



Deposition of:  
**Talbot County Council Meeting**

*May 25, 2021*

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

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

May 25, 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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1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

2

3 MR. CALLAHAN: I want to welcome everybody

4 this evening to the meeting tonight. And

5 Mr. Leshner is going to open the prayer for us

6 tonight and then follow it by the Pledge of

7 Allegiance of the Flag. If everybody could

8 stand, please.

9 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance)

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Great job, Mr. Leshner. I

11 really appreciate you taking the lead on that.

12 You're doing such a great job. I appreciate

13 it. Okay.

14 Tonight, Council, our agenda is before us,

15 May 25th. Is there any additions, deletions,

16 or corrections to the agenda? Hearing none,

17 the chair moves that the agenda be accepted by

18 unanimous consent.

19 Next will be the minutes. Council has had

20 a chance to take a look and review the minutes

21 for May 11, 2021. Are there any additions,

Page 3

1 deletions, or corrections to the minutes?

2 Hearing none, the chair moves that the minutes

3 be accepted by unanimous consent.

4 Moving on to disbursements on May 25,

5 2021. Council has had a chance to review it.

6 Are there any additions, deletions, or

7 corrections on the disbursements? Hearing

8 none, the chair moves that the disbursements be

9 accepted with unanimous consent. By unanimous

10 consent. I'm sorry. Okay.

11 So start tonight with a presentation of

12 the Talbot County Board of Education budget

13 transfer. Kevin Shafer. Is Kevin here?

14 MR. SHAFER: Yes, I am. Mr. Callahan.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. How you doing,

16 Kevin?

17 MR. SHAFER: Good. How are you?

18 MR. CALLAHAN: We want to welcome you.

19 All bright, got a nice shirt on. Got a haircut

20 it looks like, too.

21 MR. SHAFER: I'm ready.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: You're ready, aren't you.

2 Yeah, you are.

3 So we're looking forward to your

4 presentation. So I'm going to hand it off to

5 you. And if you need anything, you just kind

6 of let me know.

7 MR. SHAFER: Thank you, President

8 Callahan. Good evening, Members of the

9 Council.

10 As President Callahan stated, I come

11 before the Council this evening to request

12 consideration of a categorical budget transfer

13 request. And that request is associated with

14 two capital projects that the Council was

15 gracious enough to approve for FY21 this year.

16 Those specific projects are the Easton

17 High School athletic track replacement and the

18 Easton High School parking lot replacement.

19 As described in my May 20th letter to the

20 Council, the public solicitation process

21 associated with each of those projects came in

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1 significantly higher than the budget amount

2 that the Council approved. And as a result of

3 that, we are asking for a categorical transfer

4 within our current year budget to supplement

5 the funding necessary to complete those

6 projects because we would like them to move

7 forward.

8 The funding associated with the transfer

9 is due to a reimbursement through the Public

10 School Construction Program School Safety Grant

11 Program, specifically our security

12 installations we were reimbursed for. And

13 that's what I would like to apply those funds

14 to allow for the completion of those projects.

15 The second page of that letter gives a

16 summary, a little spreadsheet there, of the

17 approved budget and the total amount for each

18 of the projects. It's also a five percent

19 contingency allocation for each of them.

20 And overage, I want to draw your attention

21 that one of the projects that the Council had

Page 6

1 approved was a parking lot resurfacing at  
 2 St. Michaels Middle High School. And we would  
 3 like to utilize those funds as well to complete  
 4 the Easton High School parking lot and track.  
 5 So we would also be absorbing those to help  
 6 complete those projects.  
 7 We would have to move the St. Michaels  
 8 parking lot to a later year. The Easton High  
 9 School parking lot and the track are a  
 10 priority, which is the reason we're requesting  
 11 that as well.  
 12 So I think that pretty much concludes my  
 13 explanation of the request. So I would just be  
 14 answering any questions that the Council may  
 15 have.  
 16 MS. PRICE: Kevin, I've got one. The  
 17 parking lot is more than double. What  
 18 happened? I mean that is so far off. We're  
 19 not usually that far off with what we budget.  
 20 MR. SHAFER: Yeah. And that's an  
 21 excellent question, Ms. Price. So there's a

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1 couple of things.  
 2 Full disclosure with the Council, the  
 3 Easton High School parking lot was a request  
 4 that's been on the capital project list for a  
 5 number of years. And full disclosure, I did  
 6 not update that quote from when it was  
 7 originally requested. So I think that's part  
 8 of it. I think costs have gone up.  
 9 But also the scope of work. I quickly  
 10 realized this year when trying to prepare the  
 11 public schools (inaudible) that this was over  
 12 my head with the needs. So I did contract with  
 13 a civil engineering firm to design the project.  
 14 And through that process, we realized that  
 15 there was some significant repairs that were  
 16 going to have to happen. And in that quoted  
 17 price was an overlay only. It was not -- there  
 18 wasn't milling process included. And it's  
 19 required because of the elevations with the  
 20 parking lot at Easton High School. So that  
 21 added a significant amount of cost to it as

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1 well.  
 2 MS. PRICE: So I'm going to follow that  
 3 up. We have a Roads Department that does  
 4 milling and things like that.  
 5 Is there any way that we can get this cost  
 6 down? Is there something that our Roads  
 7 Department can do to help?  
 8 MR. SHAFER: What I would say to that is  
 9 certainly I don't want to speak for the county  
 10 Roads, but I will say that we had a very, very  
 11 significant participation in this public  
 12 solicitation process. Some very large  
 13 contractors weighed in and submitted bids.  
 14 And it was actually quite consistent  
 15 across all the -- we had seven bids total. And  
 16 there was one outlier that was significantly  
 17 more expensive than the lowest bid. But the  
 18 rest were pretty closely clustered.  
 19 And I think that's a pretty good testament  
 20 to the fact that this is probably a pretty good  
 21 price. It's a very large area. And as with

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1 everything else, costs have gone up  
 2 significantly. So I think (inaudible) result  
 3 in this high price.  
 4 MS. PRICE: Well, like I said, when we do  
 5 our own work, there's just the cost of the  
 6 material and the labor with no markup. So  
 7 that's why I asked the question.  
 8 MR. SHAFER: I don't want to speak for the  
 9 county Roads and Warren. I know that they are  
 10 probably swamped, as with everyone right now.  
 11 So I wouldn't be able to answer that.  
 12 We can certainly run --  
 13 MS. PRICE: I'm just thinking for the  
 14 future when we have projects like this. We do  
 15 our own roads. Why wouldn't we at least  
 16 consider or talk to our Roads Department to see  
 17 if this is something that when we have projects  
 18 like this, that we consider doing because you  
 19 would think it would save everybody money.  
 20 Anyway, just a thought.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Anybody else have

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1 any questions?

2 MS. LANE: Council.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

4 MS. LANE: This is Angela. I would like

5 to just interject here that if this is

6 something that you do want to approve, we

7 should amend capital enabling legislation for

8 these projects, which is something that I was

9 planning to have ready for the next Council

10 meeting for the upcoming projects.

11 But I do think we do need to amend all of

12 those bills that would be impacted by this if

13 you do approve this since capital projects all

14 have their own legislation.

15 I think it's a little bit more involved

16 than just saying yes or no at this point. We

17 need to amend the legislation, although I will

18 obviously defer to Mr. Thomas for his opinion,

19 but I do believe we need to amend the enabling

20 legislation bills if you do approve this

21 request.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Patrick, you want to

2 weigh in on that?

3 MR. THOMAS: Yes. I believe that would be

4 appropriate, and I would certainly work with

5 Ms. Lane on that.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great. Okay.

7 Council, any other questions, Council? Is

8 everybody good with this?

9 MR. DIVILIO: This is Frank. So if we

10 approve the funding, because I'm pretty sure we

11 just gave Warren, told Warren that he could buy

12 a milling machine or we sell the millings or we

13 use the millings for other base, which reduces

14 other county projects costs, things like that.

15 If there was any way for county Roads to get in

16 and help reduce the cost, is there still time

17 for that?

18 MR. STAMP: So we can definitely reach out

19 and try to connect the parties and have a quick

20 discussion to see if Roads is able to help,

21 while Patrick and Angela work to amend the

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1 enabling legislation.

2 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Good. Thank you,

4 Mr. Divilio. Appreciate that. Okay.

5 So everybody else good? Kevin, you okay?

6 MR. SHAFER: Yes.

7 MS. PRICE: Chuck, are we taking official

8 action on this or are we going to --

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. I was going to.

10 Absolutely. I was going to put this in for --

11 MS. PRICE: I thought (inaudible)

12 conversation. Why don't we do it at the time

13 we do the capital enabling legislation.

14 Meanwhile, if there's something that Warren and

15 the Roads Department can do, so that's my

16 question.

17 Do we need to vote on this tonight or can

18 we wait two weeks?

19 MR. SHAFER: The only thing I would add is

20 we do have a bid deadline.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: That's what I was going to

Page 13

1 ask.

2 MR. SHAFER: To get it under contract to

3 get everything moving, it would be beneficial

4 to TCPS to certainly have an idea of the

5 direction.

6 I can certainly send Warren the submitted

7 bids, successful bidder, and have him take a

8 look at pricing. We can probably get a pretty

9 quick answer on whether he thinks that's a

10 reasonable amount.

11 MS. PRICE: I would love him to look at

12 the pricing at least.

13 MR. STAMP: So Kevin, if you could send

14 that to Lois. She'll work with Warren. Warren

15 is actually out right now.

16 MR. SHAFER: Okay.

17 MR. STAMP: We can try to get that to him.

18 Send it to Lois, if you wouldn't mind.

19 MR. SHAFER: Yup.

20 MR. LESHAR: Do we want to move for a

21 straw poll to indicate our support for a

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<p>1 categorical transfer to enable this so that the</p> <p>2 school can meet its bid deadline on this and we</p> <p>3 can buy the extra time between now and the</p> <p>4 approval of the capital legislation to work out</p> <p>5 anything that we might be able to -- costs?</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: I think you're right,</p> <p>7 Mr. Leshner, Vice President Leshner. I was going</p> <p>8 to call for a motion and a second to approve.</p> <p>9 MR. LESHNER: I will make that motion.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Do I have a second?</p> <p>11 MR. PACK: I'll second that.</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 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>19 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>21 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p>	<p>1 have a solid waste management plan and update</p> <p>2 that plan every ten years.</p> <p>3 This resolution is basically to introduce</p> <p>4 the solid waste management plan for the</p> <p>5 planning period of 2020 to 2030.</p> <p>6 We worked I guess in February and March to</p> <p>7 finalize the draft. And we ultimately</p> <p>8 forwarded the draft over to the Maryland</p> <p>9 Environmental Service to basically update</p> <p>10 tables. We then sent the final draft to</p> <p>11 Maryland Department of the Environment, as well</p> <p>12 as the Planning Office, the Planning</p> <p>13 Commission, the public Works Advisory Board on</p> <p>14 March 26th for their review.</p> <p>15 On April 7th, basically I did present the</p> <p>16 plan at the Public Works Advisory Board meeting</p> <p>17 and the Planning Commission meeting to receive</p> <p>18 any comments that they had. I did receive a</p> <p>19 few comments.</p> <p>20 Then on April 19th, the MDE basically gave</p> <p>21 us approval of the final draft with some minor</p>
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<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds good. Okay. Thank</p> <p>4 you, Kevin. I appreciate it.</p> <p>5 Okay. We're going to move on to</p> <p>6 introduction of a numbered resolution. Madam</p> <p>7 Secretary, would you please read the title of</p> <p>8 the resolution into the record.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: A resolution to adopt the</p> <p>10 2020-2030 comprehensive solid waste management</p> <p>11 plan for Talbot County, Maryland.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.</p> <p>13 Patrick and Mr. Clarke, are you available</p> <p>14 to give us a little bit of information about</p> <p>15 this proposed legislation?</p> <p>16 MR. CLARKE: Mr. Callahan, I am if you'd</p> <p>17 like.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. That would be great.</p> <p>19 How you doing, Ray?</p> <p>20 MR. CLARKE: Pretty good. Real quickly</p> <p>21 again, I guess in COMAR, we are required to</p>	<p>1 comments that we then addressed on the same day</p> <p>2 on April 19th.</p> <p>3 And now we've been working I guess with</p> <p>4 the county manager's office finalizing the</p> <p>5 plan, doing some minor edits and whatnot, and</p> <p>6 that's what you have tonight.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, Mr. Clarke.</p> <p>8 Patrick, do you want to say anything?</p> <p>9 MR. THOMAS: No. I would just add, as</p> <p>10 Mr. Clarke said, this is something that's</p> <p>11 required, the county is required to do under</p> <p>12 the Environment Article in COMAR every ten</p> <p>13 years, as he noted.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great. Okay.</p> <p>15 Council, because we're meeting in a</p> <p>16 virtual environment this evening, I'm going to</p> <p>17 ask Madam Secretary to please conduct a roll</p> <p>18 call to introduce the legislation.</p> <p>19 Ms. Morris, would you please announce the</p> <p>20 resolution number and the public hearing date</p> <p>21 and the time of the legislation, please.</p>

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1 SECRETARY: This will be known as  
 2 Resolution 303. And the public hearing will be  
 3 on Tuesday, June 22nd, at 6:30 p.m.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Madam  
 5 Secretary. I appreciate it.  
 6 Thanks a lot, Ray and Patrick.  
 7 SECRETARY: It hasn't been introduced yet.  
 8 MR. PACK: Yeah, you need a roll for  
 9 introduction.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, I'm sorry. Okay.  
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 16 MR. LESHNER: Aye.  
 17 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 18 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 20 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.

