



Deposition of:
Talbot County Council Meeting
September 14, 2021

In the Matter of:
Talbot County Council Meeting

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

September 14, 2021; 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Frank Divilio

Corey W. Pack

Laura E. Price

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, good evening,</p> <p>4 everybody. Appreciate everybody being here.</p> <p>5 We got a packed crowd here. Glad you guys</p> <p>6 are here tonight. We got a lot to do tonight</p> <p>7 and a lot of exciting things that are planned</p> <p>8 tonight.</p> <p>9 So let's get started with standing, and</p> <p>10 we're going to hear the prayer from</p> <p>11 Mr. Divilio. Then we're going to follow that</p> <p>12 by the Pledge of Allegiance of the flag.</p> <p>13 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Divilio, for</p> <p>15 that kind prayer. It's great. Good job on</p> <p>16 that. Okay.</p> <p>17 Let's start off with the agenda here.</p> <p>18 Council has an agenda of September 14th before</p> <p>19 us. Are there any additions, deletions, or</p> <p>20 corrections to the agenda? Hearing none, the</p> <p>21 chair moves that the agenda be accepted by</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, I think so. So</p> <p>2 everybody can hear.</p> <p>3 MR. EDWARDS: The Roads Department has</p> <p>4 been working on a Repurposing Center for a</p> <p>5 little over four years. We started out just</p> <p>6 doing it for ourselves. We've gotten to where</p> <p>7 we're producing over 18, 20 different types of</p> <p>8 materials, from topsoil to mulch to compost to</p> <p>9 bio-retention to recycled compost, recycled</p> <p>10 asphalt, several grades of stone and dust.</p> <p>11 We've had two pilot programs that have</p> <p>12 both been very successful.</p> <p>13 We currently are completely out of</p> <p>14 material from our last pilot program. And we</p> <p>15 have, I think you have in front of you what we</p> <p>16 propose as far as materials that are there now</p> <p>17 to be recycled.</p> <p>18 Obviously, some of it is immediate, some</p> <p>19 of it would take three to six months.</p> <p>20 Depending on whether, up to nine months. Like</p> <p>21 bio-retention materials, mulches, compost,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 unanimous consent. Sorry about that.</p> <p>2 Disbursements for August 31st,</p> <p>3 September 7th, and September 14th. Council has</p> <p>4 had a chance to review the disbursements of the</p> <p>5 31st, the 7th, and the 14th. Are there any</p> <p>6 additions, deletions, or corrections on the</p> <p>7 disbursements? Hearing none, the chair moves</p> <p>8 that the disbursements be accepted by unanimous</p> <p>9 consent. Okay.</p> <p>10 So our first thing tonight is the</p> <p>11 discussion of the county Repurposing Center.</p> <p>12 So Warren, if you want to come on up. And</p> <p>13 Joye, you want to come on up. And tell the</p> <p>14 public what you've been working on. Yup.</p> <p>15 MR. EDWARDS: Good evening.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>17 MR. EDWARDS: So the Roads Department has</p> <p>18 been working --</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: If you can put that mike a</p> <p>20 little closer to you, that would be great.</p> <p>21 MR. EDWARDS: Is that better?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 topsoil, etc. Because they have multiple times</p> <p>2 of flipping in different piles and where it</p> <p>3 gets segregated and separated and that kind of</p> <p>4 thing.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.</p> <p>6 MR. EDWARDS: But there's a large volume</p> <p>7 of concrete there ready to process, along with</p> <p>8 asphalt. Thousands of tons of trees.</p> <p>9 We're expecting from the airport, I'm not</p> <p>10 sure if it's the brown areas but I believe it</p> <p>11 is, but we're expecting over ten acres of wood</p> <p>12 logs and material to come in there from this</p> <p>13 second phase, I think second and third phase.</p> <p>14 We already accepted in the first phase. And</p> <p>15 along with what we have there now, that's a big</p> <p>16 deal.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Okay. All right.</p> <p>18 MR. EDWARDS: I guess I'll let Joye go</p> <p>19 over the budget part that where we were and</p> <p>20 what we're at now.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: That would be great.</p>

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1 MS. NAGLE: So thank you.
 2 MR. STAMP: Pull that closer to you.
 3 MS. NAGLE: Sure.
 4 MR. STAMP: Thank you.
 5 MS. NAGLE: Is that better?
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good.
 7 MS. NAGLE: Excellent. The issue that we
 8 want to discuss tonight is that when we
 9 prepared the original budget for the project,
 10 we projected costs for the fiscal year of
 11 \$750,000.
 12 After reviewing the costs, determining the
 13 equipment that was necessary to get this
 14 project up and running, we've determined that
 15 we have options to lease and to purchase some
 16 equipment.
 17 And as a result, the budget that is
 18 required to get the project up and running for
 19 the year is \$1,026,000. So it requires an
 20 additional \$226,000 to fund the project for the
 21 current year.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Go ahead, Mr. Stamp.
 2 MR. STAMP: Council, what I would say is
 3 yes, Warren has been working on this project
 4 for a long time, as you know. Council has
 5 supported him moving forward.
 6 Joye has done a wonderful job coming in
 7 and doing analysis of projected revenue versus
 8 expenditures.
 9 It appears at this point in time, we're
 10 going to need addition funds, that Joye
 11 mentioned, to get it up and running. We will
 12 initially rent some equipment to begin
 13 processing materials, while we come back to
 14 Council for enabling legislation to enter a
 15 long-term lease for the appropriate equipment
 16 and purchase of other equipment to move
 17 forward, all while working on some headwinds
 18 with regard to permanent uses of the property.
 19 But we are following a plan that has been
 20 vetted with you on the Council.
 21 And tonight the request is for the loan of

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1 that figure, which was again.
 2 MS. NAGLE: \$226,000.
 3 MR. STAMP: \$226,000 from the general
 4 fund --
 5 MR. PACK: (Inaudible.)
 6 MS. NAGLE: I'm sorry. 276.
 7 MR. PACK: 276 (inaudible).
 8 MS. NAGLE: Thank you. Thank you, Corey.
 9 MR. STAMP: From the general fund to the
 10 enterprise fund that Council did establish,
 11 which will be baked into the projected revenue
 12 for pay back to the general fund.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds great.
 14 Warren, could you, just for the people
 15 that are just tuning in and not realizing and
 16 hearing this for the first time, can you sort
 17 of do a quick tell them what we're using, we're
 18 selling it, and we're using it ourself, and
 19 that's one of the main reasons that we're
 20 trying to make our own product for the county
 21 to save money.

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1 MR. EDWARDS: Yes, absolutely. So the
 2 Roads Department over the last five years has
 3 taken on a lot of in-house projects that had
 4 just been unheard of, to be quite frank.
 5 And we've done widening on Goldsborough
 6 Neck is a good example. We've done some major
 7 paving projects in the county. We've used the
 8 recycled concrete. We've used thousands of ton
 9 of that that we recycled ourselves, not to
 10 mention we sold back everything for the parking
 11 lots that were done for the new schools. That
 12 was all recycled material from the schools, and
 13 then we sold the material back to them to build
 14 the parking lots. That kind of idea.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 16 MR. EDWARDS: We changed our ditching
 17 process because we're doing a lot of retrofit
 18 ditch work as well. So we take the topsoil off
 19 before we do the actual ditching so that we're
 20 able to salvage the good material.
 21 So it's a process. But it's gone very

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1 well. And we have currently just under 100
 2 contractors that are signed up that use the
 3 facility to bring in material and will
 4 eventually buy material.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great. Okay. I
 6 appreciate that, guys.
 7 So at this time, I'm going to open it to
 8 the floor for discussion. So Mr. Pack.
 9 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Callahan.
 10 My question, Mr. Callahan, is actually
 11 directed towards Mr. Salinas, Miguel, regarding
 12 the temporary use certificate. I'm fine with
 13 Joye's report regarding the fund shortage of
 14 276,152.
 15 But I want to be clear that the temporary
 16 use certificate will be extended for the
 17 project going forward. And how does that
 18 mechanically work?
 19 MR. SALINAS: Sure. It will be extended.
 20 Currently they're operating under two
 21 temporary use permits. As long as they're

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1 still going through the exploratory phase on
 2 the repurposing facility property, those
 3 permits will remain in effect.
 4 I have the ability as the planning officer
 5 to permit extensions of those use permits. So
 6 Mr. Edwards would just have to request those
 7 extensions at the appropriate times.
 8 MR. PACK: The current use, Warren, when
 9 does the current temporary use certificate
 10 expire?
 11 MR. EDWARDS: We just renewed it about a
 12 week ago.
 13 MR. PACK: So it has been renewed.
 14 MR. SALINAS: There's two. One is for the
 15 concrete asphalt. That expires in February of
 16 next year.
 17 And then the other one is for the woody
 18 debris.
 19 MR. EDWARDS: Yes.
 20 MR. SALINAS: And that expires I want to
 21 say late October, early November. I can't

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1 remember the exact date.
 2 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah. One is a year and one
 3 is --
 4 MR. SALINAS: Ninety days, right.
 5 MR. EDWARDS: Ninety days. That's
 6 correct.
 7 If you could, Mr. Pack, just to clarify
 8 something for the Council as well. I reached
 9 out today to Miguel and wanted to make sure
 10 that with us acting under a temporary permit,
 11 we can still put in the scales, we can have a
 12 temporary storage building there. Because if
 13 we put the well in for fire suppression, we
 14 have to have somewhere to put the pump so it's
 15 insulated and heated through the winter. So
 16 we're allowed to do that as well.
 17 And we're also allowed to do the electric
 18 and lighting and all the things that make it a
 19 safe facility.
 20 MR. PACK: Will that have to be specified
 21 in that permit, Mr. Salinas?

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1 MR. SALINAS: Yeah. I'll have to amend.
 2 I've asked Warren to just submit an amended
 3 site plan and request formally.
 4 And I just mentioned the use permits. The
 5 use permits are for the processing and resale
 6 of those products. And clearly that cannot
 7 happen without the use of scales and obviously
 8 electricity. And the well and the equipment
 9 for the well are needed for fire suppression,
 10 obviously a life safety issue.
 11 MR. PACK: So we're going to see that plan
 12 revised and over to Planning and Zoning?
 13 MR. EDWARDS: Yes.
 14 MR. PACK: Okay. That's all I had,
 15 Mr. Callahan.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 17 Ms. Price.
 18 MS. PRICE: Numbers question. On the
 19 third page, we have some comparatives between
 20 the Roads Department calculation and the pilot
 21 study that was done by Davis, Bowen & Friedel

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1 in February of this year. And there is quite a
 2 difference in those numbers. The pilot study
 3 is a lot more in those calculations.
 4 Could you tell me what accounts for much
 5 lower numbers in our revised budget numbers?
 6 MS. NAGLE: So you're asking...
 7 MS. PRICE: Just for an example, I'll just
 8 use one. Revenues, fiscal year 2022, provided
 9 budget 450,000, pilot study is 900 and some odd
 10 thousand. So that is half.
 11 MS. NAGLE: Correct. So the revenue
 12 budgets that we're presenting are
 13 recalculations by Warren and his group using
 14 the materials that he has on hand at this
 15 point.
 16 MS. PRICE: So what did Davis, Bowen &
 17 Friedel use that made their number so much
 18 larger?
 19 MR. EDWARDS: So the numbers they used,
 20 Ms. Price. The numbers they used were numbers
 21 based on the materials that were coming in

