



Deposition of:
Talbot County Council Meeting

May 4, 2021

In the Matter of:
Talbot County Council Meeting

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

May 4, 2021; 1:30 p.m.

Via Webex Events

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Chuck F. Callahan
- Pete Leshner
- Corey W. Pack
- Frank Divilio
- Laura E. Price

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: I'd like to welcome</p> <p>4 everybody to Tuesday afternoon at 1:30's</p> <p>5 meeting.</p> <p>6 What we'd like to do is start off with</p> <p>7 Vice President Leshar with a prayer, and then</p> <p>8 we're going to follow that by the Pledge of</p> <p>9 Allegiance of the flag.</p> <p>10 Mr. Vice President, could you start us</p> <p>11 off.</p> <p>12 (Prayer and Pledge Of allegiance.)</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshar.</p> <p>14 What a great prayer. And our hearts are felt</p> <p>15 with Kelly, losing Kelly. And she will not be</p> <p>16 forgotten, that's for sure. Okay.</p> <p>17 Council, let's start with the agenda. Are</p> <p>18 there any additions, deletions, or corrections</p> <p>19 to the agenda? Yes, Mr. Leshar.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHER: Yeah. Mr. President, I would</p> <p>21 like to add an item. I would like to amend the</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>2 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. Mr. Pack.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Ut-oh. Mute button, Corey.</p> <p>5 MS. PRICE: I don't see his name up on the</p> <p>6 list.</p> <p>7 We've got four of us. Are we okay to move</p> <p>8 on?</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. We've got a majority,</p> <p>10 so we can move on. Okay.</p> <p>11 So the next line item is under minutes.</p> <p>12 Okay. Council, have you had a chance to review</p> <p>13 the minutes from April 13th? Are there any</p> <p>14 additions, deletions, or corrections with the</p> <p>15 minutes? Hearing none, the chair moves that</p> <p>16 the minutes be accepted with unanimous consent.</p> <p>17 Disbursements is next. Okay. Council,</p> <p>18 have you had a chance to review the</p> <p>19 disbursements of May 4th? Are there any</p> <p>20 additions, deletions, or corrections to the</p> <p>21 disbursements? Hearing none, the chair moves</p>
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<p>1 agenda to add an administrative resolution to</p> <p>2 stay enforcement of durational limits</p> <p>3 pertaining to temporary signs related to</p> <p>4 elections.</p> <p>5 Would we like to put this after item</p> <p>6 number six?</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. As item number six.</p> <p>8 Yes, sir.</p> <p>9 MR. LESHER: As item, yup.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds great.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHER: So I'll move for that</p> <p>12 addition.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>14 MS. PRICE: Second.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>19 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshar.</p> <p>21 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p>	<p>1 that the disbursements be accepted as unanimous</p> <p>2 consent. Okay.</p> <p>3 Now, what we have, Madam Secretary, we've</p> <p>4 got a proclamation of Correctional Officers and</p> <p>5 Employee Week. It's a big deal this week.</p> <p>6 Madam Secretary, could you please read the</p> <p>7 proclamation into the record.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Proclamation, Correctional</p> <p>9 Officers and Employees Week, May 2, 2021,</p> <p>10 through May 8, 2021.</p> <p>11 Whereas, correctional officers and</p> <p>12 employees staff the Talbot County Detention</p> <p>13 Center for the purpose of maintaining custody,</p> <p>14 security, control of every inmate every hour of</p> <p>15 every day of every week of every month of every</p> <p>16 year.</p> <p>17 And whereas, the correctional officers and</p> <p>18 employees of the Talbot County Department of</p> <p>19 Corrections are essential to the county's</p> <p>20 criminal justice system and public safety by</p> <p>21 not only maintaining custody, security, and</p>

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<p>1 control of individuals committed to the 2 Detention Center, but also by creating 3 opportunities for inmates to resolve those 4 personal issues that led to their 5 incarceration.</p> <p>6 And whereas, the correctional officers and 7 employees of the Talbot County Department of 8 Corrections are responsible for the 9 administration and operation of a variety of 10 programs and services beyond the walls of the 11 Detention Center, including, but not limited 12 to, work release, electronic home monitoring, 13 and community service.</p> <p>14 And whereas, the important work of 15 correctional officers and employees rarely 16 receives the recognition from the public it 17 deserves. Yet, the professionalism, 18 dedication, and courage routinely exhibited by 19 these employees in the performance of assigned 20 duties is worthy of and deserves our utmost 21 respect.</p>	<p>1 MR. PACK: I'll be honored to, 2 Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>4 MR. DIVILIO: I'll second.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary, 6 could you please call the roll.</p> <p>7 MR. PACK: Before we call the roll, if I 8 could just give a brief comment.</p> <p>9 I don't know whether or not Mr. Kokolis or 10 anyone from his staff is online with us. But I 11 want to just personally state that they are in 12 my opinion sometimes the unforgotten part of 13 the criminal justice system. They're not seen 14 out riding around in cars, and they're not seen 15 out at many public events. Although they do 16 get out. They're seen sometimes if you're in 17 court as they're transporting inmates to and 18 from court hearings.</p> <p>19 But the role that they play in the 20 criminal justice world is a vital one and the 21 number of services. There are several State</p>
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<p>1 And whereas, Talbot County is most 2 fortunate to employ this highly-professional, 3 deeply-committed, and extremely capable cadre 4 of correctional officers and employees.</p> <p>5 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of 6 Talbot County, do hereby proclaim the week of 7 May 2nd through 8, 2021, as Correctional 8 Officers and Employees Week in Talbot County 9 and encourage all citizens of the county to 10 recognize, acknowledge, and appreciate the many 11 contributions made by these individuals to the 12 safety of our community and to the quality of 13 life endured by all residents and other 14 visitors in Talbot County.</p> <p>15 Given under our hands in the great seal of 16 Talbot County this 4th day of May in the year 17 of our Lord 2021.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary. 19 Good job.</p> <p>20 Is there a motion and a second to approve 21 the proclamation?</p>	<p>1 pieces of legislation right now that are 2 mandating all types of additional treatment 3 services to be provided for by the local 4 detention centers in the 24 jurisdictions 5 across Maryland. So it just adds to their 6 duties and responsibilities as they make sure 7 that the people under their charge are well 8 taken care of.</p> <p>9 So I just wanted to say to Terry, if he's 10 online, thank you and your team for all that 11 you do. Will always have my support and my 12 continued appreciation for what you do, not 13 just for the inmates there, but what you also 14 do to keep Talbot County safe day in and day 15 out. Thank you.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack. 17 Madam Secretary, could you please call the 18 roll, please.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p>

