



Deposition of:
Talbot County Council Meeting

May 18, 2021

In the Matter of:
Talbot County Special Legislative Day

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

May 18, 2021; 6:00 p.m.

Via Webex Events

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Corey W. Pack

Frank Divilio

Laura E. Price

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Let's get ready to get</p> <p>4 started, if we could, Council.</p> <p>5 I want to welcome everybody. So what we</p> <p>6 would like to do first, let's please stand and</p> <p>7 join Mr. Vice President Leshner for the prayer,</p> <p>8 and then we're going to follow that by the</p> <p>9 Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag.</p> <p>10 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Mr. Vice</p> <p>12 President. What a great job. I appreciate you</p> <p>13 doing that for us.</p> <p>14 Okay, Council. Council has an agenda</p> <p>15 before them on May 18th. Are there any</p> <p>16 additions, deletions, or corrections to the</p> <p>17 agenda?</p> <p>18 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. President, I would like</p> <p>19 to amend the agenda to remove items six and</p> <p>20 seven until next week while we're waiting for</p> <p>21 outside -- we've requested guidance from the</p>	<p>1 has been passed. So everybody understands line</p> <p>2 item number six and seven will be postponed to</p> <p>3 next week. Okay.</p> <p>4 Let's move on, Council --</p> <p>5 MR. PACK: Mr. Callahan, just point of</p> <p>6 order. That motion was just for the amendment</p> <p>7 of the agenda. Now there needs to be a motion</p> <p>8 for the agenda as amended.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Pack.</p> <p>10 Okay.</p> <p>11 Now I need a motion for agenda as</p> <p>12 proposed.</p> <p>13 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.</p> <p>14 MS. PRICE: Second.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Got a motion and a second.</p> <p>16 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote,</p> <p>17 please.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>21 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p>
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<p>1 State, and we're waiting to receive that.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds good,</p> <p>3 Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>4 MS. PRICE: I'll second that.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We've got a motion</p> <p>6 and a second on that. Ms. Morris, can you call</p> <p>7 the vote? Do we need a vote for this? We do;</p> <p>8 don't we?</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Yes, we do.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>14 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>16 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>18 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. So the agenda</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>2 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>4 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>6 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Pack.</p> <p>8 Appreciate it.</p> <p>9 So moving on to minutes. Council has had</p> <p>10 a chance to review the minutes from May 4th.</p> <p>11 Are there any additions, deletions, or</p> <p>12 corrections to the minutes? Hearing none, the</p> <p>13 chair moves that the minutes are accepted by</p> <p>14 unanimous consent. Okay.</p> <p>15 Council, moving on to disbursements.</p> <p>16 Council has had a chance to review the</p> <p>17 disbursements of May 18th. Are there any</p> <p>18 additions, deletions, or corrections to the</p> <p>19 disbursements? Okay. Hearing none, the chair</p> <p>20 moves that the disbursements be accepted as</p> <p>21 unanimous consent. Sounds good. Okay.</p>

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1 So looking forward to a presentation for
 2 the Talbot County Library. I think Dana
 3 Newman, the director of the Talbot County Free
 4 Library, is here. And is Scotti Oliver, the
 5 assistant director, is she here too?
 6 MS. NEWMAN: Scotti is in my office.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds great.
 8 MS. NEWMAN: All right.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Guys, how are you?
 10 Welcome. We want to welcome you.
 11 MS. NEWMAN: We're doing very well. Thank
 12 you, Mr. Callahan.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. No problem.
 14 MS. NEWMAN: I did want to let you know
 15 that Shauna Beulah, who is the branch manager
 16 at the St. Michaels branch, is also here.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Great.
 18 MS. NEWMAN: And Robert Forloney, who is
 19 our vice president of the Library Board is
 20 here. And Susan Sherman, who is the president
 21 of the Library Board, is also here. There may

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1 also be people watching, too, or maybe watching
 2 tomorrow.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 4 MS. NEWMAN: Good evening. And thank you
 5 to the Council for hearing our request tonight.
 6 The theme for the capital budget for
 7 fiscal year 22 has been investment in public
 8 safety, which is very important to all of us.
 9 Another important step in our county's
 10 healing from one of the worst crises we are
 11 likely to see in our lifetime is looking at how
 12 we invest in economic recovery and how we can
 13 provide our residents with the support and
 14 opportunities that they need to recover.
 15 The Talbot County Free Library is an
 16 essential partner in the economic recovery. It
 17 supports people in finding jobs, provides WiFi
 18 hotspots so that people can connect to the
 19 Internet, supports small business owners with
 20 spaces and resources, and supports students of
 21 all ages with educational tools. So for the

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1 library to continue to do that, we need to
 2 expand and renovate the St. Michaels Library.
 3 I do want to note that the St. Michaels
 4 Library is one of the only county buildings in
 5 the Town of St. Michaels and that the
 6 St. Michaels Library is owned by the county.
 7 And I do want to compliment the
 8 maintenance crew led by Brian. They do a
 9 wonderful job of really making sure that we
 10 maintain the building in a good condition. But
 11 this is really about expanding the library and
 12 making sure that it can meet the needs of our
 13 patrons into the next 20 or 30 years.
 14 So if you can move to the next slide.
 15 I'm going to be covering things pretty
 16 fast. But in 2014, I wanted to note from this
 17 historical timeline that a request for funding
 18 was made to the county for the expansion and
 19 renovation of the St. Michaels Library based
 20 on the 2013 facilities master plan
 21 recommendation that the library be increased by