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1 daily from the school. We had days where we
 2 had 400 loads or more, 400 truck loads a day.
 3 And that's where they based their numbers.
 4 And the other thing was we had equipment
 5 there to recycle all these materials. So I
 6 tried to go back, because we've been -- we were
 7 shut down for a month and then we were shut
 8 down for a month for COVID. So we lost two
 9 months out of this year's from January.
 10 And then we don't have any equipment to
 11 recycle what's there.
 12 MS. PRICE: So how could they make their
 13 calculations based on the school when we know
 14 that that's a finite period of time and they
 15 projected out assuming they were going --
 16 MR. EDWARDS: They were projected -- so I
 17 didn't do the math for them. So I'm just
 18 guessing, an educated guess.
 19 MS. PRICE: We paid them money for this?
 20 MR. EDWARDS: I can't hear you.
 21 MS. PRICE: We paid them money for this

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1 when they --
 2 MR. EDWARDS: Well, yeah. I didn't do it.
 3 They did.
 4 But what I'm trying to tell you is they
 5 also used a daily factor based on what that
 6 piece of equipment, what each piece of
 7 equipment out there would do if it was running
 8 that material.
 9 So at that time when they did it, we only
 10 had ten or 11 materials that we were trying to
 11 process. We were learning the process as we
 12 were doing it.
 13 I think my number is very low, the 450.
 14 But I wanted to be realistic.
 15 MS. PRICE: Yeah. I'm just troubled by
 16 the difference.
 17 MR. EDWARDS: Everything that we did, I
 18 went back this time and I was realistic and
 19 then I cut it, because I want to make sure that
 20 I can do what I'm saying I'm going to do
 21 because the county and the taxpayers are

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1 putting a lot out there to allow us to do this.
 2 And I want to come forward and I want to make
 3 it happen and I want to make it work.
 4 MS. PRICE: I appreciate that. And I
 5 appreciate you being more conservative.
 6 Did we make any decision to continue to
 7 move forward on what we've continued to move
 8 forward with based on their inflated numbers
 9 because we want to make sure we're working with
 10 real data?
 11 I mean we probably would have been better
 12 off just using your number all along.
 13 It's just a big discrepancy in numbers and
 14 I was just curious.
 15 MR. EDWARDS: No. I agree, there is.
 16 MS. PRICE: Thank you.
 17 MS. NAGLE: So there are differences in
 18 the revenues as well as the costs.
 19 So if you look at the costs going forward,
 20 the pilot study costs are lower than the
 21 revised budget. And the reason that the costs

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1 are lower is because of the fact that the
 2 equipment that we need to buy, the pilot study
 3 spread those costs over a 20-year period.
 4 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah.
 5 MS. PRICE: Right, which was too long.
 6 MS. NAGLE: Right. And so in our revised
 7 budget, we spread is over five years, which
 8 would be the period of time we would be leasing
 9 or paying back for the purchase of those, the
 10 equipment, the borrowings.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: You good, Ms. Price?
 12 MS. PRICE: Yeah. I just don't think that
 13 they used the right numbers at all. They
 14 used -- they (inaudible) 20 years. We should
 15 have said no, no, no, 20 years is far too long.
 16 Just disappointed in those numbers. Thank
 17 you.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Divilio.
 19 MR. DIVILIO: So this is a unique project
 20 where we had a new finance director come in mid
 21 year so with that. And I like that because

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1 it's kind of an additional audit to this and
 2 sort of looking at it with new eyes again.
 3 You were not hired to do this. When you
 4 were brought on, were you still receiving
 5 highway users fees?
 6 MR. EDWARDS: A minimal amount, yes.
 7 MR. DIVILIO: Yeah. And then you were
 8 charged with trying to find revenue for the
 9 county not at taxpayer expense.
 10 MR. EDWARDS: Right.
 11 MR. DIVILIO: So I think you're doing a
 12 fantastic job. You're starting up this
 13 enterprise during an incredibly difficult time,
 14 just with COVID and problems, again, with
 15 trying to get the products and equipment that
 16 you need.
 17 So I want to compliment you on fighting
 18 through this because this has been difficult.
 19 You've had two finance directors and you had
 20 another company that came in and gave numbers
 21 as well.

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1 And there's projections that yes, if you
 2 were running the equipment all the time, you
 3 could have great numbers. But we keep cutting
 4 you off at the knees trying to make this thing
 5 work as constructive as we can with limiting
 6 the budget, as we have to because we just don't
 7 have unlimited funds.
 8 I think you've done an excellent job. I
 9 appreciate what you're doing for the county,
 10 trying to repurpose the surface that we're
 11 taking up and saving us money so we're not
 12 buying base.
 13 It is expensive. But again, if we were
 14 still getting those full highway user fees that
 15 we were, we wouldn't even think about this and
 16 everything would be wonderful. But it's not,
 17 and you're fighting through it.
 18 So thank you. I think you're doing a
 19 great job.
 20 MR. EDWARDS: Thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.

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1 Mr. Leshar.
 2 MR. LESHER: I appreciate the numbers and
 3 the analysis here.
 4 Can you clarify for me? If this is
 5 financed -- well, whether it's financed
 6 privately or financed through county funds, are
 7 we seeing a payoff of the investment in fiscal
 8 2026 or is there a longer payoff period for the
 9 upfront investment?
 10 MS. NAGLE: So if you look at the
 11 analysis, the very last column on the second
 12 row.
 13 MR. LESHER: The green?
 14 MS. NAGLE: Yes. It shows that at the end
 15 of fiscal year 26, that's when we realize our
 16 first positive.
 17 MR. LESHER: But that's a cumulative
 18 positive, not --
 19 MS. NAGLE: It's a cumulative positive.
 20 MR. LESHER: That's not a single year
 21 positive?

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1 MS. NAGLE: Correct. That's when you
 2 break even.
 3 MR. LESHER: Great. Thank you very much.
 4 I appreciate it.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, okay. Warren, like
 6 Mr. Divilio said, you've been doing and working
 7 hard on this. And we have been, like you say,
 8 struggling on how to make all this work.
 9 You've done a great job.
 10 And I'm all for giving you that extra
 11 couple hundred thousand to try to do what is
 12 needed that goes much farther.
 13 I am a little cautious because of the
 14 zoning and stuff with the Health Department.
 15 We have got a little ways to go with all that.
 16 I'm a little hesitant. And I want you to be a
 17 little bit cautious, too, that we're planning
 18 everything before the cart here, because we
 19 don't have all our approvals yet.
 20 So I want to be very sensitive on what we
 21 have to have out there for you. That's why

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1 we're -- we don't have all our approvals. So
 2 I'm a little cautious about it.
 3 So but other than that, I just want you to
 4 think of that in a broad band, in a business
 5 mindset, that we don't have the green light on
 6 all this yet.
 7 MR. EDWARDS: If I could comment on that a
 8 little bit.
 9 Mr. Clarke is working with me through
 10 Public Works, and we're currently trying to get
 11 a quote from Davis, Bowen & Friedel to do a dry
 12 wet test or the septic and soil test, that kind
 13 of thing.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 15 MR. EDWARDS: And I think, I believe from
 16 what I have found, there's going to be
 17 something out there because you're only talking
 18 about one or two or three people minimum using
 19 the bathroom a day, if that.
 20 If not, we're following advice of the
 21 Public Works Advisory Committee. We've done

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1 every avenue we possibly can do. And the only
 2 option would be to hook up to the sewer, which
 3 is literally very easy to do.
 4 By then, we will have created enough
 5 revenue to pay for it. So if we follow their
 6 advice and look at every avenue possible and
 7 everything is working, then I think things
 8 should be understandable and follow through.
 9 MR. PACK: For that wet season, to that
 10 point, Mr. Callahan, I mean you have to wait
 11 for that wet season test to be done, according
 12 to Ms. Morris over at the Health Department
 13 Environmental Services Department. And you
 14 have no control over that.
 15 MR. EDWARDS: Right.
 16 MR. PACK: So we have to wait for that
 17 season to come about when that test can be
 18 done. And then we'll find out whether or not
 19 the ground can perk or not.
 20 So we're doing what we can do until that
 21 season comes about for that testing. Right.

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1 MR. EDWARDS: My point is even if it
 2 doesn't, even if we can't find suitable ground
 3 there for a septic, that's not the end of this
 4 project.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: I know that, I know that.
 6 MR. EDWARDS: I just want to make that
 7 clear.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: All I'm saying is just make
 9 sure everybody is aware of what --
 10 MR. EDWARDS: Sure.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: We're doing one step at a
 12 time. But I don't want to get too far down the
 13 lane and then we've got a problem. That's all
 14 I'm saying.
 15 MR. PACK: I think, this is my last final
 16 point, as we know, and I see Micah standing out
 17 in the hallway, our airport manager, that the
 18 Talbot County Business Center will come down.
 19 Probably not in the lifetime of this Council,
 20 perhaps the next Council.
 21 That's several tons of concrete that has

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1 to be processed. And if this Repurposing
 2 Center is up and running when that building
 3 comes down, the revenues that are projected
 4 here probably will see an increase as well.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 6 MR. EDWARDS: Up to \$7 million. There's
 7 over 400,000 tons of concrete, just that.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Everybody is good?
 9 Any more words? Okay.
 10 So let's go ahead. Is there a motion and
 11 a second to approve the request as submitted
 12 for the Repurposing Center?
 13 MR. PACK: So moved.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you
 16 call the roll, please.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

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1 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 3 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 5 MR. PACK: Aye.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds good.
 7 MR. EDWARDS: Thank you, everyone.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys.
 9 Up next, we're going to hear a report on
 10 the Easton Airport removal project. So Micah
 11 is coming on in.
 12 Good evening.
 13 MR. RISHER: Good evening, Council,
 14 President Callahan.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Welcome.
 16 MR. RISHER: How is everybody?
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Good, good.
 18 MR. RISHER: Okay. Give you an update on
 19 the plans for the fall for the obstruction
 20 removal program phase two. We'll give you the
 21 overview of what the plan is, and then we'll

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1 talk about the letter of recommendation that
 2 we're asking for to the Town of Easton.
 3 So up here on the graphic, of course, we
 4 did phase one last year. And right now this
 5 year, we're focused on the areas that are in
 6 the purple shading.
 7 And do I have control of that? No? Give
 8 you a better idea. Thanks. Okay. See if we
 9 can zoom in a little.
 10 So a little smaller project. Fewer
 11 properties this year than what we did last
 12 year. But the cost is about the same because
 13 the majority of this phase two work is actually
 14 on the airport. So if you look just east of
 15 runway 422, we have 11.6 acres of obstruction
 16 that we already own. They sit right next to
 17 the runway.
 18 We cleared these about 15 years ago. They
 19 grew back. So we're going to take them down
 20 again. This will be a complete clear cut of
 21 the 11.6 acres.