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1 I appreciate that.  
 2 MR. LESHNER: Mr. Callahan.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir.  
 4 MR. LESHNER: Should we save questions for  
 5 the date of the public hearing or would it be  
 6 appropriate to raise any questions at this  
 7 point?  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: I'll take your lead,  
 9 Mr. Vice President. Whatever you think.  
 10 MR. LESHNER: Just so that if any  
 11 adjustments could be made here. Looking  
 12 through the plan, which is very thorough and  
 13 covers a lot of aspects of solid waste removal,  
 14 this, of course, has to do with our recycling  
 15 program. This has to do with the transfer  
 16 station that we maintain at the old landfill.  
 17 It has to do the solid waste -- I'm sorry. The  
 18 biosolids facility out there, where is that, on  
 19 Klondike Road, somewhere out there in that  
 20 vicinity.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Solid waste, yeah.

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1 MR. LESHNER: So it covers a lot of these  
 2 things. And a lot of that is based on what is  
 3 our population now, looking forward what will  
 4 our population be over the next ten years, what  
 5 are the capacities that we need to have for all  
 6 of this.  
 7 And so I guess I'm curious. Are we  
 8 checking a box here? Is this simply a plan  
 9 that we need on the State shelf? Do we  
 10 actually base some of our decision-making on  
 11 this? And if so, I look at the -- we use, of  
 12 course, census data for the population  
 13 projections for what our growth is going to be  
 14 over the next ten years. This is on page 14.  
 15 But if you look at that broken down by  
 16 municipality and the unincorporated areas of  
 17 the county, it projects Trappe growing by just  
 18 100 persons over the next decade and by an  
 19 additional 100 persons over the following  
 20 decade.  
 21 And with an approved 2,501-house

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1 development in Trappe, that's a pretty  
 2 significant change that's not reflected in  
 3 this.  
 4 And I don't know if it might be  
 5 appropriate. Granted, usually the census is  
 6 the best we have to go on. But in this case,  
 7 we might know more than the census. We might  
 8 have some information that the census doesn't  
 9 have.  
 10 And I wonder whether it might be  
 11 appropriate, if, in fact, we use this for some  
 12 planning for the capacity of some of these  
 13 elements, whether it might not be appropriate  
 14 to tweak some of those numbers.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Ray, you want to answer  
 16 some of those?  
 17 MR. CLARKE: Yeah. Sure thing. A couple  
 18 of points.  
 19 One is I think at this point what I will  
 20 say is with the solid waste facility or the  
 21 landfill, typically MES is going to utilize

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1 let's say inflation numbers that are probably  
 2 greater than let's say the population growth  
 3 numbers.  
 4 They can exceed. And I think one of the  
 5 things that we did have happen with the current  
 6 landfill in Caroline County, that landfill  
 7 right now basically has probably 30 years of  
 8 capacity based upon the numbers that were  
 9 calculated. So we currently are leaving about  
 10 ten years of capacity in that landfill.  
 11 I would anticipate that the new landfill  
 12 being planned for Queen Anne's County will have  
 13 plenty of growth capabilities within that plan.  
 14 So we're part of the Midshore Regional  
 15 Landfill concept, which we have four counties  
 16 that participate, Talbot, Queen Anne's County,  
 17 Kent County, and Caroline County. So we tend  
 18 to utilize all the numbers associated with  
 19 those four counties.  
 20 But at the same time, I think the volumes  
 21 that are projected tend to be higher because of

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1 safety factors. And I think that's what  
 2 happened with Caroline County with it being  
 3 almost 50 percent greater in capacity than what  
 4 was needed.  
 5 It is difficult I think at this point in  
 6 talking with MES about projecting for the solid  
 7 waste. There are a couple of factors.  
 8 One is recycling. We have seen a  
 9 significant amount of recycling both in  
 10 curbside recycling within the Town of Easton  
 11 and St. Michaels and Oxford. And it's  
 12 becoming -- we saw a lot more with this  
 13 pandemic year with a lot more cardboard coming  
 14 in. So it's kind of been difficult for us to  
 15 try to figure out where we're going to go.  
 16 I will say from a capacity perspective, we  
 17 have more than enough capacity. And that's  
 18 being planned out, again, for the next 40  
 19 years, really the next 50 years with the two  
 20 landfills in Kent and Queen Anne's County after  
 21 Caroline County.

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1 But we can try to look at that, but I  
 2 think it's going to be very difficult to  
 3 project out because the development in Trappe,  
 4 per se, we don't really know when it's going to  
 5 happen and whatnot. We can adjust the plan  
 6 accordingly, if necessary, and advise MDE of  
 7 that if we need to.  
 8 MR. LESHER: Thank you.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,  
 10 Mr. Clarke. Appreciate it.  
 11 So anybody else? Okay.  
 12 We're good with that, Mr. Vice President?  
 13 You okay with that?  
 14 MR. LESHER: I think we can carry on. If  
 15 we were going to make an adjustment, I thought  
 16 it better to ask the question sooner rather  
 17 than later.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. I appreciate  
 19 it.  
 20 Let's move on to eligible for vote. So  
 21 Council, our next, Bill 1473, is eligible for

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1 vote.  
 2 Madam Secretary, will you please read the  
 3 bill into the record.  
 4 SECRETARY: Bill 1473, an act to establish  
 5 the 2021-2022 annual budget and appropriation  
 6 ordinance and amendments.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. Ms. Lane,  
 8 you want to provide an overview of the  
 9 amendments?  
 10 MS. LANE: Yes. I'll read the amendments  
 11 into the record. There are not that many.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 13 MS. LANE: So Talbot County, Maryland,  
 14 budget amendment number one, fiscal year 2022,  
 15 Bill 1473.  
 16 Section one. Be it enacted by the County  
 17 Council of Talbot County, Maryland, that Bill  
 18 Number 1473, an act to establish the 2021-2022  
 19 annual budget and appropriation ordinance,  
 20 shall be and is hereby amended as follows.  
 21 Tax rates. A service charge based on a



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1 rate of changing from .05 percent to  
 2 .062 percent will be applied to the unpaid  
 3 balance of real property taxes due in December  
 4 on the properties with the semiannual tax  
 5 payment option.  
 6 On the appropriation budget. State's  
 7 Attorney, salary and benefits. Changing from  
 8 \$1,060,960 to \$1,063,381, a change of \$2,021.  
 9 Sheriff's Office, operating expense.  
 10 Changing from \$962,500 to \$967,500, a change of  
 11 \$5,000. And that is an increase.  
 12 Other Social Services, operating  
 13 appropriation. Changing from \$445,282 to  
 14 \$465,282, a change, an increase, of \$20,000.  
 15 Reserve for contingencies, changing from  
 16 \$1,480,000 to \$1,452,579, a change, a decrease,  
 17 of \$27,421.  
 18 So the total changes are changing from,  
 19 for these operating line items, from \$3,948,742  
 20 to \$3,948,742, a net change of zero for the  
 21 appropriation budget.

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1 Section two. Be it further enacted that  
 2 subject to the provisions hereinafter set forth  
 3 and subject to the public general laws of  
 4 Maryland and the Talbot County Charter relating  
 5 to budgetary and fiscal procedures, the several  
 6 amounts herein specified or so much thereof as  
 7 shall be sufficient to accomplish the purpose  
 8 as designated as hereby approved, appropriated,  
 9 and authorized to be disbursed for the capital  
 10 projects specified for the fiscal year  
 11 beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30,  
 12 2022.  
 13 Talbot County, Maryland, capital budget  
 14 fiscal year 2022.  
 15 The capital project for the public school  
 16 category, the project is the Easton High School  
 17 roof replacement project. Changing from  
 18 \$1,328,500 to \$3,275,423, a change, an  
 19 increase, of \$1,946,923.  
 20 Capital projects fund reserves. Changing  
 21 from \$3,850,500 going to \$1,903,577, a change,

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1 a decrease of \$1,946,923.  
 2 So the total capital projects are changing  
 3 from \$5,179,000 to \$5,179,000, a net change of  
 4 zero.  
 5 The summary of capital budget  
 6 appropriations FY2022. Public schools, that  
 7 category is changing from \$1,328,500 to  
 8 \$3,275,423, a change, an increase, of  
 9 \$1,946,923.  
 10 The capital projects fund reserves are  
 11 changing from \$3,850,500 to \$1,903,577, a  
 12 decrease of \$1,946,923.  
 13 So the total of capital budget  
 14 appropriations is changing from \$5,179,000 to  
 15 \$5,179,000, a net change of zero for these line  
 16 items.  
 17 The application of funds. Under local  
 18 funds category, the application of funds for  
 19 public schools is changing from \$1,328,500 to  
 20 \$3,275,423, an increase of \$1,946,923.  
 21 The capital projects fund reserves are

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1 changing from \$3,850,500 to \$1,903,577, a  
 2 decrease of \$1,946,923.  
 3 So the total application of funds in the  
 4 local fund category for these two line items  
 5 are changing from \$5,179,000 to \$5,179,000, a  
 6 net change of zero.  
 7 Those are the only amendments that I have  
 8 at this point that have been incorporated into  
 9 the fiscal 22 proposed budget.  
 10 Thank you.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Lane. I  
 12 appreciate it. That was a great job. As  
 13 usual, you've done a great job this year  
 14 putting it all together and keeping things  
 15 straight for us. And we really appreciate it.  
 16 MS. LANE: Thank you.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, Council. I'm going  
 18 to open it to the floor. And Mr. Vice  
 19 President.  
 20 MR. LESHAR: Thank you, Mr. President. I  
 21 would like to start by offering a further

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1 amendment to the appropriations budget in the  
 2 public school. Board of Education budget from  
 3 \$43,625,000 to \$43,905,596, an increase of  
 4 \$280,596.  
 5 This would be to fund two items in the  
 6 school request. One is the all-day pre-k  
 7 program and the second is the CNA program,  
 8 those particular items.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Vice  
 10 President.  
 11 Mr. Pack.  
 12 MR. LESHER: Perhaps I need to further  
 13 clarify that the offset of that would be an  
 14 adjustment in the property tax school  
 15 supplement by a rate, and I believe Ms. Lane  
 16 has calculated this, that would offset that  
 17 amount.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Vice  
 19 President.  
 20 Mr. Pack, any comments?  
 21 MR. PACK: Yeah. Just very quickly.