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<p>1 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>3 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>5 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>7 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Council.</p> <p>9 Is Terry on the line, Jess?</p> <p>10 MS. MORRIS: Yes, Mr. Callahan, Terry is</p> <p>11 on the line.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, Terry, welcome.</p> <p>13 MR. KOKOLIS: Great to be with you today</p> <p>14 on such a fine day.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir, yes, sir. You've</p> <p>16 got the floor. So tell us a little bit about</p> <p>17 what's going on.</p> <p>18 MR. KOKOLIS: Well, National Correctional</p> <p>19 Employees Week has been part of our history</p> <p>20 since the early '80s when Warren Burger, Chief</p> <p>21 Justice of the Supreme Court, thought it would</p>	<p>1 being responsible for the safety and wellbeing</p> <p>2 of all those who are incarcerated.</p> <p>3 And we take great pride in providing that</p> <p>4 mission and vision for both this department and</p> <p>5 the county.</p> <p>6 So we appreciate the recognition and the</p> <p>7 proclamation that was just unanimously heard</p> <p>8 and appreciate Mr. Pack's kind expressions</p> <p>9 toward our chosen profession. It just feels</p> <p>10 good to be in corrections this week.</p> <p>11 And by the way, it's also Nurse</p> <p>12 Appreciation Week because we have medical staff</p> <p>13 on board here. So we also recognize and</p> <p>14 appreciate them in the providing of their</p> <p>15 duties to the inmates and staff behind the</p> <p>16 walls.</p> <p>17 So we thank you for this very special</p> <p>18 week.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, Terry.</p> <p>20 Appreciate everything you guys do.</p> <p>21 Vice President Lesher, say something.</p>
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<p>1 be a great idea and collaborated at a later</p> <p>2 time with President Reagan. And they</p> <p>3 systemically thought that it would be good to</p> <p>4 recognize those who work behind the walls of</p> <p>5 American jails and prisons.</p> <p>6 As part of that, we have historically</p> <p>7 spent the week providing wonderful things to</p> <p>8 our staff. And right here at the 115, which is</p> <p>9 what they call themselves, the 115 unit on</p> <p>10 Dover Street, we're recognizing them in a</p> <p>11 number of different ways this week.</p> <p>12 First, we select an employee of the year</p> <p>13 that represents Talbot County. And each day we</p> <p>14 have something different planned for the staff.</p> <p>15 Yesterday, we had a barbecue and cookout.</p> <p>16 Today we had a large scale breakfast. Tomorrow</p> <p>17 we have some other wonderful functions.</p> <p>18 And next year, post COVID, we even want to</p> <p>19 do some public events. But this year, we'll</p> <p>20 stay behind the walls and we'll recognize</p> <p>21 corrections for the difficult work they do</p>	<p>1 MR. LESHER: I can do no more than echo</p> <p>2 Mr. Pack's words.</p> <p>3 I had no insight into this before I came</p> <p>4 on Council and got my orientation tour of the</p> <p>5 department. And it truly is impressive what we</p> <p>6 need to do and the seriousness with which we</p> <p>7 take our responsibility here.</p> <p>8 So thanks to all these employees for doing</p> <p>9 that so well and taking it seriously.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Vice</p> <p>11 President.</p> <p>12 Ms. Price.</p> <p>13 MS. PRICE: Yes. Definitely I think until</p> <p>14 you're on the Council, you think about our</p> <p>15 deputies and sheriff and the EMTs and all of</p> <p>16 that. And people don't think about as part of</p> <p>17 public safety what our correctional officers</p> <p>18 do.</p> <p>19 And yes, we all get that first tour. And</p> <p>20 we're all glad when they don't keep us locked</p> <p>21 up, that they let us back out of the jail. But</p>

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1 we have an opportunity to see how very hard
 2 that they work.
 3 And I'm very honored to be a part of
 4 honoring them this week for what they do every
 5 day. Thank you very much.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Price.
 7 Mr. Divilio.
 8 MR. DIVILIO: Yes, thank you.
 9 Director Kokolis, I'd like to thank you.
 10 And I want to let you know how much I
 11 appreciate you coming over from Anne Arundel
 12 County to Talbot County. I know that's a
 13 significant change going from budgets and
 14 looking into what's available. You've done a
 15 wonderful job with the crew that you have in
 16 there, and I know that they appreciate it. And
 17 it shows in the work that they do.
 18 When they came before us before and we saw
 19 how many of them had second jobs, part-time
 20 jobs trying to get by. Yet I know that they
 21 still volunteer and come in during the

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1 holidays. Christmastime was my favorite time,
 2 the dinner or the Christmas lunch that's
 3 provided.
 4 And COVID is very on the forefront of
 5 everybody's mind, but you're still dealing with
 6 the heroin pandemic that's going on when we
 7 look at the high numbers of people who are
 8 addicted that are in the facility and the
 9 dangers that go along with that.
 10 So I greatly appreciate the work that you
 11 do in there rehabilitating and putting people
 12 back out on the streets back where they should
 13 be back in the community and giving them a
 14 second chance. So thank you for all your hard
 15 work and all the programs that you facilitate.
 16 MR. KOKOLIS: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Director
 18 Kokolis, it's an honor to have you here to
 19 direct that department. And we are so blessed
 20 to have you here.
 21 And just like Council said, Council

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1 couldn't be more happy with somebody like you
 2 running the show.
 3 And let's face it, you're keeping us safe,
 4 too. The sheriff is there, you're there. You
 5 guys are there to keep us safe and rehabilitate
 6 people to come out and be citizens.
 7 So not only are you there to be safe,
 8 you're there to actually help people move on
 9 with their lives. It's a big part of things.
 10 And thank the Lord we have somebody like you
 11 that realizes that and helps with those
 12 programs.
 13 So once again, enjoy the week. All the
 14 employees, if some of the employees are
 15 listening, I really want to thank all of them
 16 for all the hard work they're doing because I
 17 mean it's like you say, they don't see the
 18 daylight. During the day, they're all inside
 19 and doing their work. We can't appreciate
 20 enough all the hard work you're doing and
 21 dedication for the county. So really

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1 appreciate it.
 2 MR. KOKOLIS: Thank you very much. Really
 3 appreciate it.
 4 And I will say we always say the greater
 5 part of our population are Talbot County
 6 residents. So when we really say that we like
 7 to discharge people in better condition than
 8 when they arrive, we like to step up to that
 9 mission. And as a department, we are committed
 10 to that outcome.
 11 So we appreciate the support that is not
 12 only verbally provided by the County Council,
 13 but also mighty is the pen of the support
 14 provided by the County Council.
 15 And by the way, Mr. Divilio, we're having
 16 a Christmas party again this year. Hopefully
 17 post COVID. And we're certain to invite you
 18 and all the colleagues on Council to come and
 19 celebrate and enjoy a good day. It's always
 20 wonderful to see the children come in and
 21 interact.

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1 So we really appreciate the support. It
 2 means a lot to us. Because as Ms. Price
 3 indicated, we are the forgotten entity of the
 4 trifecta of public safety. We always see the
 5 fire apparatus, the ambulances, and the police
 6 cruisers. And we keep up our end on the
 7 inside. So once again, thank you very much.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Appreciate it.
 9 Okay, Council. Next thing on the list, we
 10 had that little agenda change, so everybody
 11 understands that.
 12 So Madam Secretary, would you please read
 13 the administrative resolution into the record,
 14 please.
 15 SECRETARY: An administrative resolution
 16 to stay enforcement of durational limits under
 17 Talbot County Code section 190-42.4A table
 18 V919C, pertaining to temporary signs related to
 19 elections.
 20 Do you want me to read it in its entirety,
 21 sir?

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Should we, Madam Secretary?
 2 Should we read that into the record or are we
 3 okay?
 4 SECRETARY: It's up to you.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: If you don't mind, that
 6 would be great.
 7 SECRETARY: Whereas, Talbot County Code
 8 section 190-42.4A provides permit exceptions
 9 and regulations for certain temporary signs.
 10 The temporary signs listed in table V9 are
 11 permitted without a sign permit and are not
 12 subject to the requirements of this section for
 13 maximum sign area and maximum number of signs.
 14 However, such signs shall conform to the
 15 requirements set forth below and other
 16 applicable requirements of this section.
 17 And whereas, table V9199C provides other
 18 temporary signs related to an upcoming event,
 19 such signs shall be posted no more than 60 days
 20 before the project, event, or election to which
 21 they apply and removed within seven days after

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1 the conclusion of the project, event, or
 2 election.
 3 And whereas, the legislative intention of
 4 Council for imposing the foregoing durational
 5 limits on election signs displayed on private
 6 property was to serve the substantial interest
 7 of Talbot County in, one, minimizing for
 8 aesthetic reasons the proliferation of visual
 9 clutter caused by candidate-authorized campaign
 10 signs. And two, promoting traffic safety in
 11 that such signs may obstruct views and distract
 12 motorists.
 13 And whereas, Council, having consulted
 14 with the Office of the County Attorney, has
 15 concluded that durational limits on election
 16 yard signs displayed on private property are
 17 unconstitutional based on decisions issued by
 18 the United States District Court for the
 19 District of Maryland.
 20 And whereas, Council wishes to stay
 21 enforcement of the duration limits of Talbot

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1 County Code section 19042.4A, table V919C,
 2 pertaining to election yard signs displayed on
 3 private property.
 4 And whereas, the authority for the
 5 enactment of this resolution derives from
 6 section 202 of the Talbot County Charter, which
 7 provides that the County Council is responsible
 8 for the enforcement of the laws passed in the
 9 county.
 10 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the
 11 County Council of Talbot County that section
 12 one, Talbot County shall not enforce the
 13 duration limits of Talbot County Code section
 14 19042.4A table V919C pertaining to election
 15 yard signs displayed on private property.
 16 Section two, this administrative resolution
 17 shall become effective immediately.
 18 Given under our hands in the great seal of
 19 Talbot County this 4th day of May in the year
 20 of our Lord 2021.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.