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1 And as a side note, the majority of this
 2 brush will be going to the Repurposing Center
 3 as well.
 4 And then, of course, out on Goldsborough
 5 Neck Road, we have some airport-owned property,
 6 some trees that we're going to clear cut. And
 7 then we have trees in the right of way out on
 8 Goldsborough Neck Road, a little over an acre
 9 worth of work.
 10 And then we get to our residential area,
 11 Hazelwood. We have approximately ten trees
 12 remaining in there that we have approval from
 13 the residents. They've been -- they've
 14 purchased avigation easements. We purchased
 15 avigation easements so that the property owners
 16 have been compensated, and we will be removing
 17 ten trees from Hazelwood, which will finish
 18 that project.
 19 We have approximately seven trees over on
 20 the APG Media site. That is currently on hold
 21 while we resolve an ownership issue with that

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1 property. That may or may not get done this
 2 fall.
 3 And then we have approximately 250 trees
 4 in the Commerce Park southwest of the airport.
 5 So Commerce Drive and Brooks Drive. The
 6 largest of that property being the Easton
 7 Utility property owned by the Town of Easton.
 8 So that is the plan. We secured the grant
 9 from the MDOT MAA just a couple of weeks ago.
 10 It's about a \$300,000 grant to do this work.
 11 And the majority of that is being paid for by
 12 the State.
 13 We've issued the administrative notice to
 14 proceed to our contractor. So we're starting
 15 to get dates and times put together.
 16 Now, with that being said, currently we're
 17 essentially, the whole project is essentially
 18 on standby because we have not had our grading
 19 permit issued from the Town of Easton.
 20 And that's because after we went to the
 21 town on August the 2nd to get approval to

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1 remove the trees off town property, we also
 2 learned that week that they were making changes
 3 to how they administer the Forest Conservation
 4 Act here locally.
 5 So for years they've collected fee in lieu
 6 of actually mitigating. So basically they've
 7 had a system of where, not just the airport,
 8 contractors pay into their fund and then the
 9 town will plant trees accordingly. So that was
 10 our plan. That's what we did with phase one.
 11 That's what the airport has always done.
 12 So when we learned that we could not do
 13 fee in lieu, it left us with well, if we don't
 14 do fee in lieu, we have to mitigate in another
 15 way.
 16 Well, a conversation that's always been
 17 had is Easton Airport, airports are exempt from
 18 the Forest Conservation Act, federal level,
 19 State level, county level across the State of
 20 Maryland. There's only one jurisdiction in the
 21 State that doesn't exempt the Forest

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1 Conservation Act for airports when they're
 2 doing safety clearing, and that's the Town of
 3 Easton.
 4 So unfortunately, we're stuck in this.
 5 The Town of Easton does exempt us if it's going
 6 to be safety clearing on airport. But in their
 7 code, the language kind of holds us up and they
 8 don't -- we're not able to get it exempted for
 9 all of airport.
 10 So because the Forest Conservation Act
 11 hasn't been mitigated, the grading permit has
 12 not been issued. And so right now, we're in a
 13 holding pattern with this project.
 14 So the solution, which we've talked about
 15 it before, it takes a while to get things done,
 16 the solution is to officially request from the
 17 town that the airport be exempt from the Forest
 18 Conservation Act if it is a project that is
 19 meeting federal safety regulations. Because
 20 that's the thing. We are being mandated by the
 21 federal government to do this. We're not just

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1 doing this by choice and we're not building a
 2 new big box store or anything like that. This
 3 is a safety project. So it's to meet the
 4 regulations of Part 77.
 5 So what we're asking for is for the
 6 Council to sign a letter of recommendation for
 7 the Town of Easton to change the wording in
 8 their code by just a tad bit, just to add or
 9 remove at the time airport property. And that
 10 would put their code in line with what the
 11 State code is and all the other counties in the
 12 State of Maryland and it would exempt the
 13 airport from having to mitigate for the removal
 14 of these obstructions when related to a
 15 safety-related project.
 16 I also want to note for the record that
 17 even if the airport is exempted, right, from
 18 this Part 77, paying to the FCA, that doesn't
 19 mean when we go to remove trees on properties,
 20 that we're not going to mitigate and make it
 21 right by the property owner. So before we do

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<p>1 remove trees from any property, we negotiate 2 with that property owner and we make sure that 3 they're satisfied. So if they want plantings, 4 we plant on their property. 5 Many properties that we're removing this 6 year, we are doing things to that owner's 7 specifications. We're planting a dozen or 24 8 other trees in a couple places. 9 So it's not that -- I don't want people to 10 get the misconception that oh, you're exempt, 11 so you're just out there cutting trees. That 12 is not the case. 13 And when it comes to the Town of Easton 14 property that is going to be upcoming in phase 15 three and beyond, one of which being the North 16 Park property, which everybody is concerned 17 about. There's the entranceway to North Park, 18 we have to do some trimming. 19 That's not to say that the airport is just 20 going to take those trees out and not replace 21 them. Right. We will work with the town and</p>	<p>1 stated that airports are exempt at the federal 2 level, airports are exempt at the State. And 3 the only jurisdiction left is Easton. 4 So I am supportive of asking them to 5 change their ordinance to remove at the airport 6 property in order to match everything else in 7 the rest of the country, that airports are 8 exempt from something like this. So I hope 9 that that goes forward and it's not a problem. 10 MR. RISHER: Thank you. 11 MS. PRICE: I'm supportive of your 12 request. 13 MR. RISHER: Thank you. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Divilio. 15 MR. DIVILIO: And I agree. I'm in support 16 as well. 17 MR. LESHER: I have nothing. 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Good, Mr. Leshner. Okay. 19 All right. 20 Is there a motion and a second? 21 MS. PRICE: So moved.</p>
<p>Page 35</p> <p>1 come up with a plan to make that entryway 2 beautiful while we're negotiating. 3 So that can be done before they grant us 4 the access and removal agreement. It doesn't 5 have to be -- it's not really directly related 6 to the Forest Conservation Act. So that can be 7 a parcel per parcel negotiation. 8 MR. PACK: Ask a question. 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Let's open the floor for 10 questions. 11 MR. PACK: So Micah, has the fee in lieu 12 language been removed from the Town of Easton's 13 Forest Conservation Plan? 14 MR. RISHER: Not that I know of, Mr. Pack. 15 It was just relayed to me that they're not 16 going to collect any more fee in lieu. 17 MR. PACK: Have you looked at this, 18 Patrick, at all? 19 MR. THOMAS: I have not, no. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Price. 21 MS. PRICE: Well, I mean you've already</p>	<p>Page 37</p> <p>1 MR. PACK: I make a motion that we send a 2 letter, as Mr. Risher has outlined, requesting 3 that the Town of Easton amend their Forest 4 Conservation Act language to eliminate the 5 airport. 6 MS. PRICE: Second. 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack, for 8 your motion and, Ms. Price, for a second. 9 Madam Secretary, could you call the roll, 10 please. 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 14 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 16 MR. LESHER: Aye. 17 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 18 MS. PRICE: Aye. 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 20 MR. PACK: Aye. 21 MR. RISHER: Thank you, Council.</p>

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Okay.
 2 Next what we're going to have is Council
 3 action on the county Board of Liquors
 4 Commission. So Patrick, you want to go ahead
 5 and get us started off with that?
 6 MR. THOMAS: Sure. So as Council recall,
 7 in 2020 the governor passed a series of
 8 executive orders relating to the pandemic, one
 9 of which allowed for businesses holding
 10 alcoholic beverage license, certain ones to
 11 allow delivery and carry out of alcoholic
 12 beverages.
 13 The governor's order has expired, but the
 14 General Assembly passed a law that allows local
 15 boards to adopt similar rules and regulations
 16 applicable in their own county.
 17 And of course, Talbot County is unique in
 18 that its liquor laws are set forth in the
 19 County Code. And under the code, the local
 20 board is authorized to adopt rules and
 21 regulations but they require the Council's

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1 approval.
 2 So in furtherance of the statutory
 3 authority, the Talbot County Board of Liquor
 4 License Commissioners has approved this
 5 resolution that would allow the sale of
 6 alcoholic beverages for carry out and delivery
 7 under certain conditions, which are in keeping
 8 with the State law. And they asked to bring it
 9 forward to the Council for your consideration
 10 and approval.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. I'm
 12 going to open it for discussion. Mr. Pack.
 13 MR. PACK: Yeah. I think that, again,
 14 staying in line with the rest of the State,
 15 help our local businesses out, who are looking
 16 for other ways to compete with our surrounding
 17 counties, I think this will be a good measure
 18 to put in place.
 19 It can always be revisited by Council. If
 20 not this Council, the next Council sometime
 21 down the road if that Council felt that it was

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1 not appropriate to continue on. So it's not
 2 something we have to be locked into, but I
 3 certainly support it at this time.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 5 MR. THOMAS: And I would just add to that
 6 point. The State law expires in two years. So
 7 this isn't going to be effective forever. This
 8 is a temporary program. There's additional
 9 (inaudible) at the State level that will have
 10 to take place after it sunsets.
 11 MR. PACK: Two years.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Great. Ms. Price.
 13 MS. PRICE: I would definitely agree with
 14 that. It has been very difficult on businesses
 15 of every kind. I think restaurants did get hit
 16 certainly the hardest. And this is certainly
 17 an additional revenue source for them.
 18 And since people still have concerns,
 19 which are valid, and they're more comfortable
 20 to do the take-out and take it home, this is
 21 very beneficial for the restaurants and to

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1 follow along with the State.
 2 It is interesting. Talbot County is
 3 really the only one. The other 23
 4 jurisdictions, and we're special. So it's
 5 always fun when I go to Annapolis and I remind
 6 them that we have our own liquor laws.
 7 So I do want to get in line with the State
 8 with this one. I think it's going to be very
 9 beneficial for the restaurants. So I'm
 10 supportive. Thank you.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 12 Mr. Divilio.
 13 MR. DIVILIO: I'm in support as well.
 14 MR. LESHER: I think what the concern with
 15 this, when it came out early in the pandemic,
 16 was are we going to do harm, how are they going
 17 to control underage consumption and so forth.
 18 And I think that we've seen that those fears
 19 were not -- did not come to pass.
 20 And so I don't see any reason why we would
 21 not support our businesses in this way.

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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. I would agree, too. 2 Thank you, Mr. Leshner. 3 And I'm in support of that. I think 4 anything that we can do to help these 5 businesses recover from the pandemic of last 6 year and a half, I think we should back them. 7 So okay. With that being said, do I have 8 a motion and a second to approve the Resolution 9 Number 2021-01? 10 MR. LESHNER: I move to approve. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 12 MR. DIVILIO: Second. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I got a motion and a 14 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the 15 roll, please. 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 19 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 21 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p>	<p>1 citizens to come together in a joint effort to 2 recognize Talbot County's role in the Civil 3 War. 4 Whereas, the County Council of Talbot 5 County, the County Council, recognizes that 6 Talbot County has a unique history related to 7 the Civil War. And many citizens have 8 expressed their desire to more completely tell 9 the history of Talbot County and to remind us 10 that families were split as the Civil War 11 divided the community. 12 And whereas, for several years, the County 13 Council has been approached by multiple groups 14 to create a Civil War monument which portrays 15 and acknowledges all those who fought and died 16 on both sides of the Civil War. 17 And whereas, the existing monument on the 18 Talbot County Courthouse grounds only lists the 19 Confederate soldiers from Talbot County who 20 served in the Civil War. 21 And whereas, recognizing Talbot County as</p>
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<p>1 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 2 MS. PRICE: Aye. 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 4 MR. PACK: Aye. 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So let's move on to 6 introduction of administrative resolutions. 7 Council, next we have introduction of 8 administrative resolution. 9 MS. PRICE: Okay. The first one is one 10 that I have placed -- 11 MR. LESHNER: Do you want the secretary to 12 read it? 13 MS. PRICE: Read it. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, we can read it first. 15 Yup, yup. I was getting ready to do it. 16 Madam Secretary, could you read the first 17 administrative resolution, please. 18 SECRETARY: Administrative resolution of 19 the County Council of Talbot County providing 20 for the completion and creation of a Civil War 21 unity monument and establishing a fund for all</p>	<p>1 a place where people from many backgrounds come 2 together to enjoy the County's natural beauty, 3 its history, and wealth of activities offered 4 here, the County Council finds that the 5 existing monument should be transformed by 6 adding a Union soldier of similar size, style, 7 and design as the Confederate soldier and 8 listing the names of the Union soldiers from 9 Talbot County who served in the Civil War. 10 And whereas, the County Council feels the 11 most equitable solution to bring our community 12 together is to complete the monument by 13 building up and not tearing down, as it is 14 important to preserve and expand our 15 understanding of the history of Maryland, and 16 particularly of Talbot County during those 17 years of conflict. 18 And whereas, following in the history that 19 all existing monuments have been constructed 20 with private donations, the County Council 21 directs the Finance Office to create a</p>