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1 Looking at Mr. Leshler's amendment and regarding  
 2 these three or four positions I should say,  
 3 three and a half pre-k teachers and one  
 4 certified school nurse for the CNA program,  
 5 which is a new program that I really commend  
 6 the school in starting.  
 7 I was not, as I said last session that we  
 8 had, I was not supportive this year of a  
 9 supplemental increase. But for these two  
 10 items, I can lend my support to it.  
 11 I think that we're going to be made to go  
 12 into the pre-k by Kirwan anyway, probably  
 13 another year or so. This will just allow us to  
 14 get ahead of the game, so to speak. The cost  
 15 is not in my opinion outrageous, \$215,382 for  
 16 those three positions.  
 17 The school nursing position, again, it's a  
 18 new program, \$65,000 for that position. I  
 19 think, again, it's not anything that's  
 20 outrageous.  
 21 It will require a supplemental increase

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1 onto the property tax. In looking at that  
 2 number, I think you're looking at somewhere in  
 3 the neighborhood of .36. So I can get behind  
 4 those two amendments to bring on full-time  
 5 pre-k early and to start the CNA program in the  
 6 school system.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Pack.  
 8 I appreciate that.  
 9 Ms. Price. Ms. Price, want to take your  
 10 mute off.  
 11 MS. PRICE: Yeah. My button went away.  
 12 I'm not in favor of making any changes.  
 13 I'm going to follow the State's lead and do  
 14 Kirwan when it's required.  
 15 And if those are programs they want to do,  
 16 they can shift some things around in the budget  
 17 if that's a program that they would like to  
 18 bring in.  
 19 We're going to be on auto pilot with  
 20 Kirwan. And so I'm not open to any changes in  
 21 the budget this evening.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,  
 2 Ms. Price. Appreciate it.  
 3 Mr. Divilio.  
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you. So this was  
 5 incredibly difficult. I believe I've said  
 6 every time I've gone through this budget that  
 7 it's a big increase. It makes me extremely  
 8 nervous.  
 9 But when I look at where we are property  
 10 tax rate wise and what we're offering, these  
 11 are two programs that I see that will make an  
 12 immediate impact in our community.  
 13 The certified nursing assistant is  
 14 somebody who is going to graduate Easton High  
 15 School and be ready to immediately walk into a  
 16 career at any of our facilities, such as The  
 17 Pines, William Hill. I think I'm using the names  
 18 of old facilities that have now changed. But  
 19 there's any number of assisted living  
 20 facilities and opportunities for these  
 21 individuals to move up into nursing. And I

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1 greatly appreciate the school finding grant  
 2 money for I believe two-thirds of it. So we're  
 3 just paying for the teacher. Everything else  
 4 has already been covered.  
 5 The surrounding counties are doing the  
 6 certified nursing assistant program. I don't  
 7 want to be behind on that, especially just  
 8 looking at our population. We have plenty of  
 9 students who need jobs. We have plenty of  
 10 seniors who need certified nursing assistants.  
 11 So I see that as a win-win that will come back  
 12 to pay dividends.  
 13 As far as the full-day pre-k, what do we  
 14 have, I believe five elementary schools in  
 15 Talbot County. And if this isn't grant funded,  
 16 then we'll have one with full-day pre-k.  
 17 That's not fair.  
 18 And we've also seen the incredible  
 19 benefits of having the kids in school at an  
 20 earlier age, getting that longer start.  
 21 These are two programs that have come in

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1 at about a quarter of a million dollars. And I  
 2 love the schools, but I'm extremely cautious,  
 3 and I've voiced that over and over again about  
 4 projects that I think sometimes don't get  
 5 properly handled well, as well as I don't like  
 6 when something is grant funded and then it just  
 7 drops off and then we're stuck footing the bill  
 8 because we haven't planned it out.  
 9 So I'm looking forward to a different  
 10 budget process next year. I think a little bit  
 11 more fore-planning with some department heads.  
 12 But at this time, I see more certified nursing  
 13 assistants being a great benefit to the  
 14 community that I'd be willing to fund that  
 15 forward.  
 16 And we know the benefits of having  
 17 full-day pre-k. And I don't want to see that  
 18 just be at one school and then the Board of Ed  
 19 have to figure out shuffling kids, kids  
 20 applying out of district, and all of that.  
 21 It's just something that I think that we should

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1 do.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,  
 3 Mr. Divilio.  
 4 So it seems like Council has the votes to  
 5 move forward in serving these programs. So  
 6 Ms. Lane, so can we take care of that?  
 7 MS. LANE: Yes. I don't have all the  
 8 numbers right away.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 10 MS. LANE: But if my numbers are correct,  
 11 the real property tax revenue for FY2022 is  
 12 based on a rate of changing from .6529 to .6565  
 13 per \$100 of assessed valuation for all  
 14 properties outside the incorporated limits of  
 15 the Towns of Easton, Oxford, Queen Anne's,  
 16 St. Michaels, and Trappe.  
 17 I do not have the rates for the  
 18 municipalities, but they will all go up by  
 19 .36 cents.  
 20 And then under the appropriation  
 21 ordinance, in the category of the Board of

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1 Education, the operating appropriation will  
 2 change from \$43,625,000 to \$43,905,596, an  
 3 increase of \$280,596.  
 4 And under real property taxes on the  
 5 revenue side, we'll have a line item change for  
 6 the education supplement, changing from zero to  
 7 \$280,596. That will be an increase of  
 8 \$280,596.  
 9 And I have to do one more calculation.  
 10 Sorry.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. No problem, no  
 12 problem.  
 13 MS. LANE: And then our total budget, both  
 14 revenues and expenditures, will change from  
 15 \$112,000,535 (sic.) to \$112,815,596, which  
 16 should be an increase of \$280,596.  
 17 I think those are all the changes that  
 18 this will add to the amendments that I have  
 19 already read into the record.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 21 MR. LESHER: So Mr. Thomas, do we need to

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1 vote on the amendments separately from the full  
 2 ordinance I presume?  
 3 MS. LANE: You will need to vote on all of  
 4 the amendments. Whether you do the group that  
 5 we originally proposed and this one separately  
 6 or together, I don't know that that matters.  
 7 But they'll have to be voted on before you vote  
 8 on the budget.  
 9 MS. PRICE: I think you should do this one  
 10 separate.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: So do we want -- okay. I  
 12 might need a little help here, Patrick.  
 13 So do we want to start off with is there a  
 14 motion to introduce the amendment as proposed?  
 15 Is that where we want to start?  
 16 MR. THOMAS: Yes.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 18 MR. LESHHER: I will so move for the  
 19 amendment as prepared as proposed.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is there a second to  
 21 approve the amendment?

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1 MR. DIVILIO: I'll second.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So bear with me. So  
 3 what we're doing, Patrick, we're introducing a  
 4 motion to -- we're making a motion here if  
 5 we're going to introduce what is proposed.  
 6 MR. THOMAS: Correct.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 8 MR. LESHHER: This is that list of budget  
 9 amendments that Ms. Lane read into the record.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: The first time, the first  
 11 time, correct.  
 12 MS. PRICE: Does this include the school  
 13 changes or just what she read?  
 14 MR. LESHHER: It does not include those.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: It does not include. I  
 16 just want to make sure everybody is clear.  
 17 So basically what we're voting on is the  
 18 very first round. Okay.  
 19 So Madam Secretary, could you call the  
 20 roll.  
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: No.  
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 3 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.  
 5 MR. LESHHER: Aye.  
 6 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 7 MS. PRICE: No.  
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 9 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So Madam Secretary,  
 11 so what we're going to do now, Patrick, are we  
 12 going to make a motion to introduce the  
 13 amendment, the amendment one that we just, the  
 14 new one?  
 15 MR. THOMAS: So now you do the same thing  
 16 but with respect to the amendments, the second  
 17 set of amendments.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Correct, correct.  
 19 MR. LESHHER: I will move for that second  
 20 set of amendments that will increase the  
 21 appropriation to the School Board, the Board of

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1 Education, by \$280,596 and the corresponding  
 2 property tax offset in that same amount, which  
 3 will result in an increase of the property tax  
 4 of .36.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. --  
 6 MR. DIVILIO: -- that motion.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you  
 8 call the roll.  
 9 MS. PRICE: Before you call the roll, we  
 10 can have some discussion, right?  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. (Inaudible) first.  
 12 MS. PRICE: On the night of a budget vote  
 13 that's even a week late, to throw this out  
 14 there that I knew nothing about and that we've  
 15 been through a whole budget process, to do this  
 16 at the last minute and then all of a sudden do  
 17 a property tax increase, however perceived  
 18 small it is, without public input and their  
 19 opportunity to weigh in on that, I think is a  
 20 little bit inappropriate.  
 21 We're raising taxes and we're raising the

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1 budget on the night of a budget vote that in  
 2 all honesty is a week late. If we had done  
 3 this last week, I don't know if this would have  
 4 come up.  
 5 And for that reason, it's not that I don't  
 6 like the CNA program. I do. I think that's  
 7 great. I think the pre-k or whatever should  
 8 get in line with the State and do that next  
 9 year. I already said that.  
 10 And it's not that I don't support the  
 11 school. But the way this was done at the last  
 12 minute, middle of the night, with no knowledge,  
 13 I don't like that. So that's what I have to  
 14 say on that.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: And I just want to let  
 16 everybody know my position, too.  
 17 There's not a person that doesn't want to  
 18 support the nursing and the pre-k, but the  
 19 process that we're doing tonight, I'm really  
 20 not on board.  
 21 I think we've all, as Council always said,

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1 if we're going to be changing something, there  
 2 should be a public hearing to give their input,  
 3 not last minute on this stuff, not on this  
 4 budget because this is very important. And  
 5 it's all important to all of us.  
 6 And I think we're veering off on the left  
 7 side of the road a little bit on this. And I  
 8 don't agree with the process of how we're doing  
 9 this.  
 10 So it's not that I don't agree with the  
 11 programs because I think we all love the  
 12 schools. And I had a conversation with Vice  
 13 President Leshar, and we had a great discussion  
 14 about all this.  
 15 And I just think that we need to take a  
 16 look at our process on this. I don't like it,  
 17 and I think we're just not doing the right  
 18 thing. And this last minute thing, I don't  
 19 really care for it. So that's why I'm not  
 20 going to have to be able to support that.  
 21 To be honest with you, I would love to

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1 have the input of the public and also the  
 2 schools' input, too. We're giving this to the  
 3 schools. The schools should have really some  
 4 say over this, too. I know they want it. But  
 5 it would be nice if they were in front of us to  
 6 explain a little bit more.  
 7 So that's what I have to say about it.  
 8 MR. LESHAR: Mr. Callahan.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.  
 10 MR. LESHAR: I'm with you on the last --  
 11 nobody likes last minutes changes, of course.  
 12 And if I could have gotten this  
 13 accomplished sooner. Of course, we canceled  
 14 our work session for last night. If I could  
 15 have gotten this accomplished sooner, I most  
 16 certainly would have. This was the way things  
 17 came together.  
 18 But I will say in terms of public input,  
 19 that we've actually had ample public input on  
 20 this. We've heard in the public hearing on the  
 21 budget precisely support over these particular

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1 items, and we heard that loud and clear.  
 2 We've heard it in writing from any number  
 3 of people, from a large number of people  
 4 actually we heard from in the budget hearing  
 5 this year.  
 6 This has been vetted. This was  
 7 introduced. This request came through the  
 8 schools at the beginning of the budget process.  
 9 This has been on the table the whole time. And  
 10 this is all being done in the light of day,  
 11 which is proper.  
 12 I regret the last minute portion of this.  
 13 I really do. But this is vetted. This has the  
 14 public support.  
 15 MS. PRICE: I'm sorry, Mr. Leshar. I  
 16 don't agree that it's been vetted.  
 17 I mean have we talked about the programs,  
 18 yes.  
 19 With the virtual environment, the public  
 20 was not engaged on this.  
 21 And you're always going to get letters of

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1 support from teachers in the school and that.  
 2 But what's not vetted is a tax increase,  
 3 an increase in the public schools. None of  
 4 that was vetted at all.  
 5 I haven't heard from -- like I said,  
 6 you're always going to get teachers and people  
 7 that are in the school system itself to get an  
 8 e-mail out. And it seems like you're getting a  
 9 lot of support. But with 38,000 people in the  
 10 community, no, it really doesn't have large  
 11 public support, not because we didn't talk  
 12 about it. Had it been earlier in the process.  
 13 So I think that's just a little bit of a  
 14 stretch. I mean I respect your opinion and  
 15 everything, but to say it's a large amount of  
 16 public support, they didn't know and they  
 17 certainly don't know about their taxes going  
 18 up.  
 19 Again, we talked about the tax increase,  
 20 and they supported that in the election for  
 21 public safety. There have been -- we don't

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1 have to go through them all, but I know that  
 2 we've had education supplements probably seven  
 3 out of the last ten years or something like  
 4 that. And that the tax rate, we still have a  
 5 very low tax rate in the State of Maryland, but  
 6 that's how we are able to keep a lot of our  
 7 people here, because of that. And we've done a  
 8 good job with our budget.  
 9 This is a huge budget this year. I mean  
 10 100 -- I know some of it's transfer to capital  
 11 projects, but \$112 million. It's nearly double  
 12 the one that I first worked on.  
 13 So I just don't think the public really  
 14 has had an opportunity to really engage. And I  
 15 know it's partially because of the virtual  
 16 environment and all that.  
 17 But anyway, I'll move on now.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,  
 19 Mr. Leshner and Ms. Price. I appreciate that.  
 20 And everybody on their input and everything.  
 21 So right now I want to make sure we are

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1 taking a roll call.  
 2 MR. PACK: Let me just --  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Go ahead, Mr. Pack. I'm  
 4 sorry.  
 5 MR. PACK: Let me just say to the process  
 6 that you alluded to, Mr. Callahan.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir.  
 8 MR. PACK: An amendment can be offered up  
 9 at any time prior to a vote being taken. That  
 10 is the parliamentary procedure that this  
 11 Council has been working under since its  
 12 inception.  
 13 So to say that this was a last minute and  
 14 not right, I take exception to.  
 15 Any Council member prior to a vote being  
 16 taken can offer up an amendment.  
 17 Mr. Leshner is correct. The School Board  
 18 has offered up these items, in which they were  
 19 a part of our public record. The list was much  
 20 larger than this at the beginning. I think it  
 21 was over \$1 million worth of increases.