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1 Appreciate that. Good job.
 2 Is there a motion and a second it to
 3 approve this administrative resolution?
 4 MR. PACK: I think it needs to be
 5 introduced, right?
 6 MS. PRICE: Yes. We need to introduce.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm sorry. Okay. Yes.
 8 Madam Secretary, can you call the roll, please.
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 12 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 14 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 16 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 18 MR. PACK: Aye.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Council.
 20 MR. LESHER: Mr. President, now that we've
 21 introduced this, should we ask the county

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1 attorney to provide any further explanation
 2 that's not simply contained within the words?
 3 I mean there's a certain clarity to the words
 4 of the resolution itself, but I don't know if
 5 further explains is warranted before we take
 6 action on this.
 7 MR. PACK: (Inaudible) as well.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Vice
 9 President Leshner. Sure.
 10 MR. THOMAS: Yes. I can provide some
 11 clarification just to add some context to this.
 12 This administrative resolution, it's in
 13 response to litigation that's been initiated in
 14 the US District Court, it's a matter public
 15 record, regarding the durational limits on
 16 election signs and simply acknowledges that, as
 17 it states in the resolution, that the US
 18 District Court has previously held that such
 19 durational requirements on election signs are
 20 unconstitutional and that the county is staying
 21 enforcement of that section.

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1 And this is similar to another
 2 administrative resolution that the Council
 3 passed in 2019 regarding short-term rentals.
 4 There is some precedent for this.
 5 And the urgency is due to the need to file
 6 this with our response to the court, which is
 7 due today. We only have 21 days from the day
 8 we were served. That's why this has come
 9 together so quickly.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Appreciate that
 11 explanation.
 12 Council, everybody okay with that?
 13 Anybody want to speak?
 14 MR. PACK: I would just say, yes, thank
 15 you, Mr. Callahan. I would just add to that
 16 signage duration on private property, we heard
 17 that it has been deemed unconstitutional. So
 18 therefore, I think it's only prudent that
 19 Talbot County stays in line with the
 20 Constitutional ruling regarding sign
 21 limitation, or duration, excuse me, on private

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1 property.
 2 We still have in our sign ordinance a size
 3 requirement, which this administrative
 4 resolution does not speak to. But I do support
 5 it in the fact that we wanted to make sure that
 6 Talbot County laws are certainly in line with
 7 the Constitution.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack. I
 9 appreciate it.
 10 Mr. Leshner, you want to say anything?
 11 MR. LESHER: Nothing further on this. I
 12 think that I appreciate the context that our
 13 attorney has added and Mr. Pack as well. Thank
 14 you.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay.
 16 Mr. Divilio, you good?
 17 MR. DIVILIO: Yeah, I'm good. I don't
 18 even like political signs when my name is
 19 written on them.
 20 But I do think that we should align with
 21 the Constitution, unfortunately.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Price.
 2 MS. PRICE: Well, fortunately or
 3 unfortunately, no. I believe in the
 4 Constitution and this is something that will
 5 provide some clarity. And what people do on
 6 their own private property, as long as it fits
 7 within our other limitations, is certainly fine
 8 by me. And let's just get it corrected.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: I would agree with Council.
 10 Patrick, I appreciate you helping us with
 11 all this and clarifying. And sometimes we have
 12 a little hiccup every now and then, we need
 13 help, and that's what we're trying to do.
 14 MR. THOMAS: And this is not a unique
 15 issue to Talbot County. Based on recent
 16 Supreme Court cases that have been filtered
 17 down through the courts, jurisdictions all over
 18 the country are struggling with this. So we're
 19 certainly not unique.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
 21 MR. PACK: Singled out.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: I appreciate it.
 2 MS. PRICE: I would say that I think all
 3 of us are happy to get our signs down. We
 4 don't leave them up very long at all. It does
 5 present a little bit of clutter out there.
 6 So we appreciate people who support the
 7 candidates, but looking at them all the time
 8 gets old. So I know that the five of us have
 9 been really good about getting ours down as
 10 fast as possible.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Exactly, Ms. Price. Okay.
 12 So are we all good, Madam Secretary? Do
 13 we need to do anything?
 14 MR. PACK: Mr. President, as this is an
 15 administrative resolution, I will make a
 16 motion.
 17 And it has been introduced unanimously by
 18 Council. Patrick has pointed out that we do
 19 have somewhat of a time requirement here.
 20 So I would make the motion that we move
 21 the matter to vote this evening. This

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1 administrative resolution does not require
 2 public hearing. So therefore, I would make the
 3 motion that it be moved along to vote at this
 4 time.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Pack, I appreciate it.
 6 So we have --
 7 MR. LESHER: -- motion.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We have a motion and
 9 a second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 10 vote.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshler.
 16 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 18 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 20 MR. PACK: Aye.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Council.

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1 Appreciate it.
 2 Thanks a lot, Patrick.
 3 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job. Let's move on.
 5 MR. PACK: The matter is now before
 6 Council for vote, Mr. Callahan.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. With the
 8 administrative?
 9 MR. PACK: Yes.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm sorry. Okay.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshler.
 16 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 18 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 20 MR. PACK: Aye. Thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack. Okay.

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1 All right.

2 So we're ready to move on, Council. So

3 last meeting, Council, we had a priority list

4 for the Maryland Department of Transportation.

5 And we switched a few things around. And

6 Mr. Clarke helped us with all that. So we're

7 going to get that taken care of here.

8 And is Mr. Clarke here?

9 MR. CLARKE: Yes, I am.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, okay. Ray, is Mike

11 here, too?

12 MR. MERTAUGH: Yes, yes, I am.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You guys want to

14 bring us up to speed on the new list?

15 MR. CLARKE: Sure thing. If you want,

16 I'll kind of jump into it. As you know, I

17 think at the April 27th meeting, we presented

18 the list. I think during that meeting,

19 emergency management, Brian LeCates, identified

20 the fatalities that had occurred down at

21 Maryland Route 322 and US Route 50.

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1 And ultimately I think in discussions with

2 the Council last week, we looked at adding I

3 guess definitely as our number one item for

4 improvements to Maryland Route 322, US50

5 intersection south.

6 At the same time, we've gone ahead and

7 added 1B, which would be for Maryland Route 322

8 and US50 intersection north.

9 So we've added those I guess for the

10 Council's review and concurrence.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, okay. Mike, you want

12 to say anything?

13 MR. MERTAUGH: I think Ray pretty much

14 covered it all.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. That

16 sounds good. All right.

17 Council, is there a motion and second to

18 approve the new list?

19 MS. PRICE: So moved.

20 MR. DIVILIO: I'll second.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,

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1 could you call the roll please.

2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

4 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.

5 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.

6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

7 MR. LESHER: Aye.

8 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.

9 MS. PRICE: Aye.

10 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.

11 MR. PACK: Aye.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds good. Thank you,

13 Ray and Mike. I appreciate it.

14 MR. CLARKE: No problem.

15 MR. MERTAUGH: Thank you.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Council, man, we're

17 right on time. Two o'clock and the public

18 hearing. Okay. Council will be holding a

19 public hearing as our next item of business.

20 Okay.

21 Our first public hearing this afternoon is

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1 on the constant yield. There's nobody hardly

2 on the planet other than Ms. Lane that can

3 explain all this. So I'm going to turn it over

4 there to you.