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1 3,500 square feet.
 2 Since that first request, the project has
 3 been pushed back in the capital improvement
 4 plan for the county several times. And it's
 5 understandable. We realize that there's only
 6 limited dollars for capital projects.
 7 If you can move to the next slide.
 8 So this shows you the timeline for
 9 expansion. Design would be done in fiscal year
 10 23, design would finish in fiscal year 24, and
 11 construction would start in fiscal year 25. We
 12 would see the completion of construction, which
 13 is really exciting if we can do this project
 14 with the opening of the library for the 100th
 15 year that the library has been in service for
 16 the county. So again, 2025 will be our 100th
 17 anniversary, and we would love to celebrate
 18 that with a new expanded library in
 19 St. Michaels.
 20 If you can move to the next slide.
 21 The 2013 facilities master plan found that

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1 the library building at 7,716 square feet is
 2 too small to serve the community's needs, that
 3 it basically needs to be increased by about
 4 half to address space deficiencies and provide
 5 spaces that support the growth of the
 6 collection, services, programming, and
 7 technologies.

8 In particular, we need to make sure that
 9 the children and teens have good expanded
 10 spaces. And we'll talk about that in a minute.

11 But the collection, the meeting room,
 12 staff, and storage spaces, as a few of you have
 13 taken tours of the library, have noted that it
 14 is very cramped in the library.

15 If you can move to the next slide.

16 So what we're looking to do and what the
 17 2019 feasibility study recommends is a
 18 40 percent expansion of the meeting room. It
 19 also adds two study rooms for small groups to
 20 meet and work. This is really important for
 21 economic recovery.

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1 Here at Easton, we have two small study
 2 rooms that are very well used by business
 3 owners, by tutors, by all kinds of people who
 4 need small rooms to meet and also to study.

5 Again, we're looking to expand the
 6 children and teen area to include space for
 7 interactive learning, study, and additional
 8 computers.

9 Currently, there's no place for children
 10 to gather in the library. There are no
 11 Internet computers dedicated for children or
 12 for teens. That's very unusual for any size
 13 library. Usually libraries have dedicated
 14 computers for teens and children.

15 If you'll move to the next slide.

16 Here I just want to show you that you can
 17 see how crowded the meeting room gets. These
 18 are both programs as well as community
 19 meetings, and we frequently have a packed room.

20 If you can move to the next slide.

21 This is our St. Michaels children's area

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1 on the left side. On the right side is the
 2 Easton Library room. You can see the great
 3 difference between the two libraries in Talbot
 4 County. And the room on the right has plenty
 5 of place to do programming. There's room for
 6 50 children to gather and hear a program. On
 7 the left side, you see that it's crowded with
 8 six children and there is no dedicated
 9 programming space.

10 If you'll move to the next slide.

11 Here you see on the left side the
 12 St. Michaels Library teen area. Again,
 13 there's no dedicated computer. There's only
 14 room for two or three teens and an adult on the
 15 left side. There is no vibrant, comfortable
 16 furniture that you see in other libraries for
 17 teens. There's no dedicated computers.
 18 There's no other technologies. On the right
 19 side is the new Annapolis Library teen area.

20 If you'll go to the next slide.

21 So what we're looking is that the 2019

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1 feasibility study also showed us that the
 2 building is aged. Its systemed are outdated.

3 Again, the county has done a great job of
 4 making sure our HVACs have been replaced, but
 5 there is still a lot of mechanical systems and
 6 plumbing and deferred maintenance that needs to
 7 be done. The fire suppression system needs to
 8 be added to the entire building. And we do
 9 have water penetration issues at ground level
 10 that need to be addressed.

11 If you can go to the next slide.

12 So we also need to expand space for adults
 13 to include additional seating for reading and
 14 meetings, and we need to add connectivity
 15 throughout the library for smart use devices.

16 I would say here also that the library is
 17 used as a visitor center and that Talbot County
 18 has over 600,000 visitors to the county a year
 19 in 2019. Again, the library is used as an
 20 informal visitor center since the Town of
 21 St. Michaels doesn't have a visitor center.

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1 Tourism is very important to the community.
 2 And I think one of the things we would want to
 3 pay attention to when we design the new library
 4 is what we can do for visitors because, as
 5 Shauna will attest to later, there is a lot of
 6 usage by tourists.
 7 If you'll go to the next slide.
 8 During its 2017 strategic planning
 9 process, the public expressed that they favored
 10 an expansion of the library. And then I think
 11 that the Council will probably understand that
 12 you've received a number of letters from users
 13 and other supporters of the library about the
 14 importance of this expansion.
 15 If you'll go to the next slide.
 16 Also wanted to note that our survey back
 17 in 2017 when we did our strategic plan also
 18 noted some of the same things that I've talked
 19 about. So just for time sake, I'm going to
 20 move to the next slide.
 21 I do want to emphasize that we have some

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1 problems with ADA compliance at the
 2 St. Michaels Library. There's a note from one
 3 of our patrons in regards to using a wheelchair
 4 and access to parts of the building. It's
 5 somewhat difficult if you're in a wheelchair to
 6 move around the library because of the cramped
 7 tight spaces. The circulation desk does not
 8 have a place to accommodate wheelchairs, and
 9 there are a few points and aisles where there's
 10 not a 32-inch access point to get into the
 11 aisle. So we do need to remediate those
 12 issues.
 13 If you'll move to the next slide.
 14 What I wanted to show here is that five
 15 years prior to COVID-19, there's been quite an
 16 increased use of the library. I would point
 17 out in particular the program attendance being
 18 up by 43 percent, which just goes to show you
 19 the need to expand the meeting room, which is a
 20 major component of this expansion.
 21 If you'll go to the next slide.

