1 could be a lot easier for us. We're all trying  
 2 to struggle.  
 3 And Mr. Hutchison, I think he has a right  
 4 for a slip just as much as I do. I mean he  
 5 lives in Bellevue. Just because he's a  
 6 recreational, he has a right to use the slip.  
 7 I do think watermen should have first option.  
 8 But if there's one available, he should have a  
 9 right to a slip. He's a Talbot County  
 10 resident.  
 11 MR. PACK: Absolutely. Anything else from  
 12 you guys?  
 13 Well, we have to stop. We have to go into  
 14 another session.  
 15 MR. WILLIAMS: It will be real quick.  
 16 It's just something that nobody else has  
 17 mentioned.  
 18 MR. PACK: Okay. Come on up and give your  
 19 name, sir.  
 20 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Brian Williams.  
 21 I'm a resident of Easton. I have a county slip

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1 at Oak Creek, Newcomb.  
 2 I just want to say something about the  
 3 cost. I don't know if it's set in stone the  
 4 way the rates are going to rise every year.  
 5 But as you've already heard from everybody  
 6 else, seems like we all have to have at least  
 7 two slips now. So we're paying for a slip,  
 8 maybe a county slip and a slip somewhere else.  
 9 All of our costs are going up; fuel, bait.  
 10 What we have to pay for a lot of us have some  
 11 people to help us at times for different  
 12 seasons. They raised the minimum wage law. At  
 13 some point that's going to trickle down for us.  
 14 We're going to have to pay our helpers more  
 15 money for however they're helping us.  
 16 I just wanted to ask that maybe there's  
 17 some consideration that can be given toward the  
 18 cost of the slips, the annual increase that's  
 19 supposed to be built in.  
 20 MR. COLE: What are you paying in Oxford?  
 21 He's a slip holder in Oxford, Town of

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1 Oxford.  
 2 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I have a slip in  
 3 Oxford and Newcomb.  
 4 MR. PACK: You're a two-slip holder?  
 5 MR. WILLIAMS: I am.  
 6 MR. COLE: One in town.  
 7 MR. PACK: Oh, Oxford. I'm sorry.  
 8 MR. COLE: Just give them an idea of what  
 9 they pay in Oxford. I don't know.  
 10 MR. WILLIAMS: I don't know. It's  
 11 around -- I don't even think it's \$500 yet.  
 12 Now, what they do do is they build in a  
 13 three percent like increase. It's right in the  
 14 lease every year, and I believe it's  
 15 three percent every year it goes up  
 16 three percent. So you know what it's going to  
 17 be. Everybody is in agreement when you sign  
 18 the document. And that just kind of keeps up  
 19 with maybe cost of living allowance or  
 20 inflation or whatever you want to say.  
 21 But it's not \$100 every year. You know

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1 what I mean? I mean it's much less than that.  
 2 MS. PRICE: Well, then it was going to cap  
 3 out.  
 4 Our expenses and our maintenance goes up  
 5 as well. And I think we're just trying to get  
 6 to a point and then stop, because it was  
 7 supposed to have started years ago. It didn't.  
 8 So I think it's just playing catch-up to get --  
 9 that was the reasoning behind it. It wouldn't  
 10 continue on beyond, what was it, 12?  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: I think a thousand.  
 12 MR. COLE: Queen Anne is 700.  
 13 MR. WILLIAMS: \$1,200 is a lot of money.  
 14 MR. COLE: 750.  
 15 SPEAKER: 750.  
 16 SPEAKER: 750.  
 17 MR. COLE: St. Michael's is?  
 18 SPEAKER: Every slip.  
 19 MR. COLE: Town of St. Michael's is what;  
 20 600, 700?  
 21 MR. WILLIAMS: That's what I think the cap

1 should be in line with is what other counties  
2 are charging, what other municipalities in the  
3 county are charging. St. Michael's, Oxford.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Williams.

6 Before you leave, Bruce, just want to  
7 thank you for putting this together and getting  
8 our agenda items for us.

9 Again, this is we're hoping to be the  
10 first of an annual meeting that we have with  
11 the watermen. As I said before, we meet  
12 annually with the farmers. We want to have a  
13 cordial dialogue with you guys about  
14 legislation or about any changes that we need  
15 to make to make your lives much better.

16 We're not here to make your lives more  
17 difficult. There may be things we agree with,  
18 there may be things we don't agree with. But  
19 let's have the dialogue so can keep going  
20 forward.

21 Council is going to take a recess. And

1 we're going to come back with Mr. Jeff Harrison  
2 and some other members for our open session.

3 Okay. Thank you very much.

4 (Work Session concluded at: 2:02 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF MARYLAND

2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and  
for the State of Maryland, County of Anne Arundel,  
3 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot  
County Council Audio, personally appeared before me  
4 at the time and place herein set according to law,  
was interrogated by counsel.

5 I further certify that the examination was  
6 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed  
from my stenographic notes to the within printed  
7 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription  
in a true and accurate manner.

8 I further certify that the stipulations  
9 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my  
presence.

10 I further certify that I am not of counsel  
11 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,  
nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way  
12 interested in the outcome of this action.

13 AS WITNESS my hand Notorial Seal this 8th  
day of March, 2019, at Easton, MD.

14  
15 

16  
17 Diane Houlihan  
18 Notary Public

19  
20 My commission expires September 16, 2021  
21

<b>&amp;</b>	<b>5</b>	24:13,15 37:10 68:20 78:8 <b>ago</b> 8:17 9:5 47:11 58:5 77:7 <b>agree</b> 46:7 78:17 78:18 <b>agreement</b> 26:20 28:13 76:17 <b>ahead</b> 6:7,9 14:15 48:8 60:9 72:2 <b>alan</b> 46:19 <b>allow</b> 31:12 37:9 <b>allowance</b> 76:19 <b>allowed</b> 49:15 <b>altogether</b> 57:15 57:17 <b>amendment</b> 28:19 <b>amendments</b> 19:19 <b>andy</b> 60:14 <b>annapolis</b> 3:2,3 <b>anne</b> 38:17 77:12 80:2 <b>anne's</b> 38:16 <b>announce</b> 5:11 <b>annual</b> 2:20 3:12 75:18 78:10 <b>annually</b> 16:9 78:12 <b>answer</b> 7:3 18:2 65:3,6 <b>anybody</b> 24:4 33:10 35:3,15 <b>anymore</b> 7:1 23:2 47:10,18 48:17 <b>anyway</b> 9:7 16:16 23:13 30:11 49:17 <b>apart</b> 8:9 <b>appeared</b> 80:3 <b>apply</b> 30:12 <b>appreciate</b> 19:8 <b>approved</b> 19:20 <b>area</b> 7:8 14:2 52:6 68:2,3,9	<b>arundel</b> 80:2 <b>asked</b> 32:1 42:18 <b>asking</b> 69:7 70:6 <b>assigned</b> 67:21 <b>assisted</b> 80:7 <b>association</b> 1:4 3:7 60:11 <b>audio</b> 80:3 <b>authorized</b> 44:19 45:4 46:1 <b>available</b> 9:1 73:9 74:8 <b>avenue</b> 6:11 <b>avon</b> 8:4 <b>aware</b> 26:3 28:15 33:21 39:21
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