5 Ms. Lane, you with us?

6 MS. MORRIS: Mr. Callahan, Ms. Lane is

7 with us this evening. We're having a hard time

8 with her sound. We're going to go check on

9 that.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Okay. Do we

11 want to move onto a couple of other things or

12 you want to just wait?

13 MR. PACK: Not unless Mr. Stamp is

14 comfortable going and giving us the constant

15 yield update.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: No. I was going to just

17 say do you want to --

18 MR. STAMP: I'll yield to Angela. She'll

19 be with us in one moment.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

21 MS. MORRIS: They are going down to work

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1 on her sound situation. In the interim, we can
 2 go to county manager report and do that one
 3 item.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Absolutely. That's what I
 5 was thinking. Thank you, Jess.
 6 MR. STAMP: Council President, under
 7 county manager's report today, I have Ray
 8 Clarke here.
 9 We have a request from the Department of
 10 Public Works to submit a request to the United
 11 States Department of Agriculture, USDA, for
 12 obligation of funds and letter of intent to
 13 meet conditions for replacement of the belt
 14 filter press at the region two wastewater
 15 treatment plant, St. Michaels.
 16 Requesting Council approval to accept a
 17 loan from the USDA in the amount of \$600,000
 18 for the replacement of the belt filter press at
 19 the region two wastewater treatment plant.
 20 This will be a 30-year loan at the interest
 21 rate of 1.75. The loan will be paid by users

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1 within the St. Michaels, Unionville, Tunis
 2 Mills, and Copperville and the Royal Oak,
 3 Newcomb, and Bellevue sanitary districts.
 4 Seeking approval for Council to sign the
 5 letter of intent to meet conditions in the
 6 request for obligation of funds with USDA.
 7 And Ray is here and can add any detail or
 8 answer any questions relative to this request.
 9 MR. CLARKE: I'm here.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Ray, are you with us?
 11 MR. CLARKE: I am, sir.
 12 And if you want, a belt filter press
 13 basically is for solids management. What we do
 14 is we take what I guess settles out of the
 15 wastewater. We press the water out of it and
 16 then dispose of it in the landfill.
 17 The press we currently have is probably
 18 close to 40, almost 45 years old. So it's
 19 exceeded its service life.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions out of
 21 Council? If not, is there a motion and a

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1 second?
 2 MR. PACK: So moved.
 3 MR. LESHAR: Second.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you
 5 call the roll, please.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 9 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshar.
 11 MR. LESHAR: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 13 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 15 MR. PACK: Aye.
 16 MR. CLARKE: Thank you.
 17 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Mr. Council
 18 President. That concludes the county manager
 19 report for today.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.
 21 MS. MORRIS: Mr. Callahan, we're going to

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1 see if Ms. Lane has connection.
 2 Ms. Lane, can you hear us?
 3 And if not, I have her statement on the
 4 constant yield and I'd be happy to read that
 5 into the record if you'd like.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, Ms. Morris. That
 7 would be great.
 8 MR. STAMP: We got Angela.
 9 MS. LANE: Can you hear me?
 10 MS. MORRIS: Yes. Go ahead, Ms. Lane.
 11 MS. LANE: Okay. Thank you. There are
 12 two public hearings today. If you wish to
 13 speak at any of these hearings, please state
 14 your state and address for the record. You
 15 will be given three minutes to speak if you're
 16 representing yourself or five minutes to speak
 17 if speaking on behalf of a group or
 18 association.
 19 The first public hearing is on the
 20 constant yield. The Talbot County Council in
 21 the FY2022 proposed budget is proposing to

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1 adopt a real property tax rate of 65.29 cents
 2 for \$100 of assessed valuation for all
 3 properties located outside the incorporated
 4 towns.
 5 This rate is 1.57 cents higher than the
 6 current real property tax rate. This rate is
 7 2.35 cents higher than the constant yield rate
 8 of 62.94 cents and will generate \$1,131,533
 9 more in property tax revenues in FY2022 from
 10 the unincorporated area of the county.
 11 Properties located within the incorporated
 12 towns will again be granted a tax differential
 13 which sets the property tax rates between
 14 6.01 cents and 13.3 cents lower than the county
 15 rate.
 16 The county real property tax rates for
 17 properties located within the towns are higher
 18 than the constant yield rates for the towns.
 19 The County Council will not adopt the FY22
 20 tax rate today. The FY2022 tax rate will be
 21 adopted as part of the FY2021-2022 annual

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1 budget and appropriation ordinance currently
 2 scheduled for adoption on Tuesday, May 18,
 3 2021.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Angela.
 5 I appreciate it. Thank you, Ms. Lane.
 6 I will now open the public hearing on the
 7 constant yield. If you wish to provide
 8 comments on the constant yield, please provide
 9 your name. You will have three minutes if
 10 you're speaking for individual, five minutes if
 11 you're speaking for an organization.
 12 Mr. Durham, do we have any callers or
 13 participants who wish to speak on the constant
 14 yield?
 15 MR. DURHAM: If you wish to speak, please
 16 press asterisk three on your phone. Or if
 17 you're on the computer, in the bottom, press
 18 raise hand.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Anybody that wants to speak
 20 on it?
 21 MR. DURHAM: No one is indicating.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: okay, okay. Just keep us
 2 informed if somebody does. Okay.
 3 Thank you. That concludes the public
 4 hearing on the constant yield.
 5 Madam Secretary, could you please read the
 6 title of the Bill 1473 into the record.
 7 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1473, an act to
 8 establish the 2021-2022 annual budget and
 9 appropriation ordinance.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Lane, I'll turn it over
 11 to you and Mr. Stamp for a Powerpoint
 12 presentation.
 13 MS. LANE: Thank you, Mr. Callahan.
 14 I believe -- there it is on your screen.
 15 Everyone should be able to see the Powerpoint.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. It looks good. Yup.
 17 Looks great.
 18 MS. PRICE: Can we get Ms. Lane's volume
 19 turned up? I can barely hear her. So I'm
 20 afraid the public is going to barely be able to
 21 hear her.

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1 MS. LANE: It is up as high as I can get
 2 it.
 3 Let me try using the handset. Is this
 4 better?
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: That's better, this is
 6 better.
 7 MS. PRICE: A little.
 8 MS. LANE: -- then.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
 10 MS. LANE: Okay. The fiscal 2022 proposed
 11 annual general fund budget is \$112,535,000.
 12 The current fiscal 2021 general fund budget is
 13 \$96,550,000.
 14 Next slide, yes.
 15 The County Council, in preparing this
 16 budget, received funding requests for operating
 17 and capital items of just over \$119 million,
 18 which is \$22.5 million more than the current
 19 fiscal 2021 budget.
 20 The proposed budget for fiscal 2022 is
 21 just over \$112 million, which is almost