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1 restricted fund to receive private and/or grant
 2 contributions, allowing all those who want to
 3 donate a means to do so.
 4 And whereas, the Maryland Historical Trust
 5 found that the monument is significant for its
 6 commemoration of those soldiers from Talbot
 7 County who served in the Civil War. And the
 8 County Council will have any new design
 9 presented and approved by the Easton Historic
 10 District Commission before any changes take
 11 place.
 12 And whereas, the County Council is
 13 committed to continuing to tell the diverse
 14 story of Talbot County.
 15 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the
 16 County Council of Talbot County, in an effort
 17 to more completely reflect the historical
 18 record and in order to move forward as a
 19 unified community, that the County Council
 20 shall augment the existing monument by adding a
 21 Union soldier adjacent to the existing

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1 Confederate soldier and by updating the base as
 2 follows:
 3 Number one, recitals. The above recitals
 4 as hereby incorporated as if fully set forth.
 5 Number two, modification of existing
 6 monument. The County Council supports
 7 augmenting the existing monument by adding a
 8 Union soldier of similar size, style, and
 9 design as the Confederate soldier and listing
 10 the names of Union soldiers from Talbot County
 11 who fought in the Civil War in a manner that
 12 will conform to any and all Civil War memorial
 13 standards.
 14 Number three, placement of monument. The
 15 augmented Civil War monument representing
 16 soldiers from the Confederate and Union armies
 17 will remain in its current location on the
 18 grounds of the Talbot County Courthouse.
 19 Four, funding of expanded Civil War
 20 monument. Funds will be solicited from
 21 citizens of Maryland and from the State of

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1 Maryland through grant applications.
 2 Five, design of the expanded Civil War
 3 monument. The County Council will issue a
 4 request for proposal, RFP, approve design of
 5 the Civil War monument, and obtain estimates
 6 for the construction of the additions and
 7 changes to the existing monument.
 8 Six, schedule for project initiation. As
 9 soon as there are significant funds to complete
 10 the project, the County Council will authorize
 11 an initiation of the project.
 12 Be it further resolved that this
 13 administrative resolution shall become
 14 effective immediately upon adoption.
 15 Introduced by the County Council at a
 16 regular meeting on September 14, 2021, at which
 17 meeting copies were available to the public for
 18 inspection. Adopted by the County Council at a
 19 regular meeting on September 14, 2021, at which
 20 meeting copies were available to the public for
 21 inspection.

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1 Given under our hands in the great seal of
 2 Talbot County this 14th day of September in the
 3 year of our Lord, 2021.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.
 5 Appreciate that. You did a good job reading
 6 that. Okay.
 7 Ms. Price, I think you wanted to open
 8 something.
 9 MS. PRICE: Thank you, President Callahan.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
 11 MS. PRICE: This is something that was
 12 made public back in January and has had
 13 feedback, both for and against.
 14 But I do think that given the resolution
 15 that we voted on last summer was a numbered
 16 resolution, that even though we have received a
 17 lot of feedback, especially in the last week on
 18 both resolutions this evening, and as that you
 19 all are here today, you're out in the hallway,
 20 they're outside, that clearly the public needs
 21 to have the opportunity to comment in an

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1 official fashion through a public hearing.
 2 So before I get to what I would like to
 3 say, nobody will ever agree on one solution.
 4 There are all kinds of ideas.
 5 One, of course, is just to simply move it.
 6 One is to keep it. One is this one, to augment
 7 it and add to it. There's another that would
 8 add a separate Union boy next to it. There are
 9 all kinds of things that can be done, none of
 10 which will satisfy everybody.
 11 And our job here is to try to listen and
 12 find a compromise. And a compromise to some
 13 isn't a compromise, and I understand that. For
 14 those who want to move it, this is not a
 15 compromise. For those who want to keep it,
 16 this is not a compromise. And we have to find
 17 a way to live together, to be together.
 18 But since I do believe that this deserves
 19 a proper public hearing, I'm not going to
 20 introduce this this evening. I will be asking
 21 the attorney's office to redo this as a proper

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1 numbered resolution that I will introduce in
 2 two or four weeks, whichever meeting works for
 3 that, so that everybody has an opportunity to
 4 do it in the proper way, to comment on this and
 5 not just have to get an e-mail in with 24, 48
 6 hours notice. I think that's wrong.
 7 I mean we have gotten probably 200 e-mails
 8 on the resolutions. And it really made me
 9 realize that this has to go through a proper
 10 numbered resolution process, whether it passes
 11 or whether it fails. That's the right way to
 12 do it. That's the right way to be transparent
 13 in government.
 14 And so I will not, I will not be
 15 introducing it this evening. I will bring it
 16 back as a numbered resolution for introduction
 17 in either next meeting or the following meeting
 18 after that.
 19 And I think that both resolutions should
 20 be introduced in that fashion.
 21 The other thing that gave me pause was as

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1 an administrative resolution, I'm not sure
 2 that's the proper way to do it, either, because
 3 six years ago, and I'm sure everybody in this
 4 room and who is outside will remember that the
 5 last Council made a decision based on our
 6 county attorney, who said that this was not
 7 legislative in nature, it was part of our
 8 administrative function.
 9 And so we made an announcement that six
 10 years ago the statue was going to remain where
 11 it was. And that was five, all five Council
 12 members.
 13 But the Open Meetings Compliance Board,
 14 there was somebody, people complained. And
 15 maybe rightly so. And they took it to the Open
 16 Meetings Board and they didn't think that we
 17 made the decision in a proper fashion. And so
 18 they said to us that it was not administrative
 19 in nature.
 20 So it also gives me pause that maybe an
 21 administrative resolution also isn't the right

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1 way to do it based on what happened six years
 2 ago.
 3 So for those two reasons, that's why I'm
 4 going to wait and do it as a numbered
 5 resolution because I think it's important that
 6 we think about what happened six years ago with
 7 the Open Meetings Compliance Board as well.
 8 So thank you for listening. We can move
 9 on.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Price.
 11 MR. LESHER: Just one question.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. Go ahead, Mr. Vice
 13 President.
 14 MR. LESHER: Can you remind us what action
 15 was taken by how the Council proceeded six
 16 years ago after the Open Meetings Compliance
 17 Board decision?
 18 MS. PRICE: So we never introduced, and
 19 Mr. Pack was president, we never introduced any
 20 type of resolution or legislation.
 21 What we did was we had a big meeting over

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<p>1 at the library where we allowed everybody to</p> <p>2 give public comment, even though there was no</p> <p>3 legislation or resolution in front of us. And</p> <p>4 we listened at that time.</p> <p>5 And I understand times are different now.</p> <p>6 At that time, it was pretty overwhelming the</p> <p>7 support to leave it. And I understand that</p> <p>8 times change.</p> <p>9 But at that time six years ago, so then I</p> <p>10 believe Mr. Pack made another statement he</p> <p>11 read, the statement of the Open Meetings</p> <p>12 Compliance Board. And then we made the</p> <p>13 decision again, but we did it in an open</p> <p>14 process, even though it wasn't legislation.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: In 2015, Council had come to a</p> <p>16 decision that under the administrative function</p> <p>17 that the decision to either retain the statue</p> <p>18 or remove it fell within our purview as</p> <p>19 property, as county property.</p> <p>20 And as you do know, on closed meetings we</p> <p>21 can discuss county property, either the</p>	<p>1 right way.</p> <p>2 Again, pass or fail, I want it done</p> <p>3 properly. I don't want any -- I just want to</p> <p>4 err on the side of caution, whether</p> <p>5 administrative resolution is the proper format</p> <p>6 or not, I'd rather be extra cautious.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: But the actual, again, the</p> <p>9 decision whether or not the administrative</p> <p>10 function was improper. It was that it was done</p> <p>11 in closed session. So the administrative</p> <p>12 function, as long as it's done openly, it's</p> <p>13 proper.</p> <p>14 MS. PRICE: Right. It can be done openly.</p> <p>15 But if they don't get a chance to speak to us,</p> <p>16 and public comment is not going to be until</p> <p>17 after these are voted on, I think that's wrong.</p> <p>18 I think that we need a proper public hearing,</p> <p>19 and that's what I intend to put forth.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,</p> <p>21 Ms. Price.</p>
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<p>1 acquisition of county property and those kinds</p> <p>2 of issues around county property.</p> <p>3 Well, that Council took the approach that</p> <p>4 the statue fell under the closed meetings</p> <p>5 purview under county property.</p> <p>6 The Open Meetings Compliance Board, if you</p> <p>7 read their decision, it was kind of gray one</p> <p>8 way or the other, but they said that it should</p> <p>9 have been done in open session as an</p> <p>10 administrative function, so which this</p> <p>11 resolution is written as an administrative</p> <p>12 function.</p> <p>13 So that was the determination at that</p> <p>14 time, that we took the approach that it fell</p> <p>15 underneath closed meeting as a county property</p> <p>16 decision, and they saw it differently, and that</p> <p>17 was it.</p> <p>18 MS. PRICE: And that was at the advice of</p> <p>19 the county attorney.</p> <p>20 But I would rather err on the side of</p> <p>21 caution and make sure that it's done in the</p>	<p>1 Mr. Divilio, you want to comment?</p> <p>2 MR. DIVILIO: No comment at this time.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: You good?</p> <p>4 MR. LESHER: I have nothing further.</p> <p>5 MS. PRICE: So Mr. Thomas, so at this</p> <p>6 point, we're going to pull this administrative</p> <p>7 resolution, correct?</p> <p>8 MR. THOMAS: Yes.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, so okay. So Madam</p> <p>10 Secretary, I guess we'll pull this and wait</p> <p>11 until next meeting.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Okay.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: Let me just say, while I have</p> <p>14 Mr. Thomas for clarification, just to put a</p> <p>15 fine point on this procedurally.</p> <p>16 Numbered resolutions, although,</p> <p>17 Mr. Thomas, they have to be read a second time</p> <p>18 procedurally, they're not entitled to a public</p> <p>19 hearing. Council can agree to hold a public</p> <p>20 hearing for a numbered resolution, but it's not</p> <p>21 procedurally granted or mandated that they have</p>

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1 a public hearing.

2 MR. THOMAS: Yes. I don't believe the

3 rules of procedure specifically require a

4 hearing on every resolution, although some

5 resolutions by their nature, such as a

6 comprehensive water and sewer plan amendment

7 would, which this is not, obviously wouldn't

8 require a public hearing.

9 MR. PACK: Thank you, sir.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's move on to the

11 next one. Madam Secretary, could you read the

12 administrative resolution into the record,

13 please. I'd appreciate it.

14 SECRETARY: Administrative resolution of

15 the County Council of Talbot County.

16 Authorizing the relocation of the Talbot Boys

17 statue.

18 Whereas, pursuant to an administrative

19 resolution adopted and effected on March 16,

20 2004, the County Council of Talbot County, the

21 County Council, established policies and

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1 procedures regarding the use of public lands in

2 Talbot County, Maryland, the county, for the

3 remembrance of persons and events of historical

4 significance.