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1 So members of the public very well knew  
 2 about this because it was made public. And I  
 3 know we got a small number of people that  
 4 called in during the initial public hearing for  
 5 the budget. I think no more than ten, if I  
 6 remember correctly, called in. Probably a  
 7 smaller number of respondents that I can  
 8 remember for a county budget.  
 9 But nonetheless, citizens were allowed  
 10 time to respond to the budget. They were  
 11 allowed time to respond to the budget. The  
 12 process has been the standard process, again,  
 13 in this county and other counties going back to  
 14 the beginning of the charters for those  
 15 counties.  
 16 If you look at the last ten years? worth of  
 17 education supplements, this will be the  
 18 smallest, the smallest education supplement  
 19 that any Council has imposed over the last ten  
 20 years, the smallest at .31.  
 21 And these programs as far as pre-k, I

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1 think that if not this Council, the next  
 2 Council will be mandated to impose that pre-k  
 3 as part of Kirwan. So in my opinion, it's just  
 4 getting in front of what is coming your way.  
 5 And you are a big supporter of those CET  
 6 programs, Mr. Callahan. So at \$65,000 to start  
 7 a CNA program here in the county in the  
 8 schools, if you're supportive of CTE, this is  
 9 the time to get behind it and support it. If  
 10 you're not supportive of CTE, then let your  
 11 vote go that way.  
 12 But this is a program that they have come  
 13 up with grant dollars to fund two-thirds of it.  
 14 The county, proposed by this amendment, is  
 15 asked to put in \$65,000 for the salary. And I  
 16 think that's a reasonable request. So I just  
 17 take exception to the statement that this  
 18 process is somehow underhanded, it's not done  
 19 right. This has been the process we've worked  
 20 under for years, for years.  
 21 MS. PRICE: I think --

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Let me talk for a second.  
 2 I take exception that the words you're  
 3 putting in my mouth, too, because I told you I  
 4 don't like the process that we're going  
 5 through.  
 6 So Mr. Pack, what you're doing, we're  
 7 making decisions and raising taxes on the  
 8 public and they have no say. That's all I'm  
 9 saying.  
 10 I'm with the program. It's not that I'm  
 11 against the program. I'm against what we're  
 12 doing here as how we're going about doing it.  
 13 It needs to be public. It needs to go to the  
 14 public. That's my feeling.  
 15 So I don't really mind if you're offended  
 16 or not. This is my thoughts. You have your  
 17 thoughts.  
 18 Ms. Price.  
 19 MS. PRICE: Yeah. The only other thing I  
 20 would say is yes, of course, we can offer  
 21 amendments at any time. But that's typically

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1 on a piece of legislation and you can only do  
 2 an amendment without public process if it's  
 3 non-substantive.  
 4 I don't remember in 11 budgets an  
 5 amendment to the budget on the night of the  
 6 vote with a tax increase involved. And if  
 7 there was one, I'm sure I voted against it.  
 8 MR. PACK: Mr. Bartlett introduced two in  
 9 one night in the same --  
 10 MS. PRICE: And I'm sure I voted against  
 11 that budget.  
 12 But again --  
 13 MR. PACK: You were for it.  
 14 MS. PRICE: Well, on budgetary things like  
 15 that that affect all the citizens of the  
 16 county, to me it's substantive and would  
 17 require something else.  
 18 I know that they've heard about the  
 19 programs and things like that.  
 20 But that's all I'm saying. Yes, you can  
 21 offer an amendment at any time.

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1 I would have liked to have been notified.  
 2 I would have liked the common courtesy for  
 3 another Council member to have told me this was  
 4 coming. I didn't know anything until  
 5 Mr. Leshar opened his mouth ten minutes ago.  
 6 So that to me, everybody else seems to  
 7 have known about it and had a conversation.  
 8 Maybe you just write me off because you know  
 9 that I'm not going to vote for extra increases  
 10 at the last minute. But I certainly would have  
 11 liked to have known.  
 12 I had a conversation with another Council  
 13 member, but then -- about these programs but  
 14 said no, we're not going to do it this year.  
 15 And then I got a little sideswiped on this one.  
 16 So yes, we can do it. Just because you  
 17 can, doesn't mean you should.  
 18 MS. LANE: Can I just interject one  
 19 clarification item?  
 20 Mr. Pack had mentioned that the tax  
 21 increase would be .31 cents. It will be .36

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<p>1 cents if this amendment is voted the way it was</p> <p>2 proposed by Mr. Leshner. It's not a big deal,</p> <p>3 but...</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Thank you for the correction,</p> <p>5 Ms. Lane.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, Council. Let's go</p> <p>7 ahead.</p> <p>8 So right now, Patrick, we need to make a</p> <p>9 motion that the new amendment, correct?</p> <p>10 MR. THOMAS: A motion to accept the second</p> <p>11 set of amendments noting the increases</p> <p>12 clarified by Ms. Lane.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Correct. So is there a</p> <p>14 motion?</p> <p>15 MR. DIVILIO: I believe we did that.</p> <p>16 MR. PACK: I thought we did that.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: We did that. Okay. So are</p> <p>18 we ready to call the roll?</p> <p>19 MR. THOMAS: I think you have to clarify</p> <p>20 the motion because Ms. Lane clarified the tax</p> <p>21 increase after that motion was made. So</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Okay. Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: I couldn't hear. Did you</p> <p>4 call my name?</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: No.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>8 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>12 MS. PRICE: No.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>14 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Madam</p> <p>16 Secretary.</p> <p>17 So now, we are in a position now for open</p> <p>18 discussion, if you want any more discussion.</p> <p>19 And now we're ready to, if you don't want any</p> <p>20 more discussion, to actually vote on the Bill</p> <p>21 1473.</p>
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<p>1 just --</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: No, no. I didn't make the</p> <p>3 motion. She was just clarifying. I misspoke.</p> <p>4 It's .36, but that wasn't part of the motion.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Right, right.</p> <p>6 MR. PACK: The motion was made by</p> <p>7 Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>8 So she was just clarifying a mistake that</p> <p>9 I made. I said it was .31. It's actually .36.</p> <p>10 But that wasn't part of the motion.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. And we had a second.</p> <p>12 So Madam Secretary, could you call the roll.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan, just a point of</p> <p>14 clarification for myself. Is this to introduce</p> <p>15 that amendment or are you voting on the</p> <p>16 amendment?</p> <p>17 MS. PRICE: (Inaudible) amendment.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: What?</p> <p>19 MS. PRICE: There was a motion to</p> <p>20 introduce it and it was seconded. Now we're</p> <p>21 voting on it.</p>	<p>1 Is there a motion to approve it?</p> <p>2 MR. LESHNER: I will so move.</p> <p>3 MR. DIVILIO: And I'll second.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you</p> <p>5 call the roll.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>9 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner, did you answer?</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. CALLAHAN: Sounds great, Council.</p> <p>19 Good job, Council.</p> <p>20 Council, let's move onto introduction to</p> <p>21 administrative resolution. Council, introduce</p>



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1 the second administrative resolution concerning  
 2 LEOPS.  
 3 Ms. Lane, could you please provide  
 4 overview of both administrative resolutions,  
 5 please.  
 6 MS. LANE: Sure. Let me just pull them up  
 7 quickly.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.  
 9 MS. LANE: Okay. I believe the first one  
 10 is to join the LEOPS system. And that is to  
 11 transfer a number of our employees who are  
 12 currently in the Employees Combined System of  
 13 the Maryland State Retirement System plans to  
 14 the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System,  
 15 which is another system within the Maryland  
 16 State Retirement Systems.  
 17 This will allow our current deputies who  
 18 are eligible for Maryland State retirement to  
 19 be transferred into this new system under the  
 20 full Maryland State Retirement Systems. And  
 21 also allow any deputies joining the county

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1 after July 1, 2021, to join the Law Enforcement  
 2 Officers' Pension System.  
 3 This system allows our officers to retire  
 4 after 25 years, as opposed to 30.  
 5 I certainly don't need to tell anyone how  
 6 many years this has been requested by multiple  
 7 sheriffs and deputies as part of a plan. I  
 8 believe we were -- if we weren't the last  
 9 county in the state, we were the second to last  
 10 county in the state and virtually every other  
 11 police system municipal is in this Law  
 12 Enforcement Officers' Pension System.  
 13 So it is something that will keep us  
 14 competitive for the limited number of officers  
 15 available in the State, as we're all trying to  
 16 fill our ranks. This has been a big stumbling  
 17 block over the years.  
 18 So the first resolution is to authorize  
 19 the transfer into -- authorize the  
 20 establishment for Talbot County deputies to  
 21 join the Maryland Law Enforcement Officers'

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1 Pension Systems.  
 2 And the second resolution is a resolution  
 3 authorizing the pick-up for Maryland State  
 4 retirement for the individuals joining the  
 5 Sheriff's Office. The pick-up is basically the  
 6 county's portion that we pay into the  
 7 retirement system. In order to keep it from  
 8 being taxable to our employees, we have to  
 9 adopt this resolution. This is part of the  
 10 requirements of the Maryland State Retirement  
 11 System, as well as the Internal Revenue code,  
 12 to keep those contributions that the county  
 13 makes on behalf of our employees non-taxable to  
 14 them for federal tax purposes.  
 15 And it also requires that anyone who is  
 16 participating in this program, that these  
 17 contributions must go to the Maryland State  
 18 Retirement System, that they can't be given to  
 19 the individual employees instead of going into  
 20 the system.  
 21 And this is what we have currently for all

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1 of our employees under the regular system. So  
 2 it's really just making both groups of  
 3 employees the same with both systems.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 5 MS. LANE: Don't know if you have any  
 6 questions on that.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job, good job.  
 8 Council, I do want to say that I'm proud  
 9 to be a part of this. This is a big stepping  
 10 stone for us as a Council and a community to  
 11 back law enforcement on this and try to keep  
 12 the guys there and they work so hard and try to  
 13 stabilize these departments is a big deal.  
 14 So I'm really -- this is one achievement I  
 15 think we all should be proud of.  
 16 Anybody else?  
 17 MR. LESHAR: Mr. Callahan, I agree with  
 18 you entirely.  
 19 And I've been familiar with the so-called  
 20 LEOPS, Law Enforcement Officers' Pension  
 21 System, for some years. We have seen

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1 jurisdiction after jurisdiction around us buy  
 2 into this system. And they are doing it for --  
 3 they did it for exactly the same reason that we  
 4 are doing now. This will improve recruitment  
 5 and retention.  
 6 And we know that we've got challenges in  
 7 that area. And this alone probably won't solve  
 8 the challenges. We've also been making  
 9 adjustments to the starting salary scale.  
 10 Those are important, too. Leadership is  
 11 important.  
 12 And finally, equipping them and providing  
 13 the policies. All of these are part of a  
 14 package that our law enforcement officers need,  
 15 but this is a key part of it. This is truly  
 16 key. We've been hearing this request for a  
 17 number of years.  
 18 I am proud, as you are, Mr. Callahan, of  
 19 being part of the Council that can make this a  
 20 reality and can solidify, can help stabilize  
 21 the workforce that we have in our Sheriff's