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1 This shows the proposed exterior rendering
 2 for the new library, which was done during the
 3 feasibility study.
 4 If you'll go to the next slide.
 5 This just shows you that other Eastern
 6 Shore libraries have received significant
 7 funding from the Library Capital Grant program.
 8 This is a wonderful funding opportunity. There
 9 are probably very few county projects that have
 10 this kind of opportunity for matching funding.
 11 The county invested in the Easton Library
 12 back in 2011. And you can see that we received
 13 \$1.2 million from the Capital Grant program.
 14 This time we're looking to receive even more
 15 from the Capital Grant program.
 16 I really believe this is an opportunity
 17 that would be just sad to pass up. It really
 18 is a good time to look at renaissance for our
 19 buildings in the county. And the county has
 20 already emphasized that for the next fiscal
 21 year.

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1 If you'll move to the next slide.
 2 Under estimated project costs, the
 3 increase has gone up some from 2019 we had from
 4 the feasibility study a cost estimate for this
 5 project was \$3.7 million. It's not shown here.
 6 This is the new cost estimate, which is now
 7 \$4.1 million. It does include about \$500,000
 8 in library materials. I did want to point that
 9 out.
 10 But it is a significant increase in cost.
 11 And my fear is that if we delay any further, of
 12 course, we're going to see more increases in
 13 costs.
 14 If you'll move to the next slide.
 15 So these are the funding possibilities for
 16 this project. The Library Capital Grant
 17 program total possibly that we can get is
 18 1.6 million. And then from possible
 19 fundraising efforts, another half million. The
 20 remaining project cost is about 1.9 million.
 21 The library, through the foundation and

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1 the friends group, has raised about \$400,000
 2 toward this project, which we will be looking
 3 at spending on library materials, furniture,
 4 and equipment.
 5 If you'll move to the next slide.
 6 So this just kind of breaks out year by
 7 year what we're looking for in matching funding
 8 from the county. So the first year would be
 9 45,000, fiscal year 24 would be 127,000, and
 10 then fiscal year 25 would be 1.4 million for a
 11 total of 1.6 million.
 12 I do want to emphasize that this does not
 13 cover all of the costs of the project. There
 14 are some pieces, such as equipment, the books
 15 and materials and furniture, that are not
 16 covered by the grant. Some fees like
 17 permitting as well are not covered.
 18 So moving to the next slide, I would just
 19 summarize that this really adds and expands
 20 needed spaces throughout the building. It
 21 really does provide critical renovations and

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1 mechanical upgrades.
 2 And I also want to say that this is a very
 3 affordable cost when you look at the Capital
 4 Grant program providing so much of the funding
 5 for this project. A letter to certify funding
 6 would be due May of '22.
 7 What we're asking for tonight is your
 8 support for this letter, which is an intent to
 9 fund. And I do want to note that the intent to
 10 fund letter allows us to apply for this grant.
 11 It does not lock you into the funding. So if
 12 you find in the next year that the county
 13 doesn't have the funding, we do understand if
 14 we have to pull out. But I do not want to lose
 15 the chance to apply for this grant.
 16 So I would turn it over now to Shauna
 17 Beulah, who has a few comments.
 18 MS. BEULAH: Can you hear me? I don't see
 19 myself.
 20 MS. MORRIS: We don't see you, but we can
 21 hear you.

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1 MS. BEULAH: Okay. Thank you, thank you.
 2 It's a new technology for me.
 3 I just wanted to mention, as Ms. Newman
 4 already stated, the library's role as an
 5 informal visitor center. We answer certain
 6 questions, provide visitors with computer
 7 access, information services. And if they're
 8 from other areas in Maryland, they have access
 9 to our collection of materials, which they can
 10 borrow if they would like to do that.
 11 We also help to bridge the digital divide.
 12 By offering free WiFi access and limited
 13 printing, that benefits the visitors that come
 14 to the area. This helps to strengthen the
 15 community.
 16 And we do serve a diverse population. We
 17 provide new kinds of technologies, like 3D
 18 printers. And this gives visitors and local
 19 residents an opportunity to try that new
 20 technology as they decide what things they may
 21 want to purchase for themselves.

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1 So that was just a comment on the other
 2 role that we play as a visitor center for the
 3 tourists in the county.
 4 Thank you.
 5 MS. NEWMAN: Robert also wanted to say a
 6 few words, too.
 7 MR. FORLONEY: Yes, I'm here. Thank you
 8 very much for hearing our testimony today.
 9 I'm calling more so as a citizen of
 10 St. Michaels and as a parent than as a vice
 11 president of the board currently.
 12 As Dana said in her preparation, there's a
 13 significant need for expanding the dedicated
 14 space for children. There's no specific space
 15 where we can meet regularly with smaller
 16 children or for teenagers, as also was shown.
 17 There's computer issues with regards to
 18 capacity and serving the needs of these
 19 different groups.
 20 I can tell you personally as an individual
 21 parent who brought my children there since they