5 And whereas, there currently exists on the

6 Talbot County Courthouse grounds a statue

7 commonly known and referred to as the Talbot

8 Boys statue, the statue.

9 And whereas, the County Council is

10 desirous of causing the statue to be relocated

11 from the Talbot County Courthouse grounds to

12 the Cross Keys Battlefield in Harrisonburg,

13 Virginia, a private park under the custody,

14 care, and control of Shenandoah Valley

15 Battlefield Foundation. With all costs

16 associated therewith to be paid from private

17 funds and at no cost or expense to the county

18 or its taxpayers.

19 Now, therefore, be it resolved that the

20 County Council of Talbot County hereby

21 authorizes and approves the relocation of the

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1 Talbot Boys statue from the Talbot County

2 Courthouse grounds to the Cross Keys

3 Battlefield in Harrisonburg, Virginia, a

4 private park under the custody, care, and

5 control of Shenandoah Valley Battlefields

6 Foundation as soon as is practical and with all

7 costs associated therewith to be paid from

8 private funds and at no cost or expense to

9 Talbot County, Maryland, or its taxpayers.

10 And be it further resolved that the

11 appropriate county officials and staff be and

12 are hereby authorized to execute any and all

13 documents and take any other appropriate action

14 necessary to effectuate the relocation of the

15 Talbot Boys statue in accordance with this

16 administrative resolution.

17 And be it further resolved that the above

18 recitals are incorporated herein by reference

19 as if fully set forth.

20 And be it further resolved that this

21 administrative resolution shall become

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1 effective immediately upon adoption.

2 Introduced by the County Council at a

3 regular meeting on September 14, 2021, at which

4 meeting copies were available to the public for

5 inspection. Adopted by the County Council at a

6 regular meeting on September 14, 2021, at which

7 meeting copies were available to the public for

8 inspection.

9 Given under our hands in the great seal of

10 Talbot County this 14th day of September in the

11 year of our Lord, 2021.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.

13 Appreciate that. Good job.

14 So Mr. Divilio, we'll want to start off

15 with you.

16 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you. Tonight I am

17 submitting a resolution to relocate the Talbot

18 Boys statue from the courthouse grounds to the

19 Cross Keys Battlefield near Harrisonburg,

20 Virginia.

21 At this time, I've secured a commitment

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1 from the American Battlefield Trust to accept
 2 the Talbot Boys, as well as commitments to fund
 3 the move at no cost to Talbot County taxpayers.
 4 The Cross Key Battlefield is part of the
 5 American Battlefield Trust, a nonprofit
 6 organization that preserves America's hallowed
 7 battlegrounds, educates the public about what
 8 happened there and why it matters.
 9 The Cross Keys Battle was fought in the
 10 summer of 1862 as part of the Shenandoah Valley
 11 campaign, a series of battles where Talbot
 12 County blood was shed on both sides. A few
 13 weeks before the battle of Cross Keys at the
 14 battle of Front Royal, Talbot County brothers
 15 were literally fighting against their brothers.
 16 And when Union prisoners were taken, many
 17 recognized former friends and family, including
 18 William Goldsborough, who captured his own
 19 brother Charles. William in his writing said
 20 about the event, nearly all recognized old
 21 friends and acquaintances, whom they greeted

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1 cordially and divided with them the rations
 2 which they had just changed hands.
 3 If the Talbot Boys make this move, they
 4 will help tell the story of the Civil War and
 5 how communities and families were divided.
 6 Unfortunately, much as we are today.
 7 Cross Keys Battlefield is an appropriate
 8 new home for the Talbot Boys, where the
 9 monument will be cared for with respect and be
 10 part of a teaching history for generations to
 11 come.
 12 Since our community learned of my
 13 proposal, I've received a lot of questions.
 14 But one of the most frequent has been why move
 15 the Talbot Boys out of Talbot County. The
 16 simple answer to that is no one wanted it. No
 17 one wanted to subject themselves, their
 18 business, their organization, or their
 19 government to the backlash from agreeing to
 20 accept the Talbot Boys on their property.
 21 Throughout this process, it has been very

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1 important to me that the Talbot Boys be treated
 2 with respect. And if the decision was made to
 3 move it, there needed to be a new location
 4 identified that would be able to keep it and
 5 maintain it for the long term.
 6 Unfortunately, no such option existed
 7 locally. And I feared that situation would
 8 devolve much like it, as in other parts of this
 9 country, and the courthouse grounds would be
 10 vandalized and the Talbot Boys would be
 11 destroyed.
 12 Another question I've gotten a lot is why
 13 have you changed your mind. My initial
 14 position on this issue was to let the people of
 15 Talbot County decide the fate of the Talbot
 16 Boys and put the question on the 2022 ballot.
 17 While I still feel this would have been the
 18 best course, we can no longer delay a
 19 resolution.
 20 The Talbot Boys issue has divided our
 21 community for too long and has sidelined many

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1 other important things the County Council and
 2 county government needs to address.
 3 County services have suffered because of
 4 this debate and the toll that it has taken on
 5 the county residents, businesses, and county
 6 staff. We need to get to the business of
 7 running a county back on track and move
 8 forward.
 9 The last question I've gotten a lot is why
 10 did you submit this administrative resolution
 11 that does not allow for public comment. I
 12 believe in transparency and public engagement
 13 in local government. And while I understand
 14 the frustration of many who would have liked a
 15 public comment period on this resolution, I
 16 believe the Council is well versed in how the
 17 community feels about the Talbot Boys after 18
 18 months of hearings, protests, yard signs,
 19 calls, letters, demonstrations, news stories,
 20 blog posts, and text messages.
 21 We will do more harm than good by delaying

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<p>1 this decision any longer. It's time to make a 2 decision and move forward.</p> <p>3 Tonight I might make some new friends, I 4 might lose some old ones. And if you're angry 5 with me, that's okay, I can take it.</p> <p>6 Tonight, COVID-19 recovery, how to 7 allocate relief funds and support our business 8 community, ensuring that there is reliable cell 9 phone coverage in every corner of Talbot 10 County, rolling out broadband access to every 11 Talbot County home and business, updating our 12 public safety infrastructure and services, 13 providing better and more timely customer 14 service to our customers seeking permits and 15 more.</p> <p>16 But the people of Talbot County elected me 17 to make a decision and use my judgment to make 18 Talbot County better. Some decisions are 19 harder than others.</p> <p>20 I believe that moving the Talbot Boys to a 21 historically appropriate place of respect and</p>	<p>1 unheard and ignored too often.</p> <p>2 Now that they have allies across racial, 3 ethnic, and economic divide, we are beginning 4 to hear them and give them due respect.</p> <p>5 It is clear that the presence of this 6 statue on the courthouse square would continue 7 to wrangle. Tonight's move is simply overdue.</p> <p>8 The monument is a misrepresentation of 9 history, suggesting an inflated number of 10 Talbot County residents fought against Maryland 11 and against the United States in America's new 12 birth of freedom.</p> <p>13 In fact, Talbot County voted overwhelming 14 for pro Union candidates to a potential 15 secession convention that never met.</p> <p>16 This monument is simply not good history. 17 And this statue shows a young Confederate 18 soldier, not in surrender, but going off to war 19 in his fresh uniform to fight a lost cause. In 20 this excelsior portrayal, from Longfellow's 21 poem, he is ignoble, heroically prepared to</p>
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<p>1 allowing our community to move forward is the 2 best for Talbot County.</p> <p>3 I would never have thought that this would 4 be the defining issue of my first term on the 5 County Council. But here we are. And it's 6 time to bring this resolution to a close so we 7 can shift our focus to rebuilding our 8 relationships and coming together to build a 9 21st Century Talbot County.</p> <p>10 I am proud to be from Talbot County, and I 11 embrace our history, all of it; the good, the 12 bad, and the ugly, because it made this 13 community the place where I chose to raise my 14 family. And I will continue doing everything I 15 can to help Talbot County be the place where my 16 sons can thrive and call home for a lifetime.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, 18 Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>19 Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHER: For generations, the voices 21 of Talbot County's African Americans were</p>	<p>1 give his life to preserve a way of life that 2 was economically sustained through enslaved 3 black labor.</p> <p>4 I want to thank and commend Council Member 5 Divilio for his diligence in identifying and 6 securing an honorable and appropriate 7 destination for the statue.</p> <p>8 We've heard the testimony from over a 9 thousand voices over the past 15 months. And 10 the overwhelming majority of Talbot County 11 citizens who have spoken out have requested 12 removal of the monument from the public space 13 of the courthouse square to a more appropriate 14 place.</p> <p>15 We have heard from the public on this 16 issue more than we have heard on any other 17 issue by order of magnitude. In talking with 18 my constituents, with a handful of strident 19 exceptions, they either want this statue 20 removed or they are just tired of this issue 21 and want us to move on to the issues that will</p>

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<p>1 meaningfully address their quality of life.</p> <p>2 This resolution will bring us closer to</p> <p>3 resolution.</p> <p>4 There is still much work to do to make</p> <p>5 Talbot County an equitable and just place for</p> <p>6 all to live and work and thrive.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>8 Mr. Pack.</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: Yes, Mr. Callahan. Thank you.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.</p> <p>11 MR. PACK: Mr. Divilio, I, too, want to</p> <p>12 join Mr. Leshner in commending you on your</p> <p>13 efforts here to secure a location for this</p> <p>14 statue and also secure private funding, which</p> <p>15 was something that I lent my voice to that I</p> <p>16 did not want to see public dollars go into the</p> <p>17 removal and the relocation of the statue. It</p> <p>18 appears that you have secured both the location</p> <p>19 and a funding to do so.</p> <p>20 Look, I know a little bit something about</p> <p>21 changing heart. I do. I've been through the</p>	<p>1 know what the Confederacy stood for. And these</p> <p>2 statues that came about at the turn of the 20th</p> <p>3 Century was basically to glamorize that lost</p> <p>4 cause movement of the Confederacy, that</p> <p>5 although they fought and lost, they fought for</p> <p>6 a noble cause.</p> <p>7 So I've been there where you are, I've</p> <p>8 been in that seat, and I've had the change of</p> <p>9 heart that you have appeared to have gone</p> <p>10 through as well. And I know that it requires</p> <p>11 some deep soul searching. It requires some</p> <p>12 reflection upon self and what -- and you're not</p> <p>13 going to make everything happy. And God knows</p> <p>14 I know that. But you have to do what you</p> <p>15 believe in your heart is the right thing to do.</p> <p>16 Irregardless, you're going to lose some</p> <p>17 friends, you're going to make some friends.</p> <p>18 And that's okay, that's okay.</p> <p>19 But at the end of the day, can I go home</p> <p>20 and rest my head upon my pillow and kiss my</p> <p>21 wife and my children and believe that I've done</p>
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<p>1 process myself back in 2015 when leading the</p> <p>2 Council and voting to keep the statue in place.</p> <p>3 And I said then and I'll say it now that</p> <p>4 although we may not know individually why those</p> <p>5 men went off to fight. Perhaps because their</p> <p>6 friend down the street was going off to fight.</p> <p>7 Perhaps because they were bored. Perhaps</p> <p>8 because they truly believed in what the</p> <p>9 Confederacy stood for. We don't know.</p> <p>10 But what we do know is the overarching</p> <p>11 umbrella that the Confederacy stood for. And</p> <p>12 that was, most notably, the enslavement of</p> <p>13 black people. And no matter how you cut it,</p> <p>14 had the Confederacy won, that would have</p> <p>15 continued on. Written within the documents of</p> <p>16 their Articles of Confederacy is for the</p> <p>17 continuation of slavery. It is written right</p> <p>18 in their articles.</p> <p>19 So we see what happened in the compromise</p> <p>20 of 1877. We see what happened at the turn of</p> <p>21 the 20th Century with Jim Crow laws. So we</p>	<p>1 the right thing.</p> <p>2 And I commend you on having that</p> <p>3 transformation.</p> <p>4 I was asked by a reporter not too long ago</p> <p>5 from MTTTV what is it going to take. And I</p> <p>6 said it's going to take somebody to have a</p> <p>7 change of heart. And I said quite honestly,</p> <p>8 I've been there, and I said that's what it's</p> <p>9 going to take. It's not going to take name</p> <p>10 calling. And God bless you guys for the signs</p> <p>11 and all that and writing e-mails. It's going</p> <p>12 to take someone having a change of heart. I</p> <p>13 can't do it. Only God knows the heart of man.</p> <p>14 And so again, I believe this is the right</p> <p>15 thing for Talbot County. I really do, I really</p> <p>16 do.</p> <p>17 I believe that this is not erasing</p> <p>18 history. It's just relocating a statue to</p> <p>19 another location where it can live out its</p> <p>20 days. And if persons want to go travel and see</p> <p>21 it at that location, they are free to do so.</p>