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1 Department. This is an important step.  
 2 And I'm also gratified actually when we  
 3 did the actuarial study on this, that our buy  
 4 into this system is not so fearsome, that we  
 5 were able to transfer over the funding of the  
 6 existing pension system and that we don't have  
 7 the upfront cost that, frankly, I and I think a  
 8 number of other folks feared that we would have  
 9 going into this. So this is an easier pill to  
 10 swallow than I feared it would be.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Thank you, Mr. Vice  
 12 President. I appreciate that.  
 13 Mr. Pack.  
 14 MR. PACK: I'll wait for the motion.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Ms. Price.  
 16 MS. PRICE: I'm good. I agree with  
 17 everything Mr. Leshar said.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Divilio.  
 19 MR. DIVILIO: Yeah. I would just like to  
 20 say a couple of words.  
 21 I would agree that I am proud to be on the

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1 Council that moves forward with this. We heard  
 2 loud and clear that there was a lot of  
 3 turnover. And turnover is extremely expensive.  
 4 And it's also risky to keep continuing to  
 5 have so many rookies on the force. Experience  
 6 pays dividends.  
 7 And I'm happy to support the Sheriff's  
 8 Department with this so that we can reduce that  
 9 constant turnover, have some excellent officers  
 10 that stay around, reap the benefits and stay  
 11 members of our community.  
 12 We see them at ball fields. We see them  
 13 out directing traffic. We see them doing a lot  
 14 for us. And I'm glad to be part of the  
 15 opportunity to give back to them in a little  
 16 bit.  
 17 So thank you.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,  
 19 Mr. Divilio.  
 20 Madam Secretary, could we go ahead and  
 21 read the first resolution into the record,

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1 please.  
 2 SECRETARY: Yes. Administrative  
 3 resolution authorizing a transfer to the Law  
 4 Enforcement Officers' Pension Systems, LEOPS.  
 5 Whereas, Talbot County, Maryland, has  
 6 determined it would be in the best interests of  
 7 Talbot County and its citizens and the law  
 8 enforcement officers employed by the Talbot  
 9 County Sheriff's Office, Officers, to withdraw  
 10 eligible officers from the Employees'  
 11 Retirement and Pension System, ECS, and  
 12 transfer them to the Law Enforcement Officers'  
 13 Pension System, LEOPS, operated and maintained  
 14 by the Board of Trustees for the Maryland State  
 15 Retirement and Pension System, the system, for  
 16 eligible law enforcement personnel throughout  
 17 the State of Maryland.  
 18 And whereas, in accordance with the  
 19 Annotated Code of Maryland, State Personnel and  
 20 Pensions Article, SPP, section 312A03A, at  
 21 least 60 percent of the eligible officers have

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<p>1 petitioned to become members of LEOPS and have</p> <p>2 elected to withdraw and make a transfer to the</p> <p>3 ECS -- from the ECS to the LEOPS under the</p> <p>4 terms and conditions appertaining thereto.</p> <p>5 And whereas, in accordance with SPP</p> <p>6 section 312A03A1, a resolution of the Talbot</p> <p>7 County Council is required by the system to</p> <p>8 approve and effectuate participation of</p> <p>9 eligible officers in the LEOPS.</p> <p>10 Now, therefore, be it resolved, Talbot</p> <p>11 County here authorizes, approves, and agrees to</p> <p>12 implement the LEOPS for eligible officers in</p> <p>13 the Talbot County Sheriff's Office and further</p> <p>14 agrees to the withdrawal of such officers from</p> <p>15 ECS and the transfer of such officers to the</p> <p>16 LEOPS.</p> <p>17 And be it further resolved that Talbot</p> <p>18 County, Maryland, approves the withdrawal of</p> <p>19 officers from the ECS effective June 30, 2021,</p> <p>20 at 11:59 p.m. and participation in the LEOPS</p> <p>21 effective on July 1, 2021, as 12 a.m. pursuant</p>	<p>1 Introduced by the Talbot County Council at</p> <p>2 a regular meeting on May 25, 2021, at which</p> <p>3 meeting copies were available to the public for</p> <p>4 inspection.</p> <p>5 Adopted by the Talbot County Council at a</p> <p>6 regular meeting on May 25, 2021, at which</p> <p>7 meeting copies were available to the public for</p> <p>8 inspection.</p> <p>9 Given under our hands in the great seal of</p> <p>10 Talbot County this 25th day of May in the year</p> <p>11 of our Lord 2021.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job, Madam Secretary.</p> <p>13 I appreciate that. Okay.</p> <p>14 At this time, is there a motion and a</p> <p>15 second to approve the administrative resolution</p> <p>16 as presented?</p> <p>17 MR. DIVILIO: I'll make a motion that we</p> <p>18 accept.</p> <p>19 MR. LESHER: Second.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you</p> <p>21 call the roll, please.</p>
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<p>1 to SPP sections 312A03A and 31302.</p> <p>2 And be it further resolved by Talbot</p> <p>3 County, Maryland, that in accordance with SPP</p> <p>4 section 26202B162, and two, eligible officers</p> <p>5 hired on or before June 30, 2021, shall have a</p> <p>6 one time irrevocable election to join and</p> <p>7 participate in the LEOPS effective July 1,</p> <p>8 2021, by submitting a written application to</p> <p>9 the State Retirement Agency before July 1,</p> <p>10 2021.</p> <p>11 And be it further resolved by Talbot</p> <p>12 County, Maryland, that in accordance with SPP</p> <p>13 sections 26201A6, 26202A, and 312A03A23, all</p> <p>14 eligible officers hired on or after July 1,</p> <p>15 2021, shall not be entitled to join the ECS but</p> <p>16 shall be in and part of the LEOPS.</p> <p>17 And the above administrative resolution</p> <p>18 was introduced and passed at the regularly</p> <p>19 scheduled meeting of the County Council on</p> <p>20 May 25, 2021, and shall become effective on</p> <p>21 July 1, 2021.</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>4 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>8 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: This is for introduction,</p> <p>11 correct?</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Correct.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary, on</p> <p>15 to the second one. Would you please read that</p> <p>16 resolution into the record, too, please.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Administrative resolution</p> <p>18 authorizing pick-up resolution for the Maryland</p> <p>19 State Retirement and Pension System of the</p> <p>20 Talbot County Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>21 The Talbot County Council met at a duly</p>

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<p>1 called and authorized meeting on the date set</p> <p>2 forth below. Such meeting being duly called</p> <p>3 pursuant to a notice saying the time, place,</p> <p>4 and purpose of the meeting received by all</p> <p>5 Council members. And the following resolutions</p> <p>6 were made, seconded, and adopted by those</p> <p>7 present at the meeting.</p> <p>8 Whereas, Talbot County, Maryland, is</p> <p>9 currently a participating governmental unit in</p> <p>10 the Maryland Employees' Pension System and</p> <p>11 Retirement System. Collectively referred to as</p> <p>12 the Employees' Combined System, or ECS, and has</p> <p>13 elected to become a participating governmental</p> <p>14 unit in the Maryland Law Enforcement Officers'</p> <p>15 Pension System, LEOPS, effective on July 1,</p> <p>16 2021.</p> <p>17 And whereas, law enforcement officers</p> <p>18 employed by the Talbot County Sheriff's Office,</p> <p>19 officers, will be eligible to participate in</p> <p>20 LEOPS effective July 1, 2021, and all new</p> <p>21 officers hired on or after July 1, 2021, will</p>	<p>1 confirm that it is an approved employer with</p> <p>2 respect to the LEOPS, and to pick up all the</p> <p>3 mandatory employee contributions for Talbot</p> <p>4 County Sheriff's Office officers participating</p> <p>5 in the LEOPS.</p> <p>6 Now, therefore, be it resolved that</p> <p>7 beginning on or about July 1, 2021, which is</p> <p>8 the effective date of Talbot County,</p> <p>9 Maryland's, participation in LEOPS, Talbot</p> <p>10 County has determined to pick up all of the</p> <p>11 mandatory contributions by the employees who</p> <p>12 are members of the LEOPS through a payroll</p> <p>13 deduction.</p> <p>14 And be it further resolved that said</p> <p>15 picked-up contributions paid by payroll</p> <p>16 reduction, even though designated as employee</p> <p>17 contributions for State law purposes, are being</p> <p>18 paid by Talbot County in lieu of said</p> <p>19 contributions by the employer.</p> <p>20 Be it further resolved that the pick-up</p> <p>21 treatment shall continue for all employees of</p>
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<p>1 be enrolled in LEOPS.</p> <p>2 And whereas, the Talbot County Council has</p> <p>3 the authority to adopt this resolution on</p> <p>4 behalf of Talbot County, Maryland.</p> <p>5 And whereas, the State Retirement Agency</p> <p>6 has adopted procedures for reporting picked-up</p> <p>7 contributions in order to provide consistency</p> <p>8 in the administration of State law.</p> <p>9 And whereas, in accordance with the</p> <p>10 Annotated Code of Maryland, State Personnel and</p> <p>11 Pensions Article, SPP, section 21-313, an</p> <p>12 approved employer may pick up all the mandatory</p> <p>13 employee contributions for its employees</p> <p>14 participating in the Maryland State Retirement</p> <p>15 and Pension System.</p> <p>16 And whereas, by resolution of the Talbot</p> <p>17 County Council dated August 9, 1988, attached</p> <p>18 hereto, and upon approval of the Internal</p> <p>19 Revenue Service dated May 19, 1989, Talbot</p> <p>20 County, Maryland, became an approved employer</p> <p>21 with respect to the ECS and now desires to</p>	<p>1 Talbot County who participate in the ECS.</p> <p>2 And be it further resolved that said</p> <p>3 members of the ECS and LEOPS shall not be</p> <p>4 entitled to any option of choosing to receive</p> <p>5 the contributed amounts directly instead of</p> <p>6 having them paid by Talbot County to the ECS</p> <p>7 and the LEOPS. This pick-up applies to</p> <p>8 mandatory contributions that the employee is</p> <p>9 required to make to ECS and the LEOPS.</p> <p>10 Dated this 25th day of May, 2021, and</p> <p>11 effective July 1, 2021.</p> <p>12 Given under our hands in the great seal of</p> <p>13 Talbot County this 25th day of May in the year</p> <p>14 of our Lord 2021.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.</p> <p>16 What a great job. I appreciate it.</p> <p>17 Is there a motion and a second to approve</p> <p>18 the administrative resolution as presented?</p> <p>19 MR. LESHNER: I will so move.</p> <p>20 MR. DIVILIO: Second.</p> <p>21 MS. PRICE: Second.</p>

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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you 2 call the roll, please. 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 6 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 8 MR. LESHNER: Aye. 9 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 10 MS. PRICE: Aye. 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 12 MR. PACK: Aye. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds great. I 14 appreciate that, Council. These two 15 resolutions mean a lot to this county, and I'm 16 proud of us supporting all that. Okay. 17 Moving on to county manager report -- 18 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Callahan? 19 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm sorry. Go ahead. 20 MR. DIVILIO: I think we just made a 21 motion to introduce them and now we go back and</p>	<p>1 hard to pass it virtually. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm sorry. Yeah. I'm 3 sorry. 4 MR. DIVILIO: I make a motion that we 5 adopt -- do you guys want to do them 6 individually? 7 MR. PACK: No, no. 8 MR. DIVILIO: No. I make a motion that we 9 adopt both administrative resolutions tonight. 10 MR. PACK: So moved. 11 MS. PRICE: Second. 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Call the roll. 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 16 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 18 MR. LESHNER: Aye. 19 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 20 MS. PRICE: Aye. 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p>
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<p>1 vote to adopt them. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. 3 MS. PRICE: So the reason that was 4 confusing was we don't need a motion and second 5 for introduction. We should have just all 6 raised our hands or taken a roll call for 7 introduction. I think that's why it seems a 8 little odd. 9 MR. DIVILIO: (Inaudible.) 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I took a roll call. 11 Are we good with all that, Patrick? 12 MR. THOMAS: Because the first motion I 13 think was to introduce the resolutions, I would 14 make a motion to just go ahead and adopt them 15 to clarify for the record, adopt both 16 resolutions. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Madam 18 Secretary, I want to make a motion to adopt -- 19 MR. DIVILIO: I'll do that for you. 20 MR. PACK: You can't make a motion. 21 MR. DIVILIO: You have the gavel. It's</p>	<p>1 MR. PACK: Aye. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds good. Okay. We got 3 all that cleared up. 4 So I know our county manager is raring to 5 go. 6 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Mr. Council 7 President, Members of the Council. Your county 8 manager report tonight, we have no board or 9 committee appointments this evening. 10 We do have a recommendation after 11 consulting with Health Officer Maria Maguire, 12 staff is recommending the Council consideration 13 to resume in-person meetings effective June 8, 14 2021. And if accepted, staff will publish all 15 the pertinent information for the public 16 awareness. 17 Obviously, we'll continue to work closely 18 with Dr. Maguire to maintain status of COVID 19 virus and make any appropriate recommendations 20 back to Council moving forward. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p>