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<p>1 \$16 million, or 16.56 percent, more than the 2 current fiscal year budget. 3 Included in this increase of almost 4 \$16 million, over 14 million is for transfers 5 to the capital projects fund of \$10 million and 6 funding for capital outlay purchases, primarily 7 equipment, of \$4 million. 8 In order to balance the budget, the county 9 has used prior year fund balance of over 10 \$20 million to balance. And while this is a 11 big increase overall, you'll note that most of 12 this is going to capital items, capital 13 projects, capital outlay equipment that are 14 primarily one-time purchases. 15 The operating expenses of the county is 16 increasing by 3.86 percent. 17 The budget does include a one-cent 18 increase to the property tax rate above what is 19 allowed under the real property tax cap. This 20 one cent was authorized by voters of Talbot 21 County in November 2020.</p>	<p>1 Next slide, please. 2 I believe the budget is practical, 3 flexible, and visionary. 4 It's practical because there is only a 5 modest increase in the operational budget, as 6 Ms. Lane mentioned. And those are recurring 7 costs. 8 It's flexible because the investment in 9 capital projects requires a secondary effort by 10 County Council to pass enabling legislation, 11 which allows further scrutiny of individual 12 projects. And if something were to change mid 13 year, we have the ability to return those funds 14 back to the fund balance to address needs. 15 It's visionary because it signals 16 recovery. As you know, we are in the midst of 17 a pandemic. And although we are quite hopeful 18 that things will continue to get better, it 19 does signal that we are trying to recover and 20 invest in long overdue projects. It does also 21 position us in a good position for shovel-ready</p>
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<p>1 Public safety is a top priority in this 2 budget. 3 I'll now turn it over to Mr. Stamp. 4 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Angela. Appreciate 5 that. 6 So the overarching strategy with the 7 budget and the overarching management strategy 8 is to ensure optimal service to the community 9 while maintaining both transparency and 10 frugality. And it centers on three areas; 11 personnel, projects, and process. 12 We focus on the retention and the 13 recruitment of our workforce, recognizing that 14 they drive much of the successes that we see in 15 our ability to serve the public. 16 Secondary are projects. The budget 17 addresses a number of core projects that are 18 needed to be addressed. 19 And then finally, process. We'll be 20 evaluating all of our processes to make sure 21 that they're optimal in serving the public.</p>	<p>1 protects with the potential for federal 2 stimulus money moving forward. 3 Again, we believe it to be practical, 4 flexible, and visionary. 5 Next slide, please. 6 And finally, we are investing in what we 7 call the CIP, or capital improvement program. 8 We're addressing the core pillars that support, 9 we believe support our community, which is 10 public safety, and health, infrastructure, 11 environment, education, and economic stability. 12 So I'm going to go ahead and turn it back 13 to Ms. Lane, who will talk a little bit about 14 some of the funding that we'll be addressing. 15 Ms. Lane. Thank you. 16 MS. LANE: Thank you. This slide shows 17 budget highlights. 18 And again, I want to reiterate that while 19 this is a large increase in the overall budget, 20 our operating budget is going up by less than 21 four percent. So that is a very modest</p>

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<p>1 increase in operating expenses.</p> <p>2 And as I said earlier, public safety is a</p> <p>3 priority in this budget. So included in that</p> <p>4 area, we have funding for increased retirement</p> <p>5 expense associated with potentially joining the</p> <p>6 Law Enforcement Officers Pension System for the</p> <p>7 Sheriff's Office. This has been a priority of</p> <p>8 our sheriffs for many, many years and is</p> <p>9 necessary to retain qualified deputies in the</p> <p>10 Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>11 We also have salary scale adjustments for</p> <p>12 911 dispatchers, EMTs, paramedics, and</p> <p>13 correctional officers to address recruitment</p> <p>14 and retention issues with these personnel</p> <p>15 positions.</p> <p>16 We have added six new positions in this</p> <p>17 budget.</p> <p>18 Four additional positions are for</p> <p>19 12-hour-a-day emergency medical services unit.</p> <p>20 This unit was started with part-time staff and</p> <p>21 overtime in the current budget for less hours</p>	<p>1 service. Some of these will be funded with the</p> <p>2 cash, the \$10 million that we have</p> <p>3 appropriated, that this budget appropriates to</p> <p>4 the capital projects fund.</p> <p>5 Under county facilities, we're requesting</p> <p>6 \$2 million for land acquisition for future</p> <p>7 county sites. We know we have priorities set</p> <p>8 up for land for our public safety sector. We</p> <p>9 need to relocate the Sheriff's Office out of</p> <p>10 the Talbot County Business Center where they</p> <p>11 are currently located. We know we need to</p> <p>12 increase our response time or decrease our</p> <p>13 response of emergency medical services. So we</p> <p>14 need to look at station locations for that</p> <p>15 department also. So this is for future land</p> <p>16 acquisition.</p> <p>17 We have \$5 million in the budget for the</p> <p>18 Public Safety Center. This will house our</p> <p>19 Sheriff's Department and perhaps other public</p> <p>20 safety-related departments.</p> <p>21 We have court house roof replacement,</p>
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<p>1 and less days a week. We are now trying to</p> <p>2 provide the full-time staffing to allow it to</p> <p>3 operate 12 hours a day, seven days a week,</p> <p>4 which is necessary to provide coverage for the</p> <p>5 north end of the county.</p> <p>6 We also have added a legal assistant</p> <p>7 position for the Office of the State's Attorney</p> <p>8 and one administrative fiscal position for the</p> <p>9 Department of Public Works.</p> <p>10 The Talbot County Public Schools, which is</p> <p>11 a very large portion of our budget, is funded</p> <p>12 at \$532,000 more than the State-mandated</p> <p>13 Maintenance of Effort level, but it's the same</p> <p>14 level they were funded in the current fiscal</p> <p>15 year, fiscal 2021.</p> <p>16 And there is a step increase for all</p> <p>17 eligible full-time county employees.</p> <p>18 Since so much of our budget increase is</p> <p>19 for capital projects, I wanted to outline what</p> <p>20 capital projects are being proposed in this</p> <p>21 budget. Some of these will be funded with debt</p>	<p>1 which is a minor amount.</p> <p>2 The other two major projects under county</p> <p>3 facilities are our EMS stations. We have</p> <p>4 \$1.2 million, which would be phase one of the</p> <p>5 EMS station expansion. And this is primarily</p> <p>6 focused on expanding into the north section of</p> <p>7 the county where we do not currently have a</p> <p>8 station.</p> <p>9 We also have \$2.3 million identified for</p> <p>10 broadband expansion. And that is to work with</p> <p>11 Easton Utilities. This is actually to match a</p> <p>12 grant Easton Utilities received to provide</p> <p>13 broadband in the unserved areas of the county.</p> <p>14 These are areas where our resident's don't have</p> <p>15 an option through Atlantic Broadband or Easton</p> <p>16 Utilities or another viable broadband option.</p> <p>17 So we are working to get that service available</p> <p>18 to all our citizens.</p> <p>19 Under highways and streets, we have two</p> <p>20 road projects, Black Dog Alley and Airport</p> <p>21 Road. Both of those projects are really to</p>

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<p>1 address safety concerns and to upgrade the</p> <p>2 roads. And this is just upgrading a portion of</p> <p>3 those roads in this budget. The full road</p> <p>4 expansion and upgrade will cost more than what</p> <p>5 we have here, the \$2.7 million. And these will</p> <p>6 be projects phased in over a number of years.</p> <p>7 We have funding for the Frederick Douglass</p> <p>8 Park on the Tuckahoe and for a study for the</p> <p>9 Bill Burton Park.</p> <p>10 We also have included funding for the</p> <p>11 Easton High School roof replacement. This is</p> <p>12 for the first year of this roof replacement.</p> <p>13 It is a two-year project, but we have</p> <p>14 \$1.3 million in the current budget to replace a</p> <p>15 portion of that roof.</p> <p>16 We also are putting in terms of cash</p> <p>17 \$3.8 million into reserves in the capital</p> <p>18 projects fund for future projects. As I</p> <p>19 mentioned, a number of these are multiyear</p> <p>20 projects. So we will have cash available to</p> <p>21 fund those projects in the subsequent years.</p>	<p>1 www.talbotcountymd.gov. In addition, there's</p> <p>2 also copies of the ordinance, the budget</p> <p>3 workbook, and the two-page budget summary on</p> <p>4 the website under the Finance Office tab.</p> <p>5 And that concludes my presentation. Thank</p> <p>6 you.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Lane. I</p> <p>8 appreciate it.</p> <p>9 Mr. County Manager, do you need to say</p> <p>10 anything else?</p> <p>11 MR. STAMP: No, sir.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, guys.</p> <p>13 Appreciate it. You do a phenomenal job, the</p> <p>14 presentation, and we really appreciate it.</p> <p>15 Now we'll be opening the public hearing.</p> <p>16 We will now be opening the public hearing on</p> <p>17 Bill 1473. If you wish to provide comments on</p> <p>18 the bill, please provide your name. You will</p> <p>19 have three minutes to speak as an individual</p> <p>20 and five minutes to speak if you're</p> <p>21 representing an organization.</p>
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<p>1 Easton High School roof, right above it, being</p> <p>2 one of those major projects.</p> <p>3 So our capital budget for fiscal 2022 is</p> <p>4 almost \$18.9 million, which is well needed to</p> <p>5 address many of these needs that have been in</p> <p>6 our capital budget for a number of years. But</p> <p>7 as Mr. Stamp had said earlier, if something</p> <p>8 were to happen, we can transfer funds that have</p> <p>9 not been allocated to any of these projects</p> <p>10 back into the general fund if that is necessary</p> <p>11 in the future.</p> <p>12 The proposed budget, Bill Number 1473, is</p> <p>13 eligible for vote on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.</p> <p>14 Written comments will be accepted by the County</p> <p>15 Council until Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at noon.</p> <p>16 So there is an e-mail address that you can send</p> <p>17 your comments to or they can be mailed or hand</p> <p>18 delivered to the County Council office at 11</p> <p>19 North Washington Street.</p> <p>20 And information on Bill Number 1473 may be</p> <p>21 found at the county website at</p>	<p>1 Mr. Durham, do we have any callers or</p> <p>2 participants that would wish to speak on the</p> <p>3 Bill 1473?</p> <p>4 MR. DURHAM: We do. Our first caller is</p> <p>5 Santo Grande.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>7 MR. DURHAM: Please begin.</p> <p>8 MR. GRANDE: Good afternoon, everybody.</p> <p>9 Thank you for inviting us to come before you.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, Santo, it's Chuck.</p> <p>11 Could you turn your volume up a little bit if</p> <p>12 you can?</p> <p>13 MR. GRANDE: Is that any better?</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Not much. Just keep going.</p> <p>15 MR. GRANDE: Okay. Again, thank you very</p> <p>16 much for allowing us to --</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: That's better. That's</p> <p>18 better. Great.</p> <p>19 MR. GRANDE: Okay. Great.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm assuming your</p> <p>21 right-hand man did that. You know what I mean?</p>