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1 were in preschool age, it is very tight and
 2 problematic in terms of getting together with
 3 individuals and having conversations and
 4 discussions and utilizing the facility
 5 appropriately.
 6 And as Dana also pointed out, the
 7 programming space is problematic. The
 8 programming has increased dramatically with
 9 regards to what we're trying to offer to
 10 students, but there is no specific space for
 11 them. So whenever programming is taking place,
 12 it interferes with some of the other patrons
 13 where are there as well. We essentially have
 14 just that single table that you saw with some
 15 equipment that tends to be somewhat outdated.
 16 In additional to that, one of the real
 17 significant issues that we have is that the
 18 meeting space in the library is the only public
 19 meeting space that we have that's utilized by a
 20 wide variety of different organizations, from
 21 the Town Council itself, the Community Center,

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1 the Maritime Museum, Chesapeake Forum,
 2 St. Michaels Art League. Essentially everyone
 3 uses this space because it's one of the small
 4 areas, only areas that where we can get
 5 together as a group.
 6 And I can tell you personally I've been
 7 involved with multiple meetings where it's been
 8 standing room only and we've actually had
 9 people in the hallway listening in because they
 10 can't fit into the space itself.
 11 As Dana showed in her slides, we have an
 12 increase of 43 percent prior to COVID. And
 13 part of that is it would have been higher but
 14 we've had to turn away organizations and
 15 individuals who are interested in utilizing the
 16 space for a variety of different community
 17 conversations essentially just because we
 18 didn't have the space within the schedule
 19 itself. So it's a sorely needed space with
 20 regards to what we need.
 21 And I will turn things over to Susan

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1 Sherman, who is our president.
 2 MS. SHERMAN: Thank you very much, and
 3 thank you for inviting us this evening. Can
 4 everybody hear me hopefully?
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, ma'am.
 6 MS. SHERMAN: Okay. First of all, I
 7 wanted to let you know that just a few things.
 8 One is that according to a 2017 study at
 9 Salisbury University, TCFL returns \$4.71 for
 10 every dollar invested. And that is a
 11 371 percent return on investment.
 12 It includes the economic impacts of the
 13 library, the market value of materials that are
 14 received by patrons free, and the community
 15 impact in terms of literacy, workforce
 16 development, business development, and
 17 community culture.
 18 I also wanted to say that with regard to
 19 this grant application, I worked as finance
 20 director for 30 years for a grants funded
 21 nonprofit organization and then worked as a

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1 proposal writer. This application offers a
 2 really remarkable opportunity to receive half
 3 of the funding of a \$3 million project from
 4 just one funding source. I just think that's
 5 an opportunity we really don't want to miss.
 6 It's so important, and the timing of it is so
 7 important.
 8 And then finally, I just wanted to mention
 9 that as I know you've received letters from our
 10 patrons supporting the expansion. But the
 11 library also has a petition that was signed by
 12 over 300 people supporting the expansion and
 13 the renovation of our St. Michaels Library.
 14 It is such a well loved institution.
 15 Thank you, again, for inviting us. And
 16 are there any questions?
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Sherman. I
 18 appreciate it.
 19 Mr. Vice President, you want to start us
 20 off?
 21 MR. LESHAR: Well, I think that this is a

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1 long anticipated request. We know that, as the
 2 library has said, I think this is a well
 3 established need.
 4 But by our action today, we are simply
 5 getting in line for the State grant funding.
 6 We are not obligating ourselves at this stage.
 7 We can see how well the State comes through
 8 with this matching funding. And at that point,
 9 make our commitment.
 10 But I'm hopeful, I'm hopeful that Talbot
 11 County's application will be competitive for
 12 these Statewide funds and that we will get the
 13 facility that our community so desperately
 14 needs.
 15 I'll remind my colleagues that we have
 16 heard support from the commissioners of
 17 St. Michaels on this as well. But most
 18 importantly, from just a whole lot of citizens,
 19 some of them, of course, tonight. But plenty
 20 of citizens who are users of this facility and
 21 understand the need. This truly is a valued

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1 community resource, and it is an important
 2 county asset. It's appropriate for us to take
 3 this step forward.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Vice
 5 President. Well said.
 6 Mr. Divilio.
 7 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you. With this, my
 8 wife, I remember when my kids were very little,
 9 she would travel around to all the different
 10 libraries. And the kids loved it. It was a
 11 great experience. And she never had a negative
 12 thing to say about any of the libraries in
 13 Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester County, everywhere
 14 she went.
 15 That I think is said for a lot of the
 16 libraries. We go in there, we need what we
 17 need, we find it, and we leave. And we don't
 18 think much else of it. And we're fortunate
 19 that we have such wonderful librarians that
 20 make sure that what is needed is there. But
 21 the minute that you ask for assistance is when

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1 you really get to see them shine. And that's
 2 when they get to show you the value that they
 3 bring by showing you all the additional
 4 resources that you didn't know that you needed
 5 when you were asking the question.
 6 And I think that that's what this ask is.
 7 It's something that the community doesn't
 8 realize that how great it can be because
 9 they've been getting by with what they've had.
 10 So I'm happy to support the library with
 11 this action.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.
 13 Any other county member want to say
 14 anything? Mr. Pack.
 15 MR. PACK: Sure. Thank you, Mr. Callahan.
 16 I do support this. It is certainly worth
 17 the Council's interest and attention. As Dana
 18 pointed out in her opening comments, this is
 19 but one of two buildings that the county owns
 20 in the Town of St. Michaels. The other being,
 21 if you didn't know, is the wastewater treatment