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1 MR. STAMP: So I just need to know the  
 2 will of the Council to move back to in-person  
 3 meeting for June.  
 4 MR. LESHER: Given that we have this  
 5 advice from our health officer, and given the  
 6 desirability of doing this for public  
 7 transparency, I think this makes it easier for  
 8 everybody and particularly for our public to be  
 9 able to see what we're doing.  
 10 We know that a certain portion of our  
 11 public does not have the electronic access to  
 12 these meetings that we wish we had. This was  
 13 an expedient that we had to do in order to be  
 14 able to function as government during the COVID  
 15 crisis.  
 16 Given where we are in that and the current  
 17 infection rate in our community, the  
 18 vaccination, and all of that taken into  
 19 consideration by the health officer, I think  
 20 it's time for us to make this change, and I  
 21 welcome it.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Vice  
 2 President.  
 3 MR. DIVILIO: And I completely agree. I'm  
 4 excited to be back. If Camden Yards can open  
 5 up June 1st, then I think we should, too.  
 6 But I do just ask be safe and be polite.  
 7 If someone has a mask on or doesn't, respect  
 8 it. We're moving into the vaccination phase.  
 9 We need to dangle that carrot. Please get that  
 10 shot if you can.  
 11 But I am glad. I think it's a correct  
 12 thing for us to be back in that room and show  
 13 faith in the shot. I can have comfort in  
 14 knowing that I had the vaccine. So I'm good to  
 15 go.  
 16 But as far as staff goes, I will respect  
 17 you guys. If you still want to continue  
 18 wearing a mask or what have you or social  
 19 distancing, I would like to make sure that we  
 20 take that into consideration.  
 21 And I think the 50 percent maybe capacity

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1 in the room is a good step with that so that  
 2 everybody can be respectful to one another.  
 3 But I am excited to be back where we should be.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Thank you,  
 5 Mr. Divilio.  
 6 Mr. Pack.  
 7 MR. PACK: I'm ready.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Ms. Price.  
 9 MS. PRICE: Ready and raring to go.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So am I. And I know  
 11 I just want to thank staff for all their hard  
 12 work in the last couple of years or year and a  
 13 half or so dealing with what you've had to deal  
 14 with.  
 15 And with Mr. Durham. He's been on call  
 16 this whole time with all the computers and  
 17 getting us set up and getting all of us set up.  
 18 And I really want to thank him.  
 19 I'm excited to get back in there with you  
 20 guys, Council, working together and coming up  
 21 and doing some good work in the next year and a

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1 half or so. I'm excited to all be back  
 2 together and moving forward and let the public  
 3 see what kind of good work we're doing.  
 4 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Mr. Council  
 5 President, Members of the Council. Appreciate  
 6 that. We will publish the details for the  
 7 public consequence of this.  
 8 The next item I have is a request to  
 9 transfer 2021 housing bond allocation to the  
 10 Maryland Department of Housing and Community  
 11 Development in the amount \$1,423,268 to issue  
 12 bonds to fund housing programs and to issue  
 13 mortgage credit certificates.  
 14 This is an annual program that DHCD runs  
 15 for us that helps people such as first-time  
 16 homebuyers. And this is, again, an annual  
 17 request.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 19 MS. PRICE: I'll make a motion to do the  
 20 transfer and let them run the program.  
 21 MR. DIVILIO: Second.

Page 82	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>5 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>7 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>9 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>11 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>12 MR. STAMP: I just have a couple of other</p> <p>13 things I'd like to say briefly.</p> <p>14 Number one, I'd like to thank Ray and the</p> <p>15 team that have been working on the solid waste</p> <p>16 management plan. They've been working really</p> <p>17 hard to make sure that they've been inclusive</p> <p>18 putting that together, getting that to Council.</p> <p>19 Thank the Public Works Advisory Board as</p> <p>20 well as the Planning Commission in helping us</p> <p>21 move that forward.</p>	Page 84	<p>1 those kind words. And your whole team that's</p> <p>2 you've put together, we can't thank you enough</p> <p>3 for all your hard work, too.</p> <p>4 Moving on, Council, let's start with</p> <p>5 Mr. Durham. We're going to do public comments</p> <p>6 now.</p> <p>7 MR. DURHAM: We do have two callers queued</p> <p>8 up to speak.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>10 MR. DURHAM: Actually three now. If you</p> <p>11 are interested in speaking, please press</p> <p>12 asterisk three on your phone or the raise hand</p> <p>13 button on your computer.</p> <p>14 Our first caller is a 410-703 number.</p> <p>15 Caller, please begin.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Caller, could you please</p> <p>17 say your name and where you're where?</p> <p>18 Appreciate it.</p> <p>19 MR. HOLLY: My name is Bruce Holly. I'm</p> <p>20 from Easton, Maryland. Good evening.</p> <p>21 When you enter the United States in New</p>
Page 83	<p>1 And then finally, I just want to</p> <p>2 recognize, as you all have, Angela. But not</p> <p>3 only Angela, but the team, the department heads</p> <p>4 and everybody that has worked so hard to put</p> <p>5 the budget together this year. And Council,</p> <p>6 for your leadership.</p> <p>7 I said it from the beginning that this</p> <p>8 budget, although is a lot of money and it seems</p> <p>9 it might be a bit aggressive, clearly it's</p> <p>10 flexible, it's practical, and it's visionary.</p> <p>11 And so I just want to thank you for your</p> <p>12 leadership and recognize staff for their good</p> <p>13 work on this.</p> <p>14 I thank you for approving that. Look</p> <p>15 forward to working through the year to</p> <p>16 implement the things that you've included in</p> <p>17 that budget.</p> <p>18 So with that, Mr. Council President, I'll</p> <p>19 turn it back to you. That concludes the county</p> <p>20 manager report.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Stamp, for</p>	Page 85	<p>1 York by ship, as I and thousands of citizens</p> <p>2 and immigrants have done over the years, you're</p> <p>3 greeted by the Statue of Liberty holding a</p> <p>4 torch high for liberty and justice. There is</p> <p>5 no question what American core value she stands</p> <p>6 for.</p> <p>7 However, when you enter the courtyard in</p> <p>8 front of Talbot County's court house, things</p> <p>9 aren't so clear. On the one hand, you see a</p> <p>10 statue of Frederick Douglass, a man who</p> <p>11 courageously broke the chains of his own</p> <p>12 enslavement and freed the minds of his brothers</p> <p>13 and sisters forever.</p> <p>14 But you also see on the other hand a</p> <p>15 statue memorializing men who fought, often</p> <p>16 bravely and with commitment, to keep</p> <p>17 Mr. Douglass and his brothers and sisters and</p> <p>18 children in eternal bondage. In no way is that</p> <p>19 an American core value, and it should be</p> <p>20 finally made clear that Talbot County will not</p> <p>21 continue to accept any ambiguity about that</p>

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1 fact, not for one minute longer.  
 2 As a lesson that we once were divided in  
 3 the bloody fight over freedom for all men, let  
 4 the statue stand in some appropriate spot away  
 5 from the court of justice as a statement that  
 6 Talbot County has joined the America that I  
 7 believe in and love in this 21st Century.  
 8 Let it be moved today. Thank you.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Holly, for  
 10 calling in tonight. Appreciate it.  
 11 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller is a 415-302  
 12 number.  
 13 Caller, please begin.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Caller, could you please --  
 15 MS. DWYER: Hello. My name is Penelope  
 16 Chris Dwyer. Can you hear me?  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, Ms. Dwyer, we can.  
 18 MS. DWYER: Thank you. Sometimes the  
 19 connection is a little sketchy out here in  
 20 Tunis Mills.  
 21 I live in Easton, outside of Easton, and I

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1 grew up on the Miles River in the old house at  
 2 Ingleton back in the day, back in the day when  
 3 the schools were segregated and blacks sat  
 4 upstairs in the Avalon movie theater.  
 5 I was the only child on the Miles River  
 6 Neck Road in 1969 to ride on the black school  
 7 bus because none of the other white parents  
 8 would allow their children to do so. So I  
 9 remember certain history here, a history that  
 10 we've grown farther away from thankfully.  
 11 I left when I was relatively young and  
 12 married a Californian and raised my children  
 13 there. But I'm happy to be back and retired  
 14 now in my beloved Maryland.  
 15 I'm so happy to see so much social change  
 16 and so many young people who have gone away  
 17 from college and now have returned with their  
 18 thoughts, their ideas, and the progress that's  
 19 happening here in such a good way.  
 20 But I am reminded of a very dark time when  
 21 I see that statue, and it unnerves me. And I

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1 am white. So I cannot imagine how it unnerves  
 2 so many of my friends and fellow residents here  
 3 on the Eastern Shore.  
 4 We've made great progress, but we haven't  
 5 made enough progress. And I think it's a lack  
 6 of education because there is no evidence that  
 7 can contest that this statue was not  
 8 constructed during a time of a resurgence of  
 9 white supremacy. No matter what we say, what  
 10 we believe in our history, this is a monument  
 11 of history, but it belongs in a place or museum  
 12 or some other place, but not in front of the  
 13 court house of justice.  
 14 So thank you very much for listening. And  
 15 thank you, Council, for all that you do to make  
 16 this a wonderful place to live.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Dwyer. I  
 18 appreciate you calling in, and I'm glad you  
 19 decided to come back with us. That's great.  
 20 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller is a 443-496  
 21 number.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Caller, could you tell us  
 2 your name and where you're from?  
 3 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Sure. My name is Joe  
 4 Gamble. I'm a proud resident of Talbot County  
 5 and I'm also your sheriff.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good.  
 7 SHERIFF GAMBLE: I can't thank you enough,  
 8 all five of you, for your support of LEOPS,  
 9 your support of the Sheriff's Office over the  
 10 last six-plus years that I've been there. Both  
 11 this Council and the previous Council have made  
 12 it very clear and the public has made it very  
 13 clear back in November during the election that  
 14 they support first responders, police, fire,  
 15 EMS, and our correctional officers.  
 16 So I can't thank each of you enough for  
 17 having the determination to see this LEOPS  
 18 through. It will serve our county well, well  
 19 beyond my years and probably your years as far  
 20 as helping to retain qualified sheriff's  
 21 deputies to patrol this beautiful county.



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1 And I just wanted to take that minute to  
 2 thank each of you. And we made great progress.  
 3 We have a ways to go with our correctional  
 4 officers and our paramedics, but we've taken a  
 5 big leap forward. So just thank each one of  
 6 you for your commitment to public safety in  
 7 Talbot County.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Sheriff. We  
 9 can't thank you enough for all your commitment  
 10 and hard work. And we're blessed to have all  
 11 of you, we're beside you and we're always going  
 12 to be beside you. Thank you.

13 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Thank you, brother.

14 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller is a 949-294  
 15 number.  
 16 Caller, please begin.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Caller, could you say your  
 18 name and where you're from, please?

19 MR. WATTS: Yes. My name is Keith Watts,  
 20 and I'm from Tilghman Island. Good evening,  
 21 Council. And thank you for service.

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1 Congratulations to the Sheriff's  
 2 Department for becoming part of the LEOPS  
 3 program. I think that is a very huge step for  
 4 the county.

5 But my comments are about -- well, you  
 6 already know how I feel about this. But one,  
 7 now that there is a federal lawsuit filed  
 8 concerning the green statue that's out in front  
 9 of the court house, one, has an outside firm  
 10 been retained to defend the county, and who  
 11 they are?

12 Two, has a litigation budget been  
 13 proposed?

14 And three, has anyone on the Council  
 15 considered mediating this case before the  
 16 citizens of Talbot County start paying lawyers  
 17 to litigate?

18 Being a lawyer, I can tell you that  
 19 there's lots of lawyers out there who will be  
 20 happy to be the point of the spear for the  
 21 county, and we will all be poorer for it.

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1 I'd like to hear the county's thoughts on  
 2 how they're going to handle this because this  
 3 could drag on for a long time unless the  
 4 Council summons the will to address this  
 5 problem once and for all.

6 And for that, I thank you for your service  
 7 again and turn it back to the Council  
 8 President.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Watts.  
 10 Appreciate you calling tonight.