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1 MR. GRANDE: He's Mr. Fix It.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you.
 3 MR. GRANDE: We call him Mr. Fix It around
 4 here.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go, there you go.
 6 You know, he's lurking somewhere. I can't see
 7 him, but he's around.
 8 MR. GRANDE: He's not smiling. Believe
 9 me.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: I sense he's here.
 11 MR. GRANDE: That's right.
 12 We'd like to thank you very much for
 13 looking at our budget proposal that came before
 14 you this spring.
 15 And our original request was 245,805. And
 16 we realized that we were asking for some of
 17 those newer vehicles to help start the mobility
 18 on demand, and it may have had a little bit
 19 excessive cost in there. So it was decreased
 20 by 40,000 for DCS, to pick up 40,000 of that
 21 request.

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1 And we are asking if you would reconsider
 2 as an additional 20,000. So our share would be
 3 20,000 towards the purchase of these vehicles.
 4 And the county, we would request you all to be
 5 up to \$225,000.
 6 So again, we're just bringing that request
 7 to you. We know you have a lot in front of
 8 you, you have a lot to deal with.
 9 But we really want to get our mobility
 10 services improved in your county. We think the
 11 demand is there. We know that the population
 12 is there, especially as the senior citizen
 13 population grows in Talbot County. We'd like
 14 to be a part of that. We'd like to be a
 15 positive part to that because a lot of times
 16 transportation is the billy goat and having a
 17 hard time. So we don't want to be that.
 18 We want to be able to do the services that
 19 need to be done and do it appropriately,
 20 correctly, and safely.
 21 So if there's any opportunity to increase

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1 us by that additional \$20,000. And again, DCS
 2 will come in with the matching \$20,000 to bring
 3 it back up to what was needed and requested.
 4 And we would just wish that you would consider
 5 that. And we understand that you have a lot of
 6 pressure on you all, and we just thought we
 7 would come before you and bring you up to date
 8 on our position. Thank you.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: I appreciate that.
 10 Council, does Council want to say
 11 anything?
 12 MS. PRICE: We don't usually comment
 13 during public testimony. We just are here to
 14 listen right now.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. That
 16 sounds good.
 17 Well, Andy, would you like to say
 18 anything? Are you good?
 19 MR. HOLLIS: I just want to point out, and
 20 you already know, but the public should be
 21 thanking Ms. Lane for almost two decades of

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1 work on putting budgets together and stepping
 2 down after this final run.
 3 And I just want to thank her myself. I
 4 know how valuable she is and how much hard work
 5 she puts into it.
 6 So thank you, Angela.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Hollis.
 8 Thank you, guys.
 9 Well, we're going to take this in
 10 consideration. And I appreciate your
 11 presentation, and I can't thank you guys enough
 12 for all the work you're doing and stepping up
 13 to the plate. And when you come to us and did
 14 the presentation of those new vehicles and
 15 stuff, I thought that was brilliant. And we're
 16 going to try to do everything we can to support
 17 you guys. That's for sure.
 18 MR. GRANDE: Thank you very much. Thank
 19 you.
 20 MR. HOLLIS: Thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys.

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1 MR. GRANDE: Bye.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Durham, is there

3 anybody else online that would like to speak?

4 MR. DURHAM: We do have the Sheriff's

5 Office online for comment.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

7 SHERIFF GAMBLE: All right. Council,

8 Sheriff Gamble. I just wanted to thank you,

9 Mr. Stamp, as well Angela for your commitment

10 to public safety and specifically the Sheriff's

11 Office in this budget.

12 I know these are difficult decisions and

13 costly decisions. And I just wanted to just

14 for a minute just to thank you publicly, each

15 one of you, for being a supporter of law

16 enforcement, public safety, and this office in

17 this budget.

18 Thank you all very much for your support.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Sheriff Gamble.

20 We can't thank you guys enough for protecting

21 us.

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1 And this Council has your back, as you can

2 see. And we're supporting a lot of things in

3 the future to keep you guys here. And we want

4 you to stay here. We want all the employees to

5 be happy. And they need to feel that we

6 support them, and we do.

7 SHERIFF GAMBLE: This competitive

8 retirement program will make us competitive on

9 specifically the Eastern Shore, which I know

10 that's going to help make great strides in our

11 retention efforts. So thank you.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm happy to support it.

13 And that's what we should be doing.

14 So thanks a lot. Appreciate it. Thanks

15 for all you do.

16 MR. DURHAM: We also have the public

17 school system on.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

19 DR. GRIFFITH: I believe that's me. Good

20 evening, President Callahan, Council members,

21 County Manager Stamp, and staff. This is Kelly

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1 Griffith, superintendent of the Talbot County

2 Public Schools and proud mom of three

3 graduates, who I can say are all gainfully

4 employed and out of my house. So that's a good

5 thing.

6 I would like to begin by thanking you, the

7 Talbot County Council, for your unwavering

8 support through this pandemic. The

9 collaborative spirit in building the new Easton

10 Elementary School campus, which is amazing, and

11 your continued support through these identified

12 capital projects moving forward. So thank you

13 so much for that.

14 This year, the COVID-19 pandemic created

15 many challenges, as you know, in the delivery

16 of public education. However, it also

17 highlighted the foresight that Talbot County

18 has had over the years by creating a one-to-one

19 technology environment, which certainly helped

20 during these transitions.

21 It also highlighted the importance of

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1 in-person learning and the potential of virtual

2 learning in the future, which we are going to

3 learn from our teachers and our students of how

4 to offer education in the future.

5 While in-person learning is the

6 overarching goal, it's abundantly clear that we

7 need to continue to also provide some virtual

8 learning opportunities for some students, which

9 calls for some changes in staffing and in

10 instruction.

11 There were some students who struggled

12 this year, but some students thrived for many

13 different reasons, ranging from social

14 emotional issues, family needs and

15 accommodations, or medical reasons.

16 In addition to serving these students,

17 we're looking forward to building upon this

18 year's experiences and creating new innovative

19 and unique opportunities. We must be forward

20 thinking in Talbot County and education.