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1 plant. That's it.
 2 This building deserves your attention. It
 3 deserves this Council showing that it matters
 4 when it comes to making sure that the library
 5 is there to not just greet the citizens of
 6 St. Michaels and Talbot County but also the
 7 visitors as well.
 8 As I was sharing to Shauna and to Robert
 9 and to Dana when I went down and met with them,
 10 I still remember very, very fondly my days as a
 11 young boy growing up Baltimore County going to
 12 the library every summer. I still remember my
 13 librarian, her name was Barbara Hunt, and
 14 because she made that much of an impression on
 15 me.
 16 The library was a gathering place for us
 17 as young kids. We had the VHS tapes, if you
 18 guys remember the old VHS tapes. And we could
 19 sit there and watch movies and listen to your
 20 wax recordings, if you would, of records and
 21 read books. There was always events taking

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1 place there at the library. It was just a part
 2 of growing up in my community.
 3 And I would hate to see this Council not
 4 take that investment in this property to make
 5 sure that it is given the attention that it
 6 needs going into the future.
 7 If you have not visited the library, you
 8 should. It is in sore shape. It is in very,
 9 very bad shape. And actually, being one of
 10 only two buildings that we own down there, I
 11 don't know how we can lift our head up high
 12 knowing the condition of that building. It is
 13 in very, very bad shape.
 14 So I hope that you do support this letter
 15 of interest. As Dana said, it does not
 16 obligate you to any money today, but it does
 17 show that we are supportive of education when
 18 it comes to our libraries here in Talbot
 19 County.
 20 So I certainly will support this.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack. I

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1 appreciate those kind words.
 2 Ms. Price.
 3 MS. PRICE: Sure. Of course, we support
 4 the libraries. But I've said it before, and I
 5 think the Council said it before, that we have
 6 a lot of other projects that have to come
 7 first.
 8 And it makes me concerned that when you
 9 file a letter of intent, while it doesn't
 10 obligate us, we've got to do the Sheriff's
 11 Department that the Talbot County Business
 12 Center will be coming down in a few years. We
 13 have to do something about the Health
 14 Department. And those things have to happen
 15 first.
 16 And I think that once you sign onto a
 17 letter this like, while I'm very impressed that
 18 maybe we can get half the funding, that the
 19 further we move forward with it, that people
 20 assume that this is going to happen. And it
 21 doesn't mean that we don't want it to. But at

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1 some point, we have our operating budget, which
 2 we're not going to be able to do this evening
 3 but we'll do next week, for the first time is
 4 over \$100 million.
 5 We've raised taxes on the citizens to fund
 6 public safety. The School Board budget is
 7 going to go up every year under Kirwan.
 8 So at some point you run out of other
 9 people's money to spend. And it doesn't mean
 10 that we don't support everything the library
 11 does. We have a beautiful library in Easton.
 12 And we have a nice school in St. Michaels.
 13 I'm all for multiuse things.
 14 It's not that I'm not supportive. It's
 15 just that I have concerns that the minute you
 16 start filing letters of intent and then you get
 17 the grant and then the Council says no. And
 18 you're like but you intended to do it.
 19 So I'm just trying to make sure that that
 20 message is still out there for people that are
 21 listening. It's not that we don't want to do

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1 this. It doesn't mean that we're not going to
 2 do this. But people still have to remember
 3 that we have some very large capital projects
 4 that have been on the books for pretty much as
 5 long as I've been on the Council.
 6 So it's just a reminder. Doesn't mean I
 7 don't love our libraries, but I have concerns
 8 that doing this, that people think that we're
 9 going to. And then if we don't, then we're
 10 kind of the bad guys.
 11 So kind of throwing a little bit of cold
 12 water on it, but we still appreciate and love
 13 everything that you do and understand the need
 14 for it. So thanks.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Price. I
 16 appreciate that.
 17 MR. PACK: Can I just say one more thing?
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure, Mr. Pack. Go ahead.
 19 MR. PACK: I remember when the former
 20 librarian, (inaudible) Bob Horvath, came before
 21 Council back in '07 about the Easton Library.

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1 And the same discussion was the letter of
 2 intent and whether or not we were going to
 3 expand the Easton Library. And I believe the
 4 price tag of that project was well over
 5 \$5 million, if I remember.
 6 And thank God the Council, that Council
 7 did step up to the plate and support the Easton
 8 Library expansion because now we see the
 9 beautiful library that we do have in Easton
 10 that has the space to accommodate young people,
 11 older citizens, as well as teenagers in a very
 12 conducive area for learning and for recreation.
 13 And that Council was on the verge of the
 14 housing bubble but still stepped up to the
 15 plate and put its money where its mouth is and
 16 supported the library, and not just in words
 17 but also in deed.
 18 And I think it's time for us to recognize
 19 that St. Michaels is a town of its own. It
 20 deserves our attention, just like Easton does,
 21 and giving our support to Dana and her team.