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1 But to have the statue out front that
 2 glamorizes a time and a period of time when not
 3 everybody was free, to have a statue up front
 4 which still has the draped flag of the
 5 Confederacy, to have the CSA on the buckle of
 6 that young man and knowing what that stood for,
 7 is not appropriate for this day and time.
 8 Look, if Richmond can take down statues,
 9 which was the heart and the capital of the
 10 Confederacy, if Richmond can remove a statue.
 11 SPEAKER: Yup.
 12 MR. PACK: Why can't we, you know?
 13 SPEAKER: Right.
 14 MR. PACK: And so all across the south,
 15 Georgia, Mississippi has removed statues and
 16 flags and done so respectfully, and done so
 17 respectfully.
 18 And I believe as if this goes the way I
 19 feel it's going to go tonight and instructions
 20 given to the County Manager's Office to do so,
 21 it will be done respectfully here. No one is

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1 talking about dragging it down and pulling it
 2 out into the Tred Avon River and dumping it.
 3 We're talking about a respectful removal to a
 4 location where it can live out the rest of its
 5 days.
 6 And I believe that's the appropriate thing
 7 for Talbot County, and I support this
 8 resolution as it's laid out. It's not going to
 9 cost you, the taxpayer, one nickel, one nickel.
 10 Thank you, Mr. Callahan.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 12 Ms. Price.
 13 MS. PRICE: I have a couple of questions.
 14 One, I believe that we deserve to know who
 15 it's being privately funded by.
 16 MR. DIVILIO: And that's public knowledge.
 17 It's the account is set up at the Midshore
 18 Community Foundation under the Move the
 19 Monument. And there's no one individual that's
 20 paying for it.
 21 MS. PRICE: So that's a question people

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1 have been asking. We've been getting a lot of
 2 e-mails.
 3 Moving it out of the county is one thing.
 4 Moving it out of state is quite another. And
 5 as I stated, the reason that I'm delaying my
 6 resolution is because it does deserve public
 7 feedback.
 8 And there are some people out there who
 9 maybe are supportive of moving the monument but
 10 don't support moving it to Virginia.
 11 And to have seven days to put it out there
 12 where it really didn't get to the public until
 13 Friday, I'm sorry, for the same reasons that
 14 I'm delaying mine, I would ask you to have a
 15 proper public hearing and let people talk about
 16 this.
 17 SPEAKER: No.
 18 MS. PRICE: You're the only one who looked
 19 at, you're the only one who looked and you
 20 alone decided to move it to Virginia. And I
 21 think there's a lot of people who would be

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1 supportive of moving the monument that don't
 2 want it to go to Virginia.
 3 So I have, I do have a problem with that.
 4 I mean I would much rather, obviously people
 5 know, I would much rather have compromise and
 6 try to do unity and figure out if we can figure
 7 another solution.
 8 But if this is going to be the solution
 9 that passes here, the people, all of the
 10 people, deserve a proper public hearing.
 11 Whether it's technically necessary on a
 12 numbered resolution or not, for the same reason
 13 I pulled mine, I believe that this is wrong.
 14 And it's not had anything to do with my
 15 opinion whether it should stay as is, become a
 16 unity monument, or go. Has nothing to do with
 17 that. It has everything to do with process.
 18 And after 11 years, you have to learn to do the
 19 process right.
 20 And I understand there's three people here
 21 supporting it. They'll still be supporting it

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1 in two weeks or in four weeks when we can have
 2 a proper public hearing.
 3 The one thing I do agree with you on is I
 4 don't want the next election to be about this,
 5 either. And I wish that we could have gotten
 6 it on the ballot in 2020. But because of the
 7 Maryland legislature, we couldn't do that. And
 8 I don't want this to linger out there until
 9 2022 because even though several of us are not
 10 running again in the next election, I still
 11 care about who is on the Council and I want
 12 them elected for the reasons that County
 13 Council people should be elected for and I
 14 didn't want it to be about that, which is
 15 another reason why I had tried to do a
 16 compromise resolution.
 17 But I will tell you, Mr. Leshner, it's not
 18 overwhelming, it's not. I don't know who
 19 you're talking to. But the minute this got
 20 out, it is equal. If anything, we hear more
 21 from one side, but none of this is a scientific

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1 poll. Those who choose to show up here, those
 2 who choose to write to us. We really don't
 3 know. It's those who are motivated to come
 4 out. And I appreciate those who are motivated
 5 to the come out.
 6 But out of the 200 e-mails that we've
 7 gotten in the past four days, it is not
 8 overwhelming one way or the other. It is very,
 9 very, very divided. And I don't want that for
 10 our community. I don't want us to be divided.
 11 And that's why I compromised. I was
 12 hoping it was going to be the best solution so
 13 that people from here and people from over here
 14 would realize I can't always have my way, I
 15 can't always have my way, I have to learn to
 16 live with my neighbors.
 17 So you can chuckle out there. That's
 18 unfortunate because there's just as many of you
 19 outside that couldn't get in this room.
 20 And it's about respect. And I can tell
 21 you that members of this Council have been very

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1 disrespected for the last year and a half. I
 2 would like you to try sitting up here in this
 3 seat and trying to listen to everyone who
 4 choose to speak and the ones who are nervous
 5 about speaking. We have to hear them all.
 6 And I've been through many public hearings
 7 on many different issues. And it's just as
 8 important to listen to those who don't show up
 9 as the ones who do. And I would ask you to
 10 remember that and to respect that.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Price.
 12 Appreciate it.
 13 Appreciate it, Council.
 14 So I guess it's my turn. First of all, I
 15 really want to thank the public for the last
 16 ten days. The e-mails and the respect of their
 17 feelings on all these e-mails.
 18 Ms. Price is right. It is divided. We've
 19 been dealing with this for six, seven years.
 20 And it has been tough on all of us. It's tough
 21 sitting up here. It's really tough sitting up

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1 here and making these decisions. But that's
 2 what we've been voted to do.
 3 Mr. Divilio, you did have a change of
 4 heart, you did. And I commend you for that.
 5 But I can tell you I'm not there.
 6 It's unfortunate I think that the way you
 7 you've gone about it. You've gone about it
 8 best you think you can do it. You have, you
 9 have. And you've made a decision.
 10 I don't like it. I feel it's a mistake.
 11 I think it's a mistake moving it from here.
 12 I've always been very openminded, and I've
 13 told everybody I've been openminded through the
 14 years. You know, could we find a place, could
 15 we find a place. I've always really been
 16 openminded to listen to everybody. And I have.
 17 If we were going to move it, I would have
 18 loved to have the opportunity for the public to
 19 have input on where we're going to put it. I
 20 really do. I think that's important because it
 21 seems like tonight that you are going to have

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<p>1 the votes to move this. So I really feel like 2 if we were going to -- if you were going to 3 make that decision that this was going to move, 4 it would have been really great if the public 5 had the opinion on where it was going to move 6 at. They wouldn't have liked it, but there's a 7 lot of people here in Talbot County, we talked 8 about 1,000 people, but there's 40,000 people 9 here that really didn't get an opportunity to 10 kind of feel like hey, I can live with it 11 moving off the courthouse, because nobody has 12 ever heard me say don't move it off the 13 courthouse.</p> <p>14 It's got several monuments. That whole 15 courthouse is nothing but history and deep 16 roots for a lot of people. It's 84 names on 17 there, on that statue.</p> <p>18 There's just a lot of things that people 19 are passionate about. We needed to take the 20 time. And you've made that decision and not 21 given enough time in the sense of where we're</p>	<p>1 made strides with the county. Mr. Pack has 2 brought things forward to do that. We all been 3 pretty proud of that.</p> <p>4 But just because this monument is going to 5 move doesn't mean that there's still some scars 6 there that are going to go away. It just isn't 7 going to happen.</p> <p>8 And I've really tried to put myself many, 9 many nights thinking about was this going to 10 make things better. It's sort of an object. 11 And I've thought through it the best I could. 12 I'm not a historian buff. I'm not really, and 13 I don't make out I am.</p> <p>14 If I thought it would make this 15 community -- and there's nobody in here that 16 thinks more about this community than I do. I 17 wouldn't be sitting here and putting myself on 18 the line and my reputation, my character, but I 19 feel like we are making a wrong mistake. We 20 are. And if anything, if anything, it should 21 stay here. It really should stay here.</p>
<p>1 going to put it at.</p> <p>2 I don't quite feel like there's going to 3 be -- we've been working on the whole divide 4 thing. And there's going to be a whole new 5 batch of people that are going to be really 6 upset.</p> <p>7 And you're right. Making these decisions, 8 we are going to lose friends one way or the 9 other. Even I will. I've dealt with this for 10 seven years, too. Made some of my decisions, 11 not all of them the right decisions.</p> <p>12 But I can tell you this. I really -- the 13 people that I have talked to and everything, 14 have been very respectful for me for my 15 decisions. And it is a decision you have to 16 make.</p> <p>17 But I want to make myself very crystal 18 clear that it's not about money, it's not 19 about -- to me, it's not about -- the diversity 20 in this county, the diversity in this county, 21 we're really working. We really are. We've</p>	<p>1 MR. PACK: Can I add one more point?</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. Mr. Pack, 3 please.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Just want to add another just 5 note. I'm not coming to Mr. Divilio's defense 6 because he doesn't need me to do that.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: But I just want to say for 9 clarification, we've had opportunities to 10 engage the public and this body chose not to.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Stay quiet, please.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: And so to say to Mr. Divilio 13 that this is the wrong way. Again, he doesn't 14 need me to come to his defense. I just want to 15 be clear. We've had opportunities to engage 16 the public. We've turned down invitations to 17 engage the public.</p> <p>18 SPEAKER: Yes.</p> <p>19 MR. PACK: Our attorneys from Baltimore 20 City, high powered attorneys, have consulted 21 this Council to engage the public. And we</p>

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1 chose not to.

2 So you can't say to this man now you're

3 going about it the right way because you didn't

4 include the public.

5 We had opportunity to do so, and majority

6 chose not to. That's not fair to now say to

7 him he's not engaging the public. When you had

8 the opportunity to do it, we did not.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: That's your opinion, not

10 mine.

11 MR. PACK: That's the fact. That's not my

12 opinion. That's the fact, that's the fact.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem, Mr. Pack. It's

14 not a fact in my mind.

15 The fact is Mr. Divilio, Mr. Divilio made

16 a decision to move it to Virginia. That's a

17 fact.

18 So let's move on. Okay.

19 MS. PRICE: I had more one procedural

20 question.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.