21 Overall, I want you to know that Talbot

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 County Public Schools had more staff and 2 students in person than most county school 3 districts in the State of Maryland. We are 4 certainly proud that our teachers have come to 5 work in person, our students have come in our 6 buildings, and we are also very proud of our 7 community support in making this happen because 8 it really does come with community support. 9 Talbot County Public Schools spent the 10 past five years implementing the Vision 2020 11 Vision Strategic Plan. And we have realized 12 many accomplishments through this plan. 13 The class of 2020 had the highest 14 graduation rate overall, as well as each 15 individual group, whether it was race, special 16 ed, or free and reduced meals, we have closed 17 the gap in each of those student group areas. 18 And we've also been able to decrease our 19 dropout rate. It's the lowest dropout rate 20 we've seen in Talbot County Public Schools. 21 We've been able to establish an education</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 A goal without a plan is just a wish. We 2 have a goal, we have a plan, and we will commit 3 to working the plan to garner what our children 4 deserve, which is our very best. 5 While we are proud of many accomplishments 6 this year in and out of the classroom, the TCPS 7 team is committed to helping each child realize 8 their full potential, which does come at a 9 price, an investment for all 4,600 children 10 that we serve. 11 As you know, it takes a village to educate 12 a child, and Talbot County is an amazing 13 village. 14 Talbot County Public Schools blessed with 15 over 1,000 community partners who help us do 16 this work every day. I can tell you our 17 current budget request would have been much 18 high without these committed partners, as 19 they've continued to supplement our budget to 20 meet many of our needs throughout the school 21 year.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 foundation to support our students through 2 scholarships and teachers through innovative 3 experiences with their students. 4 We have made tremendous growth in our 5 expansion of our grow our own program by 6 getting some of our employees certified to 7 become teachers and really supporting our 8 students into going into the teaching 9 profession. 10 We have begun the task of revising most of 11 our curriculum. Social studies is this coming 12 year. 13 And this Board of Education has now been 14 planning and budgeting for a new Strive for 15 2025 Strategic Plan, which really is going to 16 encompass four areas; early childhood learning 17 readiness for success, social emotional support 18 services, equitable access to academics and 19 support for success, and the recruitment and 20 retention of a diverse staff. We feel very 21 important in those endeavors.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 While we originally requested 3.5 million 2 more than this current year, when creating the 3 budget in the fall, not knowing where this 4 pandemic was going, we were able to use some 5 cost savings and grants and cut back that 6 request by \$2 million. 7 Now what we're asking is for you to 8 reconsider an allocation of 1 million above 9 this year's budget so that additional money 10 could be used to pay for an additional special 11 education teacher, an additional language 12 learner teacher because we are getting several 13 unaccompanied minors coming to the area, one 14 certified nursing assistant teacher because 15 that's a new program, the CNA program so we can 16 work with Chesapeake College to growing our 17 nursing program, and three all day pre-k 18 teachers so we can offer all day pre-k at every 19 school, a cost of living increase for our staff 20 and step, and a slight overall health insurance 21 increase. Overall, it's approximately a</p>

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<p>1 three percent increase over last year.</p> <p>2 The public has spoken through budget</p> <p>3 surveys indicating their top four priorities;</p> <p>4 offer competitive salaries and benefits,</p> <p>5 maintain lower class size, update curriculum,</p> <p>6 and increase security measures.</p> <p>7 We have certainly increased those security</p> <p>8 measures with a lot of the grants. We have not</p> <p>9 used a lot of local money to do that.</p> <p>10 And we've also been able to update our</p> <p>11 curriculum and a lot of cost savings measures.</p> <p>12 While I continue to express the need for</p> <p>13 full funding, I just want you to know that I am</p> <p>14 always grateful to the Talbot County Council</p> <p>15 for listening to the needs of the school system</p> <p>16 in moving us forward toward a world class</p> <p>17 educational system which will ultimately allow</p> <p>18 our community to thrive economically through an</p> <p>19 educated work force.</p> <p>20 Although it can be argued that public</p> <p>21 school systems are a cost to the public, such</p>	<p>1 look forward to working with you in the future.</p> <p>2 Thank you.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Kelly. I really</p> <p>4 appreciate all that great -- everything you</p> <p>5 guys do as far as the school is concerned, we</p> <p>6 appreciate it, too.</p> <p>7 And the word investing is a great word</p> <p>8 because the first thing that come to my mind is</p> <p>9 a lot of us are from Talbot County and we're</p> <p>10 investing. I went to that school, Ms. Price</p> <p>11 went to that school, Mr. Divilio went to that</p> <p>12 school. So we're all invested in that school,</p> <p>13 all of us.</p> <p>14 So it can show you that some people can do</p> <p>15 things right, you know. And you guys are doing</p> <p>16 things right. And we're going to do the best</p> <p>17 we can to try to help you guys out.</p> <p>18 And I know it's been a tough year and</p> <p>19 stuff like that for you. So I don't even have</p> <p>20 to get into all that.</p> <p>21 DR. GRIFFITH: Thank you so much. I</p>
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<p>1 expenses should more properly be thought of as</p> <p>2 an investment. Please see your return on</p> <p>3 investment of the 2020 Vision Plan with the</p> <p>4 handout that was provided and sent to you</p> <p>5 letting you know all of the successes we have</p> <p>6 had over the past five years. Thank you for</p> <p>7 investing in Talbot County Public Schools and</p> <p>8 working with us to go from good to better to</p> <p>9 best while working the plan.</p> <p>10 And in closing, learning is not attained</p> <p>11 by chance. It must be sought for with ardor</p> <p>12 and attended with diligence. This champion for</p> <p>13 ardor and diligence was Abigail Adams in 1780,</p> <p>14 the beloved wife of the second president, John</p> <p>15 Adams. She was a champion of education.</p> <p>16 I am here tonight to be the champion of</p> <p>17 our school district. And to really help us</p> <p>18 move forward, we need your help.</p> <p>19 I appreciate you in allowing this forum to</p> <p>20 all those who wish to share. Thank you so much</p> <p>21 for your collaboration, your support, and I</p>	<p>1 really appreciate it. Thank you and thank you</p> <p>2 for your time tonight. Thank you.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. See you</p> <p>4 tonight.</p> <p>5 MR. DURHAM: Our next requested speaker is</p> <p>6 computer user Newman.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Newman?</p> <p>8 MR. DURHAM: I've made them a presenter.</p> <p>9 They can unmute their computer.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>11 MS. NEWMAN: This is Dana Newman from the</p> <p>12 library. Can you hear me?</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, Dana. How are you?</p> <p>14 MS. NEWMAN: I'm good. How are you,</p> <p>15 Mr. Callahan?</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Good, good.</p> <p>17 MS. NEWMAN: Good. I just have a few</p> <p>18 comments that I wanted to make.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.</p> <p>20 MS. NEWMAN: I think everybody knows that</p> <p>21 the library is celebrating its 95th</p>

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1 anniversary. And we have provided critical
 2 educational resources and served as a community
 3 center essential to the intellectual needs and
 4 personal growth of county residents.
 5 The staff this year have worked diligently
 6 to keep our community engaged, healthy, and to
 7 offer them valuable information and resources
 8 during the pandemic.
 9 Our efforts significantly provided
 10 resources such as programming assistance in
 11 finding food resources and employment, filling
 12 out unemployment claims, finding health care
 13 information, registering people for the
 14 COVID-19 vaccine, and enabling students to do
 15 their schoolwork and young child to attend age
 16 appropriate programs while they were isolated
 17 at home.
 18 The library would like to thank the County
 19 Council for their hard work on the fiscal year
 20 2022 budget. In particular, I would like to
 21 emphasize thank you to Angela for the years of