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1 And I think they've come with a very, very I
 2 will say friendly number as far as this
 3 expansion project. I'm sure that the friends
 4 of the St. Michaels Library are going to do
 5 their due diligence to make sure we have
 6 private dollars to offset any grant dollars.
 7 So I just want to add that little
 8 historical note just for your remembrance that
 9 we've gone through this before. And the times
 10 were not as good as the times are right now.
 11 But that Council did step up to the plate.
 12 MS. PRICE: Well, if I remember correctly,
 13 it was before I was on the Council, but they
 14 were going to build a whole new library
 15 (technical interruption) for a whole new
 16 building. And somebody figured out how to do a
 17 really great renovation and saved a whole boat
 18 load of money. I wasn't on the Council yet,
 19 but I do remember that discussion.
 20 And maybe the Town of St. Michaels is
 21 going to be using it a little bit as, like you

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1 said, as a visitor center. Maybe they could
 2 throw some funding into it as well from the
 3 town. So that's a thought, St. Michaels
 4 Commissioners.
 5 MR. LESHHER: We are asking actually the
 6 Town of St. Michaels to contribute to the
 7 parking waiver for this. That is one of the
 8 items that's on the plate for funding this.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Council, I
 10 appreciate that.
 11 I'll throw my two cents in. I think it's
 12 a positive, positive opportunity. Listening to
 13 Dana and her team and Council, we have an
 14 obligation and an opportunity. This is an
 15 opportunity to get a million bucks. So this
 16 could put us, if you really think about it, it
 17 puts us kind of over the hump to be able to do
 18 a project like this. We couldn't do a project.
 19 You got to think of the positive that we
 20 couldn't even think about this if we're not
 21 getting help. So to be able to get this help

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1 is the push that we need to be able to do the
 2 project.
 3 And things are expensive. They're not
 4 going to go down too much and things get more
 5 expensive as the years go on.
 6 So I am supportive of moving forward to
 7 try to get this money.
 8 And like everybody has said, this is just
 9 the first step.
 10 You guys, Dana, you guys have done
 11 excellent getting us and you've done everything
 12 you said you wanted to do and ask from us. And
 13 I think we should do the same for you and
 14 support you.
 15 So Council, what we have before us, do I
 16 have a motion and a second to help them with a
 17 letter of support of the expansion of this
 18 project?
 19 MR. LESHHER: Mr. Callahan, I'd like to
 20 offer the motion for that letter of support.
 21 MR. PACK: And I'll second that motion.

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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Madam 2 Secretary, could you call the roll, please. 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 6 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner. 8 MR. LESHER: Aye. 9 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 10 MS. PRICE: Aye with my caveats. 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 12 MR. PACK: Aye with no caveats. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Council, I 14 appreciate it. 15 Dana, you've done a phenomenal job, you 16 and your team. And really appreciate the great 17 presentation, and I think the Council is behind 18 you. 19 MS. NEWMAN: We really, really appreciate 20 your support. Thank you. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you now.</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 2 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner. 4 MR. LESHER: Aye. 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 6 MS. PRICE: Aye. 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 8 MR. PACK: Aye. 9 MR. STAMP: Thank you. The next item is 10 for the Golf Board. Requesting the appointment 11 of Denise Klotzbucher to the Golf Board. 12 MR. PACK: Motion. 13 MR. LESHER: I'll so move. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Madam 15 Secretary, could you call the roll, please. 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 19 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner. 21 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p>
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<p>1 MS. BEULAH: Thank you very much. 2 MR. FORLONEY: Thank you. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Our famous county 4 manager. He's ready to rock and roll. 5 Mr. Stamp. 6 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Mr. Council 7 President, Members of Council. Under county 8 manager's report this afternoon, I have seven 9 items for you. 10 For first one is regarding boards and 11 committee appointments. 12 The Agriculture Resolution Board, 13 requesting the reappointment of Travis 14 Hutchison to the Agriculture Resolution Board. 15 MR. PACK: So moved. 16 MR. LESHER: Second. 17 MS. PRICE: Second. 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you 19 call the roll, please. 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 2 MS. PRICE: Aye. 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 4 MR. PACK: Aye. 5 MR. STAMP: The next item is regarding the 6 Social Services Board of Directors. Requesting 7 the reappointment of Victoria Gomez Lozano to 8 the Social Services Board of Directors. 9 MR. PACK: Moved. 10 MR. LESHER: Second. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you 12 call the roll, please. 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 16 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner. 18 MR. LESHER: Aye. 19 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 20 MS. PRICE: Aye. 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p>