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1 MS. PRICE: For Mr. Thomas. Whenever we

2 dispose of county property and land, it

3 requires being advertised for three weeks.

4 One would think this is -- I mean it's not

5 a building. It's not a piece of land.

6 However, it is significant. It's not a copier.

7 So I also want to make sure that we're

8 not -- there's going to be half the county

9 that's going to celebrate, well, and half the

10 county that's not.

11 SPEAKER: Whatever.

12 MS. PRICE: See, that's unfortunate

13 because you're being disrespectful. You're

14 being disrespectful of at least half of the

15 county. And that's wrong. You don't treat

16 people that way.

17 So my question is about the disposal of

18 the property being properly advised because

19 there probably could be some lawsuits over this

20 that we're not going to the Historical Trust

21 and we're not finding out about whether or not

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1 we're supposed to advertise it.

2 MR. THOMAS: Well, we're not required to

3 go to the Historical Trust.

4 MS. PRICE: I'm sorry. Easton

5 Historical --

6 MR. THOMAS: Yes. But that would come

7 after any decision to dispose of it.

8 But the State law requires public notice

9 and opportunity for objections for disposal of

10 real property, not public property.

11 So for example, when the county disposes

12 of a car or a desk or what have you, it's not

13 required to put the notice in the paper three

14 times and allow for objections. That's only

15 for real property.

16 MS. PRICE: This isn't a car. This isn't

17 a copier.

18 MR. THOMAS: I understand. I'm not saying

19 it's apples to apples. But nonetheless, it's

20 not real property.

21 MS. PRICE: Again, erring on the side of

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1 caution, one would think that maybe we should

2 go through those procedures so we have covered

3 ourselves as a county.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So did you want to

5 say something else, Mr. Leshner?

6 MR. LESHER: I'm just asking if it is in

7 order, do we need to move the previous question

8 or do we need a motion to put this to a vote?

9 MR. CALLAHAN: I wanted to ask one more

10 question.

11 MR. LESHER: Okay.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Divilio, I just wanted

13 to ask you one more if you don't mind.

14 In this particular circumstance, would you

15 entertain what we're talking about, would you

16 entertain pushing this so the public can at

17 least put their feelings in if you're going to

18 move it out of state? I would just ask you

19 that.

20 MR. DIVILIO: I respectfully decline.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I appreciate that.

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1 Okay.
 2 Madam Secretary.
 3 MR. LESHER: I will move the resolution.
 4 MR. PACK: I'll second it.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and a
 6 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 7 vote.
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: No.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 11 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 13 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 15 MS. PRICE: I'm going to abstain because
 16 of the procedural issue that I don't believe is
 17 being followed.
 18 MR. LESHER: Is that allowed under the
 19 rules of procedure, point of order? If you do
 20 not have a conflict on this, can you recuse
 21 yourself?

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1 MS. PRICE: I stated my reasons for making
 2 this a numbered resolution.
 3 I would like to protect the county as best
 4 we can. And I believe that this isn't the
 5 proper way to do this.
 6 If it complicates the matter, I'll just
 7 vote no.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Is your vote no?
 9 MS. PRICE: My vote is no.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Pack.
 11 MR. PACK: Waiting for the secretary to
 12 call me.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 14 MR. PACK: Mr. Pack votes aye.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's move on to the
 16 public hearing. Okay. So the Resolution 304,
 17 were we going to -- were we going to do them,
 18 because what I was thinking is that we didn't
 19 amend the agenda for these two. I think we
 20 forgot.
 21 MR. THOMAS: Yes. (Inaudible.)

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: We're going to have to go
 2 through them. Okay. No problem.
 3 Madam Secretary, could you read the first
 4 resolution into the record for the public
 5 hearing.
 6 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 304, a
 7 resolution to amend the Talbot County
 8 comprehensive water and sewer plan to revise
 9 chapter three, amendment procedures.
 10 MR. CLARKE: Mr. President, just to advise
 11 you, the Planning Commission at their meeting
 12 on September 1st I guess voted to table
 13 Resolution 304 until their next meeting, which
 14 will be October 6th. I guess that would put it
 15 hopefully eligible for a vote by the County
 16 Council on October 12th.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 18 MS. PRICE: So for these two, since the
 19 Planning Commission hasn't done 304 or 306, do
 20 we need to, then, delay the public hearings
 21 again until October until after they meet and

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1 do what we did at the last meeting and just --
 2 we probably should have amended these off the
 3 agenda.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. I think we forgot.
 5 That's fine.
 6 MS. PRICE: So the same thing for 304 and
 7 306 and postpone the public hearings on those
 8 until next month?
 9 MR. CLARKE: I would recommend that.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Did everybody hear
 11 that? We're going to postpone 304 and 306.
 12 Madam Secretary, to what date was it?
 13 SECRETARY: October 12th.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: October 12th.
 15 SECRETARY: But we already advertised it
 16 as a continuation.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 18 SECRETARY: To tonight. So I think people
 19 have to be given an opportunity to speak if
 20 they wish to.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: So we need to kind of go

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<p>1 through the hearing. Okay. No problem. Okay. 2 So let's keep on going. Let's see. Now 3 I'm going to open the public hearing to 304. 4 If anybody wishes to comment, come up and say 5 your name and your address. I'll give you 6 three minutes for individual, five minutes if 7 you're representing an organization.</p>	<p>1 allow the Planning Commission to provide a 2 recommendation for the County Council. Okay. 3 Madam Secretary, would you please read the 4 next resolution into the record, please. 5 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 306. A 6 resolution to amend the Talbot County 7 comprehensive water and sewer plan to 8 reclassify and remap certain real properties 9 located at 1004 South Talbot Street, Maryland 10 Route 33, St. Michael's, Maryland 21663. And 11 shown on tax map 32 as parcel 148. And located 12 at 1006 South Talbot Street, Maryland Route 33, 13 St. Michael's, Maryland 21663. And shown on 14 tax map 32 as parcel 75. From S-3, future 15 planned area for sewer service a period six to 16 ten years, to S-1, immediate priority status.</p>
<p>8 MR. PACK: I thought we were moving these? 9 Why are you doing 304?</p>	<p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary. 9 MR. CLARKE: Again, the Planning 10 Commission voted to table this at their 11 September 1st meeting. Their next meeting will 12 be October 6th.</p>
<p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Because Madam Secretary 11 said we've already announced it.</p>	
<p>12 SECRETARY: After last time, we continued 13 it. From August 10th, we continued it to 14 today. So it was a continuation.</p>	
<p>15 MR. PACK: So it would be another 16 continuation.</p>	
<p>17 SECRETARY: So it would be another 18 continuation.</p>	
<p>19 MR. PACK: So just move on.</p>	
<p>20 MS. PRICE: Well, if there's anybody in 21 the room, I guess give them a chance, but I</p>	
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<p>1 don't think there is.</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great.</p>
<p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. I was just giving 3 everybody a chance. That's all.</p>	<p>2 At this time, I'm going to open the public 3 hearing on 306. If you want to provide some 4 comments, come on up and say your name and your 5 address. I'll give you three minutes if you're 6 representing yourself. And if you're 7 representing an organization, I'll give you 8 five minutes.</p>
<p>4 So over here, is there anybody here to my 5 left that was wanting to come up and talk about 6 304? Okay.</p>	<p>9 So over here to my left, does anybody want 10 to come up and talk about 306? 11 Over here to my right, anybody want to 12 talk about 306, you're welcome to come up? 13 Okay.</p>
<p>7 Anybody here to my right want to come up 8 and talk about 304? Okay.</p>	<p>14 So we'll leave that open. And what we'll 15 do is the public hearing on 306 will be 16 continued to October 12th.</p>
<p>9 Then we'll close the hearing for -- not 10 close it. I'm sorry.</p>	<p>17 MS. PRICE: I thought 306 we needed to 18 move -- and Mr. Stamp has left. Right? Is it 19 306 that we need to move forward for the --</p>
<p>11 MR. LESHAR: Continue to October 12th.</p>	<p>20 MR. LESHAR: No, no.</p>
<p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. We're going to 13 continue.</p>	<p>21 MS. MORRIS: Bill 1493, Ms. Price.</p>
<p>14 MR. PACK: Continue both of them. So I 15 don't know why we're going through this.</p>	
<p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. There will be -- so 17 it's October 8th you said?</p>	
<p>18 SECRETARY: October 12th.</p>	
<p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: October 12th, okay. So the 20 public hearing on Resolution 304 will continue 21 to Tuesday, October 12th, at 6:30 in order to</p>	

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1 MS. PRICE: Sorry, sorry, sorry.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: It's all right. No
 3 problem. It just messed me up. That's okay.
 4 Don't worry about it.
 5 MS. PRICE: Don't want to do that.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Let me start
 7 over here. The public hearing on Resolution
 8 306 will continue to October 12th at 6:30 to
 9 allow the Planning Commission to provide
 10 recommendations for the County Council. Okay.
 11 We're all straight on that.
 12 Madam Secretary, do you want to read 1493
 13 into the record.
 14 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1493. A bill to
 15 authorize Talbot County, Maryland, the county,
 16 to borrow not more than \$600,000 in order to
 17 finance and refinance improvements to certain
 18 wastewater facilities in the county and to
 19 effect such borrowing by the issuance and sale
 20 of one or more series of its general obligation
 21 bonds payable from ad valorem taxes to be

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1 levied by the county. Exempting the bonds from
 2 the provisions of sections 19-205 and 19-207 of
 3 the Local Government Article of the Annotated
 4 Code of Maryland. Authorizing the
 5 consolidation of separate series of bonds into
 6 one or more bonds. Authorizing the refunding
 7 of such bonds and relating generally to the
 8 issuance and sale of such bonds for such
 9 purposes.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,
 11 that's great.
 12 MR. CLARKE: Mr. Callahan, this is
 13 associated with our belt filter press. We're
 14 working to borrow funding through Rural
 15 Development to go ahead and procure a new belt
 16 filter press and conveyor system.
 17 Ultimately, this would be paid for by the
 18 users of St. Michaels as well as Martingham,
 19 Unionville, Tunis Mills, Copperville, and Royal
 20 Oak and Bellevue. So that would be broken up
 21 for those different service areas.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. Okay. With
 2 that being said, I am going to open the public
 3 hearing on Bill 1493. And if you wish to come
 4 up, provide your name and address and you can
 5 talk for three minutes. And if you're
 6 representing somebody, an organization, you
 7 talk for five, no problem.
 8 So I'm going to look over here to my left,
 9 if anybody wants to come up and talk about
 10 1463. Or 93, I'm sorry. 1493. Okay. Good
 11 Lord.
 12 Now on this side, on my right side, 1493?
 13 Okay.
 14 So we'll leave that open. Well, no. I'm
 15 sorry. We'll be closing that now. Correct?
 16 MS. MORRIS: Correct.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: We'll be closing the public
 18 hearing on 1493.
 19 Mr. Thomas, replacing the belt filter
 20 press on region two wastewater treatment plant
 21 is a priority project. We will vote on 1493

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1 tonight.
 2 MR. THOMAS: Yes. So under the Council's
 3 rules of procedure with respect to bills, a
 4 bill must be read on three separate occasions.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 6 MR. THOMAS: The public hearing serves as
 7 the second reader.
 8 However, Council is aware there's an
 9 urgent need to approve this. And the rules do
 10 provide that they can be suspended in whole or
 11 in part upon the vote of four of the five
 12 Council members, unless prohibited by the
 13 Charter or other law. And there is no such
 14 prohibition that would prevent you from waiving
 15 the requirement that it be read on three
 16 separate occasions and moving this to third
 17 reader this evening with four votes.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, then.
 19 MR. LESHER: Mr. President.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.
 21 MR. LESHER: I will move that we suspend