11 And if you have any questions, our county  
 12 attorney, Mr. Patrick Thomas, would be glad to  
 13 answer those for you. Thank you.

14 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller this evening  
 15 is a 443-786 number.  
 16 Caller, please begin.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Caller, could you say your  
 18 name and where you're from, please?

19 MR. MURPHY: Hi. My name is Dutch Murphy.  
 20 I've lived here 35 years, white, 73 years old,  
 21 independent voter.

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1 I attended segregated Maryland schools,  
 2 segregated Virginia college, I joined an  
 3 integrated Army and thrived with all races.

4 This past summer, like many, I discovered  
 5 my blindness and tolerance of the racism all  
 6 around all my life. Very much alive, Jim Crow  
 7 practices and preserving whiteness is the quiet  
 8 background everywhere here.

9 There is great many southern traditions we  
 10 enjoy in this nice gentile county, yet there  
 11 are a few traditions held over that are just as  
 12 hurtful now as in 1916. Racism that many deny  
 13 is still really alive and living here. To  
 14 preserve our white privilege, blacks still have  
 15 to know their place.

16 The monument was put up to terrorize  
 17 regarding Jim Crow, no question, still in  
 18 effect.

19 As our elected leaders, you can make  
 20 changes to do the right thing for every  
 21 citizen. This is clearly about right and

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1 wrong, not taking a poll or listening to  
 2 lobbyists. Do the right thing.  
 3 If not, you're the personification of  
 4 maintaining Jim Crow today. By doing nothing  
 5 and fighting removal, you give permission to  
 6 the white supremacists in our county. You've  
 7 got their back, and they know it, just like  
 8 1916.  
 9 Is today the day is on every black  
 10 person's mind. Do you wake up like that? A  
 11 traffic spot that goes bad, different clothing,  
 12 gathering on a street corner. Maybe instead  
 13 your only worry is running into somebody brown  
 14 or black. Possibly a family tradition.  
 15 Move it. Get it away from the very site  
 16 of slave auctions and lynchings. Your choice.  
 17 Stick with the mean and ugly traditions of the  
 18 past --  
 19 MR. DURHAM: Thirty seconds.  
 20 MR. MURPHY: -- reputation and lives into  
 21 a brighter future. Just move it and now.

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1 Thank you for the opportunity. I enjoy  
 2 living here.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Thanks a lot,  
 4 Mr. Richey. I appreciate you calling in  
 5 tonight.  
 6 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller is a 443-783  
 7 number.  
 8 Caller, please begin.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Caller, could you say your  
 10 name and where you're from, please?  
 11 MR. HILL: Good evening, President  
 12 Callahan. This is Chad Hill. And I'm born and  
 13 raised in Easton, Maryland, and I live here  
 14 today.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot for calling,  
 16 Mr. Hill.  
 17 MR. HILL: Thank you, President.  
 18 Council, in the year 2021, remarkably and  
 19 sadly, the Confederate flag, squarely  
 20 representative of efforts to perpetuate slavery  
 21 and white supremacy from a past not long ago

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1 continues to be glorified on our court house  
 2 lawn.  
 3 I fiercely believe in the need for the  
 4 statue's immediate removal. And the ongoing  
 5 reckoning in our county has been a great  
 6 opportunity for all of us to do a lot of  
 7 listening and learning.  
 8 Up to this point, Council, I believe  
 9 you've really missed the opportunity to trigger  
 10 a needed moment of progress for this county.  
 11 Our friends who argue for the statue to  
 12 remain, it seems they want us to feel such  
 13 complexity with the history of the Talbot Boys  
 14 statue, but it is not that complex. They want  
 15 us to appreciate the incredible uniqueness of  
 16 the Talbot County story, but it is not that  
 17 unique.  
 18 For years now, places like New Orleans,  
 19 Charleston, Richmond have been taking clear and  
 20 appropriate steps forward to remove these  
 21 monuments. These movements and moments have

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1 been victories in these communities. Progress.  
 2 Symbols are powerful. On our court house  
 3 lawn sits a symbol which engenders intense pain  
 4 and suffering for so many. It's the wrong  
 5 message. We should do better.  
 6 Council, I'm sure you all are familiar  
 7 with the great historian Ken Burns. I'm a  
 8 little bit of a history nerd myself. So I  
 9 happen to be a really big fan of him. Burns is  
 10 one of the most respected historians in  
 11 America. He's produced some incredible  
 12 documentaries, including a great one on the  
 13 Civil War, if you haven't seen it.  
 14 Burns was recently interviewed about the  
 15 appropriate fate for the remaining Confederate  
 16 monuments in public spaces. His response was  
 17 emphatically clear, that the statues, and I  
 18 quote, the (inaudible) to rewrite history,  
 19 celebrate a false narrative, and that they have  
 20 to go.  
 21 Thank you for the chance to speak tonight.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, Mr. Hill, for  
 2 calling in tonight. Appreciate it.  
 3 MR. DURHAM: We have no other callers  
 4 queued to speak.  
 5 Again, if you're interested in speaking,  
 6 please press star three on your, asterisk three  
 7 on your phone or the raise hand button on your  
 8 computer.  
 9 We do have --  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: If somebody pops in, just  
 11 let me know. Okay.  
 12 MR. DURHAM: We just had a couple more.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, okay.  
 14 MR. DURHAM: So our next caller is a  
 15 410-822 number.  
 16 Caller, please begin.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Caller, could you tell us  
 18 your name and where you're from, please?  
 19 MR. RON LESHER: My name is Ron Leshner.  
 20 And full disclosure, I am the father of one of  
 21 the members of the County Council.

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1 I grew up in Pennsylvania, but I married a  
 2 person who has deep roots in Maryland and even  
 3 Talbot County dating back to the 17th century.  
 4 Her maiden name was Earl, as in Earl's  
 5 addition to Easton. Dr. John Charles Earl, one  
 6 of the founding physicians of Memorial  
 7 Hospital, was her grand-grandfather.  
 8 Many of her ancestors owned slaves, as  
 9 noted in the family correspondence that she has  
 10 been reading and sorting since March 2020.  
 11 That family correspondence which she inherited  
 12 is probably more than 40 cubic feet.  
 13 I rise to speak to the removal of the  
 14 Talbot Boys statue from the court house  
 15 property, that in of spite of my wife's  
 16 ancestors being owners of slaves and almost  
 17 certainly was sympathies towards slave owning,  
 18 that in spite of those sympathies of some of  
 19 those ancestors towards the superiority of  
 20 white people.  
 21 Well, I remember my wife's late aunt, who

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1 returned in the 1970s in retirement to Easton.  
 2 She bought a house on Berry Street. And I  
 3 heard from her lips with my own ears that those  
 4 people living on the other side of the alley to  
 5 the rear of her house were fine as long as they  
 6 knew their place.  
 7 I am reminded of those words every time I  
 8 see the statue. It must be moved from the  
 9 courtyard in front of the court house as soon  
 10 as possible. Thank you.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.  
 12 It's a pleasure to hear you, and I appreciate  
 13 you calling in tonight.  
 14 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller is a 215-316  
 15 number.  
 16 Caller, please begin.  
 17 MS. STRICOFF: My name is Robin  
 18 Stricoff, and I'm a full-time Easton resident.  
 19 Good evening, and thank you for taking my call.  
 20 Each of you obviously care about Talbot County.  
 21 I'm baffled, I'm confused. I have a

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1 question for each of you. Why is it okay with  
 2 you to leave the monument supporting the  
 3 Confederacy, supporting slavery and  
 4 insurrection against the United States on court  
 5 house property, property that is a Democratic  
 6 symbol of the rule of law and equal justice.  
 7 Why should the Talbot Boys monument remain  
 8 any longer on court house property?  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Stricoff, this is your  
 10 time. It's not our time to answer questions.  
 11 It's your time. So if you have any questions,  
 12 you can e-mail us or you can call our county  
 13 attorney.  
 14 MS. STRICOFF: Well, I do have that  
 15 question and would love to hear from you at the  
 16 appropriate time, would love to hear your  
 17 response.  
 18 Thank you.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you for calling in  
 20 tonight. I appreciate it.  
 21 MS. STRICOFF: Thank you.

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1 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller is a 410-960  
 2 number.  
 3 Caller, please begin.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Caller, if you could say  
 5 your name and where you're from, I'd appreciate  
 6 it.  
 7 MR. TERRONE: Dominic (Mickey) Terrone. I live  
 8 in Oxford, Maryland.  
 9 I'd like to reinforce Joe Gamble's  
 10 comments earlier. And I spoke publicly my  
 11 support for supporting the police department,  
 12 public safety. Very important.  
 13 I only wish that the County Council would  
 14 have the same courage to support the public  
 15 education programs in this county. But that's  
 16 not the reason why I called this evening.  
 17 The reason I'm calling is that I believe  
 18 that there is no reasonable excuse for the  
 19 presence of the Confederate flag on the Talbot  
 20 County Court House grounds. You cannot  
 21 reasonably deny that the flag, which is

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1 unfurled, is not a tribute or celebration of  
 2 the cause for which it stood, the permanent  
 3 institution of slavery.  
 4 In a state that rejected the Confederacy,  
 5 in a county that overwhelming supported the  
 6 Union war effort, under no circumstances should  
 7 that flag, that has come to symbolize the very  
 8 worst depths of ugly racism and white supremacy  
 9 throughout this country, should it be present  
 10 on our county court house grounds, or on any  
 11 other public property in this state or anywhere  
 12 else in the country.  
 13 The tortured logic of creating a revised  
 14 statue adding a US flag misses the point  
 15 entirely. The Confederate battle flag must be  
 16 moved away from the grounds at the county court  
 17 house. You already have the Union flag flying  
 18 above the county court house. It's the  
 19 American flag. That's the flag that makes us  
 20 free.  
 21 There's no legitimate historical narrative

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1 nor records that support leaving the statue  
 2 there as it is now, or as it might be revised.  
 3 The racist symbolism of the Confederate  
 4 flag is not a local issue. It's a national  
 5 issue, and it's worthy of elimination from  
 6 places of public authority, even throughout the  
 7 former Confederate states, and it has largely  
 8 been eliminated, even throughout the  
 9 Confederate states.  
 10 We must act. The County Council must take  
 11 on and understand the mantle of leadership  
 12 here.  
 13 MR. DURHAM: Thirty seconds.  
 14 MR. TERRONE: It's not an easy decision for  
 15 the Council to make. I understand that. But  
 16 it's an obvious decision.  
 17 You people are good people. You're smart  
 18 people. You understand the significance of  
 19 this. It's a tough decision. I trust and I  
 20 hope that you will make it --  
 21 MR. DURHAM: Ten seconds.