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<p>1 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>2 MR. STAMP: The next item I have is from</p> <p>3 the county Roads Department. And this is a</p> <p>4 request to extend the current contract with</p> <p>5 Slurry Pavers, Incorporated and Hammaker East,</p> <p>6 Ltd. for Bid Number 20-02, which is furnishing</p> <p>7 and delivery and possible applications of</p> <p>8 CRS-2L asphalt with polymer or CRS-2 emulsified</p> <p>9 asphalt from July 1, 2021 to July 1, '22.</p> <p>10 Specifically to extend the current</p> <p>11 contract with Slurry Pavers in the amount of</p> <p>12 \$1.65 per gallon for the furnishing and</p> <p>13 delivery of CRS-2 emulsified asphalt and \$1.96</p> <p>14 per gallon for furnishing, delivery, and</p> <p>15 application of CRS-2L emulsified asphalt.</p> <p>16 And to extend the contract with Hammaker</p> <p>17 East, Ltd. in the amount of \$1.60 a gallon for</p> <p>18 the furnishing and delivery of CRS-2 emulsified</p> <p>19 asphalt and \$2 a gallon for the furnishing,</p> <p>20 delivery, and application of CRS-2 emulsified</p> <p>21 asphalt.</p>	<p>1 Talbot County Department of Corrections.</p> <p>2 In accordance with the contract effective</p> <p>3 July 1, 2021, the contract will increase by</p> <p>4 CPIU medical services and be \$449,161.68 for</p> <p>5 FY22.</p> <p>6 There are sufficient funds in the</p> <p>7 Department of Corrections' FY22 budget as</p> <p>8 submitted.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Is there a motion?</p> <p>10 MS. PRICE: So moved.</p> <p>11 MR. DIVILIO: Second.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you</p> <p>13 call the roll, please.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>17 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>19 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>21 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p>
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<p>1 There are sufficient funds in the Roads</p> <p>2 Department's FY22 budget as proposed.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: I guess is there a motion?</p> <p>4 MS. PRICE: So moved.</p> <p>5 MR. DIVILIO: Second.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you</p> <p>7 call the roll, please.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>11 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>13 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>15 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>17 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>18 MR. STAMP: The next item I have is from</p> <p>19 the Department of Corrections to extend a</p> <p>20 current agreement with Wellpath for medical and</p> <p>21 mental health services for inmates at the</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>3 MR. STAMP: And another request from the</p> <p>4 Department of Corrections to extend the current</p> <p>5 agreement with Trinity Services Group,</p> <p>6 Incorporated to provide inmate meals at the</p> <p>7 Talbot County Department of Corrections.</p> <p>8 Effective July 1, 2021, the contract will</p> <p>9 increase by CPIU for food away from home</p> <p>10 component and be \$242,675 for FY22.</p> <p>11 There are sufficient funds in the</p> <p>12 Department of Corrections' FY22 budget for this</p> <p>13 purpose as submitted.</p> <p>14 MS. PRICE: Make a motion to accept the</p> <p>15 contract.</p> <p>16 MR. PACK: Second.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you</p> <p>18 call the roll, please.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p>

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<p>1 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>3 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>5 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>6 MR. STAMP: And finally, Council,</p> <p>7 requesting your consideration to schedule a</p> <p>8 budget work session either this Friday or next</p> <p>9 Monday at a convenient time for the group.</p> <p>10 Maybe 4:30 on Friday or Monday.</p> <p>11 I just throw it back to you, Mr. Council</p> <p>12 President, for consideration.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: And that is for what?</p> <p>14 MR. STAMP: So this is a budget work</p> <p>15 session.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, okay. Got you. I'm</p> <p>17 sorry, I'm sorry. I didn't hear you. I</p> <p>18 apologize.</p> <p>19 So what is Council's preference, Friday</p> <p>20 afternoon or --</p> <p>21 MR. LESHER: Mr. President.</p>	<p>1 manager report. I thank you for your support.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. I appreciate</p> <p>3 the good job. All right. Let's move on.</p> <p>4 Ms. Morris, public comment.</p> <p>5 MS. MORRIS: Thank you, Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>7 MS. MORRIS: We have a number of people</p> <p>8 joining us this evening.</p> <p>9 If you wish to make public comment this</p> <p>10 evening, if you're joining us by telephone, if</p> <p>11 you could please press asterisk three, or if</p> <p>12 you're joining by computer, raise your hand</p> <p>13 button, and we will call on you.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Caller, yup, if you</p> <p>15 can hear us, caller number one, could you give</p> <p>16 us your name and where you're from?</p> <p>17 MS. MORRIS: Mr. Callahan, nobody has</p> <p>18 indicated they wish to speak.</p> <p>19 I do think that they're getting feedback.</p> <p>20 They're still trying to resolve the technical</p> <p>21 issue in the Bradley Meeting Room, and we're</p>
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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir.</p> <p>2 MR. LESHER: My strong preference is to do</p> <p>3 this on Monday. I'm scheduled to join the</p> <p>4 Scouts on a biking trip this weekend. And</p> <p>5 Friday evening, I'd really like to be able to</p> <p>6 travel with them.</p> <p>7 MR. DIVILIO: Friday is out for me --</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: (Inaudible) right now.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm sorry?</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: I said I'm allergic to working</p> <p>11 on Fridays right now.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, okay. It looks like</p> <p>13 you're allergic to something. No problem.</p> <p>14 That's kind of getting into my happy hour,</p> <p>15 too.</p> <p>16 MR. STAMP: So would the Council be okay</p> <p>17 with 4:30 on Monday?</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. You got it, buddy.</p> <p>19 MR. LESHER: Yes.</p> <p>20 MR. STAMP: Okay. Thank you very much,</p> <p>21 Council. And that concludes your county</p>	<p>1 picking up a little feedback from them.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Do you think they can hear</p> <p>3 us? I'm assuming they can hear us.</p> <p>4 So hopefully if we don't get them tonight,</p> <p>5 they can call in next Tuesday.</p> <p>6 MS. MORRIS: Okay.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So do we sort of</p> <p>8 want to move on to Council comments?</p> <p>9 MS. MORRIS: Yes. I think that would be</p> <p>10 fine. Nobody has indicated they wish to speak</p> <p>11 this evening. Thank you.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: If somebody plugs in, just</p> <p>13 let me know. No problem.</p> <p>14 Mr. Vice President.</p> <p>15 MR. LESHER: Just one brief note. We</p> <p>16 received word and public notice is going out</p> <p>17 about another sewer spill this time on</p> <p>18 St. Michaels Road.</p> <p>19 I remain concerned about this. This is</p> <p>20 not a first for this system. And I hope to ask</p> <p>21 for -- I intend to ask for ways that this can</p>