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1 service that she's given the county. She's
 2 certainly given me over the last five years a
 3 lot of assistance. So I do want to personally
 4 thank her.
 5 We want to thank you for including most of
 6 the library's supplemental request, which
 7 recognized the vital role our staff play in
 8 helping our patrons to grow and learn, that
 9 include funding for continuing to provide WiFi
 10 hot spots for checkout for those people who
 11 don't have a good connection to the Internet
 12 and to help us to revitalize our book
 13 collection and offer library materials that
 14 meet the diverse needs of the community.
 15 The library is proud of everyone in the
 16 community, including the Council and county
 17 staff who have assisted residents during this
 18 critical time. And we look forward to
 19 continuing to do our part to help in recovery
 20 efforts.
 21 So I just wanted to make sure that you

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1 were aware of how much we deeply appreciate all
 2 of your efforts over the last year. So thank
 3 you.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Dana. We
 5 appreciate you guys, too. And we're doing our
 6 best to try to support you guys.
 7 MS. NEWMAN: Thank you.
 8 MR. DURHAM: Our next is a phone caller,
 9 410-490.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Caller, could you please
 11 let us know your name please and where you're
 12 from?
 13 MS. CARTER: Yes. Can you hear me okay?
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. If you can turn it
 15 up just a little bit, that would be great.
 16 MS. CARTER: Okay. My name is Brittney
 17 Carter, and I am a Trappe resident.
 18 My daughter attends White Marsh Elementary
 19 School. And I am calling to support the
 20 full-day pre-k program as asked for in budget.
 21 I just wanted to give my support for the school

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1 as well as the program.
 2 It has been an excellent program for my
 3 child as well as several others that I know in
 4 the program. She has expanded greatly in her
 5 social skills, her ability to learn letters,
 6 numbers, math. She's fully writing her name
 7 now, first and last, at five years old. She's
 8 learning beginning sounds. (Inaudible)
 9 excellent going to her ending sounds.
 10 The teachers and staff have just been
 11 wonderful. Getting the kids back in school has
 12 just been amazing.
 13 So I to just wanted to offer my support to
 14 Talbot County Public Schools and the funding
 15 for the full-day pre-k program.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I really appreciate
 17 you calling. And that's a great story. And
 18 we'll do our best. Thank you, caller.
 19 MS. CARTER: Thank you.
 20 MR. PACK: Mr. Durham.
 21 MR. DURHAM: Our next is a computer user,

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1 Foxwell.
 2 I've made you panelist. You can unmute
 3 and present.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: The last name is Foxwell?
 5 MR. DURHAM: That's correct.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 7 MS. FOXWELL: Hi. How are you guys?
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Foxwell, could you turn
 9 your volume up a little bit if you can?
 10 MS. FOXWELL: Yes. Is that better?
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. That's a little bit
 12 better, yeah. Thank you.
 13 MS. FOXWELL: All right. Hi. My name is
 14 Leah Foxwell. I'm the mother of two elementary
 15 school students at White Marsh Elementary. And
 16 Ms. Sidel asked me to make a quick statement
 17 regarding the all day pre-k program as
 18 mentioned by Ms. Griffith as well in her budget
 19 plan.
 20 My daughter, Layla Foxwell, currently
 21 attends the White Marsh Elementary School

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1 preschool program. And the all day program has
 2 been greatly beneficial for Layla. She's a
 3 very shy and very shy child and was diagnosed
 4 at three years old with selective mutism. And
 5 since starting an all day program, her
 6 vocabulary and confidence has skyrocketed.
 7 She's now very social and willing to speak
 8 to everyone. She's on track with her learning
 9 and developmental quotas where she's supposed
 10 to be.
 11 The all day program has also helped --
 12 will also help prepare her for what the rest of
 13 her school career will be.
 14 And although there is an -- and although
 15 she is there for the full day, she's allowed
 16 what she calls brain breaks. And this provides
 17 the children with the rest that their young
 18 minds need while having them at school for the
 19 full day, which in my opinion enables them to
 20 gain confidence and comfort with being away
 21 from home in a classroom setting at an early

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1 age. I think that this will make their
 2 transition into kindergarten much smoother.
 3 It also helps with her socialization with
 4 other children her age, which she does really
 5 need, especially after this year-long pandemic
 6 that we've all been suffering through. And I
 7 just honestly believe that now more than ever,
 8 it's important for young children to have this
 9 all day program to give them access to the
 10 interaction, the education, the structure that
 11 they all greatly need and deserve right now,
 12 especially in these isolating times that we're
 13 in.
 14 So I just wanted to offer my support for
 15 the preschool program.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, Ms. Foxwell.
 17 Appreciate you taking the time to call in. And
 18 we'll do our best to try to support some of
 19 your causes. Okay?
 20 MS. FOXWELL: Thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: You're welcome.

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1 Mr. Durham.
 2 MR. DURHAM: We do not have anyone else
 3 indicating they want to speak.
 4 If you do want to speak on the phone,
 5 please asterisk three to indicate. And on the
 6 computer, press the raise hand button.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. So if
 8 somebody pops on, just let me know. Okay?
 9 MR. DURHAM: Sure.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: So written comments will be
 11 accepted by the County Council until May 5th at
 12 noon. E-mail comments will be sent to
 13 publiccomments@talbotcountymd.gov.
 14 The public hearing on Bill 1473 is...
 15 MS. MORRIS: Recessed.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. I'm sorry. Recessed
 17 until this evening at seven o'clock.
 18 MS. MORRIS: Yup.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So we don't have to
 20 do public comments or anything right now.
 21 MS. MORRIS: President Callahan, yes. You

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<p>1 can go ahead and continue with public comments 2 and Council comments if you wish. And then at 3 the conclusion, we will recess this meeting and 4 reconvene this evening at seven p.m. 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's good. 6 So Mr. Durham, do we have any public -- 7 we'll start with public comments. Do we have 8 anybody online? 9 MR. DURHAM: The only two people that have 10 their hands up I believe have already spoken. 11 That would be a Foxwell and Newman. If either 12 one of you with to speak again, if you can just 13 press a raised button to make it flash one 14 time, I'll let you speak again. 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's cool. That's 16 good. Okay. 17 So I guess I'll move on to Council 18 comments. Mr. Vice President, do you have 19 anything for us? 20 MR. LESHER: I have nothing further. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.</p>	<p>1 And all the staff that has worked on this 2 and all the hard work that the staff has done, 3 I can't thank you enough. 4 So I want to leave -- this is a big deal. 5 We've got a county manager that has a birthday 6 today, and I want to wish him a happy birthday. 7 Okay. Because we're not going to forget. 8 MR. STAMP: -- do that, sir. 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, tell you what. We 10 appreciate all you do. And sometimes it's a 11 little tough. We're in the trenches right now. 12 You know what I mean? And we're going to make 13 things more positive, more better around here 14 as a county. And the citizens are going to be 15 proud of us. 16 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council, for your 17 support. 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Really appreciate all your 19 hard work and you coming with us taking over 20 the leadership of this. 21 MR. STAMP: Thank you, sir.</p>
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<p>1 Mr. Pack. 2 MR. PACK: Yes, Mr. Callahan. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Any Council comments? You 4 good? 5 MR. PACK: I'll wait until this evening. 6 MR. LESHER: Okay. No problem. I 7 appreciate it. 8 Mr. Divilio. 9 MR. DIVILIO: No. Thank you. 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. 11 And Ms. Price. 12 MS. PRICE: I'm good right now. Thank 13 you. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yeah. I appreciate 15 all the hard work, Council, getting to this 16 point with the budget. 17 And Angela, if you're listening, I really 18 appreciate all the hard work that you've done 19 over the years. And as we've all said it 20 before, I'm really sorry to lose you. That's 21 for sure.</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So right now, 2 Council, like Ms. Morris said, we're going to 3 go into recess right now, right? Ms. Morris. 4 MS. MORRIS: Yes. Mr. Callahan, yup. 5 MR. CALLAHAN: We're going to recess until 6 seven o'clock. And that's it. 7 Thank you, Council. See you in a little 8 bit. 9 (Meeting concluded at: 2:47 p.m.) 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 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 7th
 21 day of May, 2021, via Webex.



 Diane Houlihan
 Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2021

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