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1 MR. TERRONE: -- to eliminate that flag.  
 2 Thank you. Bye.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Terrone.  
 4 Appreciate the kind comments you said about  
 5 Council. Thank you.  
 6 MR. DURHAM: Our next caller is a 202-320  
 7 number.  
 8 Caller, please begin.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Caller, could say your name  
 10 and where you're from, please?  
 11 MS. LOMBARD: Sure. My name is Denice  
 12 Lombard, and I live on Tilghman Island.  
 13 First, let me just say I am so moved by  
 14 the previous passionate and thoughtful  
 15 speakers, each one who carefully thought about  
 16 what they were going to say and searched their  
 17 hearts for what they were going to say. I'm  
 18 not prepared. I'm just going to speak directly  
 19 from the heart.  
 20 Today is the one year anniversary of the  
 21 murder of George Floyd. One thing that that

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1 set in motion was the movement to challenge  
 2 systemic racism in all its forms in our  
 3 society.  
 4 We are not the only town that has a  
 5 movement to remove a Confederate monument.  
 6 There are many. There were 170 Confederate  
 7 monuments moved and removed from their places  
 8 in 2020 after the George Floyd murder.  
 9 I don't know why we can't get into the  
 10 modern world here into Easton, Maryland, and  
 11 Talbot County and face the reality of racism  
 12 and a racist past and the incredible resilience  
 13 of our African American citizens for having  
 14 lived through all that and living through  
 15 racism into the present day.  
 16 I would really like to ask the Council  
 17 members to take this opportunity to be leaders,  
 18 to have a legacy of taking a stand against this  
 19 statue. And if that doesn't happen, you're  
 20 going to just have a shameful loss in the next  
 21 election and your legacy is not going to be

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1 heralded by many, many, many people.  
 2 Thank you.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Lombard.  
 4 Appreciate you calling in tonight. Thank you.  
 5 MR. DURHAM: That's currently our last  
 6 caller wishing to speak.  
 7 If you are interested in speaking, please  
 8 press asterisk three on your phone or the raise  
 9 hand button on your computer.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Caller, if you're calling,  
 11 just say your name and where you're from,  
 12 please. I'd appreciate it.  
 13 MR. DURHAM: We currently do not have any  
 14 callers queued.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Well, if we  
 16 have a few more call in, we can handle that.  
 17 All right.  
 18 So let's move on to Council comments.  
 19 Mr. Vice President, are you out there?  
 20 MR. DURHAM: I do have another caller.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, we do have another

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1 caller. Hold tight, Mr. Vice President. We  
 2 got one more caller.  
 3 MR. DURHAM: This caller is 410-745.  
 4 Please begin.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Caller, could you say your  
 6 name and where you're from, please?  
 7 MS. HOPE: Yes. Good evening to everyone.  
 8 My name is a Constance Morris Hope. I'm  
 9 calling from St. Michaels.  
 10 I'm a relatively recent immigrant to the  
 11 Eastern Shore and to Talbot County. But we've  
 12 been here for 20 some years.  
 13 And I'd like to add my voice to what Robin  
 14 Stricoff said, Denise Lombard. I am part of  
 15 the coalition to move the monument. And I  
 16 would like to urge the Council to stand with us  
 17 and decide to move the monument. And I agree  
 18 with everything that others have said. And so  
 19 I don't need to repeat it. But I stand with  
 20 them.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, Ms. Hope, for

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1 calling in tonight. I appreciate it.  
 2 MR. DURHAM: I'll stand by.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Okay, Council.  
 4 Mr. Leshner, we got Council comments.  
 5 MR. LESHNER: Mr. President, I have nothing  
 6 further this evening.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Vice  
 8 President.  
 9 Mr. Pack.  
 10 MR. PACK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Callahan.  
 11 I wasn't really prepared to say anything, but I  
 12 guess listening to those callers and the  
 13 passion in which those callers brought their  
 14 statements to us this evening, just moved me to  
 15 just give voice to, again, the request to  
 16 remove the Talbot Boys statue from the court  
 17 house grounds, not to throw it into the Miles  
 18 River or drag it down Washington Street. But  
 19 to appropriately put it in another location in  
 20 the county that's more fitting and certainly  
 21 not in front of the court house.

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1 The one thing that that brings to mind is  
 2 that Council has done some very good things.  
 3 This was the first Council that hired a  
 4 Hispanic person as a department head. This  
 5 Council is the first Council to hire an African  
 6 American in Talbot County history as a  
 7 department head. This Council supported  
 8 overwhelmingly the Transgender Day of  
 9 Visibility. This Council also supported the  
 10 Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe and put  
 11 funds towards that effort to see that vision  
 12 become a reality here in Talbot County.  
 13 But unfortunately, unfortunately, all of  
 14 that will be gone to the wayside, to the  
 15 wayside because nobody will remember all of  
 16 those efforts because this Council refused to  
 17 remove the Confederate statue off the court  
 18 house grounds. So for all of the good that  
 19 this Council has accomplished, it will all be  
 20 forgotten because of this one stain.  
 21 And that's the regret that I have with

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1 this Council. Is that for all the good that  
 2 we've done, it will all be for naught if we do  
 3 not remove that statue.  
 4 So I just, again, was not prepared to make  
 5 a statement to that end tonight.  
 6 I do appreciate those callers for stepping  
 7 up, and as those callers said, for having the  
 8 bravery and the leadership to make that  
 9 decision.  
 10 I mean we pride ourselves on the fact that  
 11 this was the first Council that put money  
 12 towards LEOPS and move our Sheriff's Department  
 13 into that. This request has been around for  
 14 many, many years, to move the Sheriff's  
 15 Department into LEOPS. This Council was the  
 16 first Council to do that.  
 17 But again, unfortunately, all of those  
 18 gains will be for naught if we do not address  
 19 that statue.  
 20 So I just want to lend my voice to the  
 21 rest of those callers, and I wholeheartedly

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1 support them in their request that this Council  
 2 to show leadership and to show courage and to  
 3 make that reality here in Talbot County, as it  
 4 has been across many other counties in the  
 5 nation, even in the deep south of Georgia and  
 6 Mississippi. But yet then we're still holding  
 7 on to the Confederacy here in Talbot County.  
 8 It's something that I wish that this Council  
 9 would deal with.  
 10 What I wanted to say that I was prepared  
 11 to say was to applaud those citizens here in  
 12 Talbot County who have gotten their first dose  
 13 of the vaccine. The last numbers that I looked  
 14 at shows that we are over 50 percent, somewhere  
 15 in the neighborhood of 57.6 percent of Talbot  
 16 Countians have received at least one shot of  
 17 vaccine. We have another nearly 19,000 who are  
 18 now fully vaccinated against the COVID-19  
 19 virus.  
 20 So I just wanted to, again, keep  
 21 encouraging those citizens who are on the fence

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1 about becoming vaccinated to please educate  
 2 yourself and to become vaccinated as we are  
 3 opening up.  
 4 Council is going to be going back into the  
 5 court house come June. Your restaurants are  
 6 now opened up to let you come back in without  
 7 any social distancing, as well as our stores  
 8 here in the county.  
 9 Do your part. Do your part to keep  
 10 yourself safe, your family safe, your fellow  
 11 citizens safe. Do your part and get  
 12 vaccinated.  
 13 Again, we're at 57 percent right now.  
 14 Thank you very much, each and every one of you  
 15 who stepped up to get that first shot. But we  
 16 can do better, we should do better.  
 17 And so I want to applaud the health  
 18 officer, Dr. Maguire, Nancy Andrew, who is  
 19 leading our COVID equity task force, for  
 20 reaching into populations of our community to  
 21 encourage them to continue getting vaccinated.

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1 1 So just wanted to leave with that note,  
 2 2 that we've done a good job. We can do better.  
 3 3 I just want to encourage our citizens to  
 4 4 continue doing that.  
 5 5 Thank you.  
 6 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.  
 7 7 Ms. Price.  
 8 8 MS. PRICE: I have nothing further this  
 9 9 evening, but thank you.  
 10 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.  
 11 11 Mr. Divilio.  
 12 12 MR. DIVILIO: Sure. Got one crappy thing  
 13 13 on my mind. Down at the Neighborhood Service  
 14 Center  
 14 14 one of our shelters had a sewage leak. It was  
 15  
 15 a 90-degree turn and the line went through the  
 16  
 16 90-degree. Sewage was leaking.  
 17  
 17 For those who don't know, I've been  
 18  
 18 shopping for a house for about a year. I  
 19  
 19 looked at two different houses that I put  
 20  
 20 contracts on, had septic inspections, both  
 21  
 21 failed. The one failed miserably where there

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1 was sewage in the yard. It's a 50-year-old  
 2 septic system that's never -- I'm sorry. From  
 3 1953. Never been replaced.  
 4 And we talk a lot about when we have a  
 5 sewer line that leaks and how detrimental that  
 6 is to the community. When the alarm goes off,  
 7 we race to it, we clean it up.  
 8 These homeowners aren't. They don't know.  
 9 They have no idea that the septic has failed.  
 10 They just think they have a wet backyard when  
 11 you talk to them.  
 12 So I have not had a chance to sit with Ray  
 13 and ask him to calculate how many sewers or  
 14 septic systems have been repaired or replaced  
 15 in the past year, but I imagine it's more than  
 16 the two or three leaks that we've had on the  
 17 county level.  
 18 So I would like to thank Ray for his fast  
 19 work at preventing major catastrophic hazards  
 20 that could be happening.  
 21 And for those who are terrified of sewer

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1 lines coming, again, we jump on it quick when  
 2 we have a problem. We have alarms that tell us  
 3 we have a problem.  
 4 The homeowners don't. Those homeowners  
 5 who have their septic tanks filling up, they  
 6 don't have the money to replace if they're  
 7 failing or waiting for us to come. That's a  
 8 hazard. That's dangerous.  
 9 So there's a lot of talk about these scary  
 10 sewer lines. And I'm happy to report that  
 11 we've got a fantastic engineer who makes sure  
 12 that we are staying safe and clean.  
 13 So thank you. And it does happen to all  
 14 of us, including the government.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.  
 16 That's some good words. That's some good  
 17 words.  
 18 I'll wrap things up tonight, and everybody  
 19 knows I'm going to wrap it up on a positive  
 20 note. We've got a great Council here. We're  
 21 definitely sometimes on the other sides of

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1 things.  
 2 But at the end of the day, we've passed a  
 3 budget tonight that's going to help a lot of  
 4 people and help this community be safer. And  
 5 I'm proud of that. We worked hard as a Council  
 6 to get it to this point.  
 7 There's going to be a new Sheriff's  
 8 Department coming in the next few years. We've  
 9 got LEOPS to stabilize some of the police  
 10 officers. And in that budget, there was more  
 11 money for the fire departments. All you have  
 12 to do is read down through this budget and  
 13 understand what the voters wanted. And I feel  
 14 like we gave it to them.  
 15 And Angela Lane has been fantastic for the  
 16 last 25 years in all the hard work she's done  
 17 for this Council and this community and all the  
 18 employees. And she's hard to beat. And we've  
 19 hired a lady that is going to be beside her.  
 20 She's coming here in the next several weeks.  
 21 We've hired a new HR person. He's coming

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<p>1 tomorrow.</p> <p>2 Mr. Clay Stamp, the county manager, has</p> <p>3 worked very, very hard trying to get some of</p> <p>4 these departments up and running. And I'm very</p> <p>5 proud of all the hard work that Council has</p> <p>6 done to put all these people in place.</p> <p>7 And look, we're doing all this in a</p> <p>8 pandemic. We're under State of Emergency doing</p> <p>9 all this work. So we're a phenomenal Council.</p> <p>10 We're a phenomenal team. And we got to</p> <p>11 remember that. We're going to agree to</p> <p>12 disagree. And that's just how it's going to</p> <p>13 have to be because that's what makes us all</p> <p>14 unique. We're all different. We come together</p> <p>15 and we make things work.</p> <p>16 So you know, I'm proud of all of us. I</p> <p>17 know some of these subjects are really tough.</p> <p>18 And at the end of the day, we need to start</p> <p>19 looking out for each other.</p> <p>20 So being that's said, I'm going to let</p> <p>21 Mr. Vice President wrap it up for us.</p>	<p>1 immediately adjourning into closed session to</p> <p>2 discuss real estate, legal, and personnel</p> <p>3 matters, as listed on the statement for closing</p> <p>4 that meeting.</p> <p>5 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn</p> <p>6 this meeting and reconvene as noted?</p> <p>7 MS. PRICE: So moved.</p> <p>8 MR. DIVILIO: Second.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, can you</p> <p>10 call the vote.</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 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>16 MR. LESHER: 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. Good night.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, Council.</p>
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<p>1 MR. DURHAM: We do have one more caller.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, we do. Okay. No</p> <p>3 problem. One more caller.</p> <p>4 MR. DURHAM: This is Daniel Watson.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, he's been on here</p> <p>6 once.</p> <p>7 MS. PRICE: Once the time has passed,</p> <p>8 after we're done with (inaudible) comments and</p> <p>9 we're wrapping up the meeting --</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Price, I'll take care</p> <p>11 of this. Okay.</p> <p>12 Let Mr. Watson, if he wants to e-mail us</p> <p>13 or he's welcome to come to the next meeting and</p> <p>14 comment at the next meeting. That's no</p> <p>15 problem.</p> <p>16 Mr. Vice President, can you go ahead and</p> <p>17 wrap things up for us.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHER: The County Council's next</p> <p>19 meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8th,</p> <p>20 beginning at six o'clock p.m. The Council will</p> <p>21 be convening in open session at 4:30 p.m. and</p>	<p>1 Good night, everybody. Enjoy the evening.</p> <p>2 (Meeting concluded at: 8:00 p.m.)</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</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 I further certify that the examination was  
 9 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed  
 10 from my stenographic notes to the within printed  
 11 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription  
 12 in a true and accurate manner.

13 I further certify that the stipulations  
 14 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my  
 15 presence.

16 I further certify that I am not of counsel  
 17 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,  
 18 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way  
 19 interested in the outcome of this action.

20 AS WITNESS my hand Notorial Seal this 4th  
 21 day of June, 2021, via Webex.



\_\_\_\_\_  
 Diane Houlihan  
 Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2021

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