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1 be proactively addressed to prevent such a
 2 problem from recurring.
 3 Our duty to protect the public health is
 4 paramount. And this is important and deserves
 5 our attention.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Thank you,
 7 Mr. Leshner. I appreciate that.
 8 Mr. Pack.
 9 MR. PACK: Yes, Mr. Callahan. Just to
 10 once again remind persons to get their COVID
 11 vaccine shot when possible. Again, we are
 12 rounding the bend heading down the back
 13 stretch, if you would. But certainly the race
 14 isn't over yet. So the more citizens become
 15 vaccinated, the quicker we reach that herd
 16 immunity and we can certainly more freely move
 17 about the community and visit each other and
 18 hug one another.
 19 I haven't given you a hug in some time,
 20 Mr. Callahan.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: I know you do.

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1 MR. PACK: So let's encourage people to
 2 keep on getting the vaccine, please.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack. I
 4 appreciate the kind words.
 5 Ms. Price, sitting in there all gleaming
 6 and smiling and everything.
 7 MS. PRICE: Well, I don't really have any
 8 comments other than to say that I am ecstatic
 9 that masks can finally come off so that we can
 10 see one another again and we can do those hugs.
 11 But seeing faces and being social with one
 12 another, we've just really missed out. And I
 13 think especially for our young children not
 14 being able to have those social cues. This is
 15 really important for mental health, and I'm
 16 glad to see that all around the country for the
 17 most part that this is something that has
 18 changed. And I think it's going to do a lot
 19 for people's morale and their state of mind.
 20 It's been a rough 14 months. And I think this
 21 is really important.

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1 So I'm thrilled about that.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Price. I
 3 agree, too.
 4 Mr. Divilio?
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Nothing at this time. Thank
 6 you.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,
 8 Mr. Divilio.
 9 And I'll wrap things up and on the same
 10 note. I'm really proud of Council tonight. I
 11 mean when it come to the library and sort of
 12 supporting them, and these are tough times
 13 sometimes.
 14 And we're here to help the community.
 15 We're here to support the community and find
 16 ways to help people, and that's what we are
 17 here as a Council.
 18 And I'm, too, really excited at getting
 19 back into the Bradley Room, getting things back
 20 to normal next month and seeing people in front
 21 of us and all of us being together because we

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1 do have our little hiccups and hiccups every
 2 now and then. But when we're all together, I
 3 think we do well.
 4 And we've done well as a Council. And I
 5 want to commend you guys really. It's been
 6 tough on all of us running these meetings and
 7 staff and the communication. And we've done
 8 the best we can. And I think we all need to
 9 pat ourselves on the back because it's been a
 10 learning experience for all of us. So I really
 11 appreciate it.
 12 And like Mr. Pack said, I know he wants to
 13 hug on me and I know that he's sitting there on
 14 the beach and all that.
 15 If you ever need anybody to put sunscreen
 16 on you, buddy, I'll do it for you. That's what
 17 kind of friend I am. Okay.
 18 So other than that, let's all get it
 19 wrapped up here. Mr. Leshner, vice president,
 20 and wrap this thing up for us.
 21 MR. LESHNER: Yes, indeed. The County

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<p>1 Council's next meeting will be held Tuesday, 2 May 25th, beginning at six o'clock p.m. The 3 Council will be convening in open session at 4 4:30 p.m. and immediately adjourning into 5 closed session to discuss real estate, legal, 6 and personnel matters as listed on the 7 statement for closing that meeting. 8 Tomorrow, Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 9 seven o'clock p.m. the County Council will be 10 meeting with elected officials from Caroline, 11 Dorchester, Kent, and Queen Anne's Counties to 12 discuss Chesapeake College's fiscal year 22 13 budget request. 14 That will be a virtual meeting through 15 Microsoft Teams. And information on how to 16 participate in that meeting can be found on the 17 County Council's agenda posted to the County's 18 website. 19 The Council will meet again in budget work 20 session on Monday, May 24th, at 4:30 p.m. And 21 again, that information will be posted on the</p>	<p>1 Thank you. 2 (Meeting concluded at: 7:17 p.m.) 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p>
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<p>1 County website. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Appreciate 3 that. 4 MR. LESHER: Therefore, is there a motion 5 to adjourn this meeting and reconvene as noted? 6 MR. DIVILIO: So moved. 7 MS. PRICE: Second. 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary. 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 12 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner. 14 MR. LESHER: Aye. 15 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 16 MS. PRICE: Aye. 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 18 MR. CALLAHAN: I think he fell asleep in 19 the sand. 20 MR. PACK: Aye. My mute was on. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. See you guys.</p>	<p>1 STATE OF MARYLAND 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and 3 for the State of Maryland, County of Anne Arundel, 4 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot 5 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me 6 at the time and place herein set according to law, 7 was interrogated by counsel. 8 9 I further certify that the examination was 10 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed 11 from my stenographic notes to the within printed 12 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription 13 in a true and accurate manner. 14 15 I further certify that the stipulations 16 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my 17 presence. 18 19 I further certify that I am not of counsel 20 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel, 21 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way interested in the outcome of this action. AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 19th day of May, 2021, in the presence of  Diane Houlihan Notary Public My commission expires September 16, 2021</p>

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