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<p>1 the rules of procedure to allow this bill to 2 move to third reader. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 4 MS. PRICE: Second. 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 6 a second. Madam Secretary. 7 MR. PACK: Discussion. Again, this is 8 unusual, but I think it's important that 9 Council does waive this procedure at this time. 10 This is an emergency situation, which the 11 county engineer has come before Council over 12 the last three weeks or more. This is costing 13 the Council funds to process this waste 14 material. 15 So I believe that although this is highly 16 unusual for us to waive a procedure for a third 17 reading of a bill, I think under this 18 situation, because it does fall in my opinion 19 under an emergency, that the county engineer 20 has alluded us to, I believe that we should, 21 that we should waive it at this time.</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. Madam Secretary, 2 could you call the vote. 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: Let me just be clear on 13 Mr. Leshner's motion. The motion is not to move 14 it to third reader, but to move it to vote. 15 This is for vote, not to third reader. 16 Aye. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, we did that before. 18 Am I right? 19 MR. STAMP: No. You suspended the 20 requirement. 21 MR. THOMAS: You suspended the requirement</p>
<p>Page 103</p> <p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So Madam Secretary, 2 so there's a motion and a second to waive the 3 third reader. 4 SECRETARY: To suspend the rules. 5 MR. CALLAHAN: To suspend, yup. 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 9 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 11 MR. LESHNER: Aye. 12 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 13 MS. PRICE: Aye. 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 15 MR. PACK: Aye. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 17 MR. LESHNER: And -- 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Go ahead. 19 MR. LESHNER: So I then move Bill 1493 to 20 its third reader. 21 MR. PACK: To vote.</p>	<p>Page 105</p> <p>1 that it has to be read on three separate 2 occasions so that it can go to a third reader 3 now instead of having to wait until another 4 meeting. 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 6 MR. LESHNER: Now you can ask her to read 7 it the third time. 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Madam Secretary, 9 could you read it for the third time. 10 SECRETARY: Bill Number 14 -- 11 MS. PRICE: I ask that so much be 12 considered a reading, as Mr. Stamp points to 13 me. 14 SECRETARY: Make a motion to bring it to 15 vote? 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. 17 MR. LESHNER: So moved. 18 MR. DIVILIO: Second. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: We got motion and a second. 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p>

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 2 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 4 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 6 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 8 MR. PACK: Aye.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So let's move on.
 10 Let's move on to eligible for vote. So now,
 11 Madam Secretary could you read Bill 1492 into
 12 the record, please.
 13 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1492. A bill to
 14 establish the annual salary of the sheriff for
 15 Talbot County to be effective for terms
 16 beginning in and after 2022.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Okay. Open for
 18 discussion.
 19 MR. LESHNER: Well, we discussed this a bit
 20 at the public hearing.
 21 We understand that this is important for

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1 us to be able to attract and retain talent. It
 2 is also really a market adjustment. We have
 3 the unusual circumstance where the salaries of
 4 the line officers in the Sheriff's Department
 5 are set in our annual budget process, but the
 6 sheriff's salary is set in this separate
 7 legislation and cannot be changed between
 8 terms, just like ours cannot be changed between
 9 terms. And so this will be for the sheriff,
 10 the sheriff's salary after the next election.
 11 I think in order to -- and we have a
 12 sheriff who now is paid less than some of his
 13 line officers. That's a little inverted.
 14 There ought to be a margin there. And I think
 15 to be able to attract and retain good talent,
 16 just as we have done with all, several of our
 17 other department heads. We've made market
 18 adjustments. And oftentimes, sadly, we do that
 19 simply when the openings occur in those
 20 department head positions.
 21 This is a department that, of course, does

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1 not report to us. It is independently elected.
 2 This is the appropriate procedure for us to do
 3 this, and I fully support this change.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.
 5 Mr. Divilio.
 6 MR. DIVILIO: I completely agree. We saw
 7 this vote from the public that they wanted to
 8 see money being spent on public safety. And I
 9 think that this falls right in line with that.
 10 So I'm happy to support it.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.
 12 Mr. Pack.
 13 MR. PACK: Yeah. Although I felt that the
 14 18 percent increase was a bit eyebrow raising,
 15 I believe I can go along with it at this time.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 17 Ms. Price.
 18 MS. PRICE: I think I expressed my support
 19 at the last meeting. We just needed to wait
 20 until tonight to take care of it.
 21 Again, voting on the position and not the

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1 man, even though we have an incredible sheriff.
 2 And I think that's where we got public support.
 3 Just remember that this is something for the
 4 sheriff at the next election, whoever that may
 5 choose to be.
 6 But I do support public safety. And we
 7 have made a lot of changes on all the other
 8 positions in public safety. And the sheriff's
 9 position deserves the same thing. Thanks.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Price.
 11 And I can support this, too. I think that
 12 the taxpayers last election made a point that
 13 this is what safety is all about and we want to
 14 be able to keep our citizens safe for the near
 15 future and make sure that nothing happens and
 16 we take care of everybody.
 17 So Madam Secretary.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 21 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
 2 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 4 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 6 MR. PACK: Aye.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next up, our
 8 favorite county manager.
 9 MR. STAMP: Thank you.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: You're welcome.
 11 MR. STAMP: Appreciate it. I have a
 12 number of things here that I want to go over
 13 with you tonight. First are boards and
 14 committee appointments.
 15 The first one is the Tourism Board.
 16 Requesting the reappointment of Jeff Schneider
 17 representing the hotel motel sector to the
 18 Tourism Board.
 19 MR. PACK: So moved.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 6 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 8 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 10 MR. PACK: Aye.
 11 MR. STAMP: The next will be
 12 recommendation for Upper Shore Aging Board of
 13 Directors. Requesting the reappointment of
 14 Judith Munch to the Upper Shore Aging Board of
 15 Directors.
 16 MR. PACK: So moved.
 17 MR. LESHHER: Second.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you
 19 call the vote, please.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 2 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 4 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 6 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 8 MR. PACK: Aye.
 9 MR. STAMP: Next item I have is for the
 10 Weed Control Committee. Requesting the
 11 reappointment of John Jay Shortall to that
 12 committee.
 13 MR. PACK: So moved.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you
 16 call the vote, please.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.

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1 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 3 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 5 MR. PACK: Aye.
 6 MR. STAMP: Next item I have, if Warren
 7 Edwards is in the room, invite him to come
 8 forward. The next item I have is a request
 9 from the Roads Department to utilize FY22
 10 budgeted funds to purchase a new milling
 11 machine, portable broom, and pickup truck.
 12 As you read in your agenda packet, the
 13 Roads Department is requesting Council approval
 14 to utilize FY22 funds for the purchase of a new
 15 cold milling machine from the low bidder,
 16 Elliott & France, in the amount of \$549,661.67,
 17 which reflects a source discount from the
 18 Chesapeake Supply Company in the amount -- I'm
 19 sorry. Discount.
 20 Additionally requesting sole source
 21 purchase of a portable broom attachment from

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<p>1 Chesapeake Supply Equipment Company in the 2 amount of \$47,000 and a water truck attachment 3 in the amount of \$15,000. 4 Finally, requesting the purchase of a 2021 5 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 double cab pickup 6 truck from Hertrich Fleet Services, 7 Incorporated utilizing the State of Maryland 8 contract in the amount of \$57,894. 9 All purchases will be made utilizing FY22 10 budgeted funds. 11 MR. PACK: So moved. 12 MR. LESHHER: Second. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you 14 call the vote, please. 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 18 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher. 20 MR. LESHHER: Aye. 21 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p>	<p>1 One of the problems we've tried to do is 2 we've tried to pump and haul the sludge to our 3 biosolids facility. Unfortunately, when we did 4 that, the polymer that we used there was not 5 coagulating any sludge. So we weren't getting 6 good dewatering. 7 We then did some bench tests with 8 alternative polymers. And we just were not 9 getting it consistent. So it was going to cost 10 us a lot of money to find the right polymer and 11 we did not have the volume I guess to hold the 12 material. So it was actually going to be 13 cheaper for us to send it to Easton Utility for 14 processing. 15 MR. STAMP: And specifically we're 16 requesting that Council approve the award of 17 Bid Number 2013 to M2 Construction for the base 18 bid and bid alternate number one in the amount 19 of \$566,266. A total of four bids were 20 received. And the lowest bid was found to be 21 nonresponsive.</p>
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<p>1 MS. PRICE: Aye. 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 3 MR. PACK: Aye. 4 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council. 5 Requesting -- Ray, if you'll come up 6 first. 7 Request from the Department of Public 8 Works to award Bid Number 2013, Talbot County 9 region two, St. Michael's Wastewater Treatment 10 Plant sludge management improvements, belt 11 filter press replacement in St. Michael's, 12 Talbot County. 13 You have information in your packet. And 14 I'll turn the floor over to Ray Clarke to 15 answer any questions you have and provide more 16 information. 17 MR. CLARKE: Council, just to give you 18 some information real quick as well as the 19 general public. This is we're requesting award 20 to construction to go ahead and proceed with 21 ordering the belt filter press.</p>	<p>1 Funding for this project is from the USDA 2 loan, with professional services included. The 3 project will exceed the \$600,000 authorized in 4 capital projects. 5 The project costs exceeding \$600,000 will 6 be taken from the equipment replacement and 7 maintenance funding lines for Royal Oak, 8 Newcomb, Bellevue, St. Michael-s, Unionville, 9 Tunis Mills, Copperville, and Martingham 10 sanitary districts. 11 MR. PACK: Can you speak to that, 12 Mr. Clarke? How much are you expecting this to 13 be over the budgeted amount of \$600,000? 14 MR. CLARKE: We're actually looking 15 probably no more than about let's say 15 to 16 \$20,000 that would then be split up between 17 those different sanitary districts. So we're 18 probably looking at basically being about 19 \$20,000 over the 600,000. 20 MR. PACK: \$20,000 over. And as far as 21 the equipment, the money will be taken from</p>

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1 what types of equipment and maintenance are you
 2 looking at cycling this money off of?
 3 MR. CLARKE: This is actually part of our
 4 operating budgets. We actually have a repair,
 5 a replacement line item in our budget. So we'd
 6 be taking a portion out of each one of those
 7 sanitary districts, out of that line item, that
 8 operating budget.
 9 MR. PACK: Have you been traditionally
 10 falling under budget on these items that you
 11 feel safe to take that money out of the repair
 12 and maintenance of those?
 13 MR. CLARKE: For this, depending upon how
 14 things work out with the sewer extensions, we
 15 should be fine if we get the sewer extensions.
 16 The sewer extensions for Resolution 235.
 17 We could run into a little bit of a negative
 18 budget for all of them.
 19 MR. PACK: So you're putting some of your
 20 eggs in a basket of sewer extension to make up
 21 for the 20 you're going to take out of O&M at

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1 least of these areas?
 2 MR. CLARKE: Yes. If we can get that,
 3 we're in good shape. If we can get the sewer
 4 extensions moving forward, yes, sir.
 5 MR. PACK: Kind of shaky. Keep an eye on
 6 that with Mr. Stamp. It's kind of shaky.
 7 Okay. All right.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Anybody else have any
 9 questions, Council? Anybody else?
 10 Mr. Pack?
 11 MR. PACK: I'm good.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Do we have a motion?
 13 MR. DIVILIO: I'll make a motion that we
 14 accept the Bid Number 20-13.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 16 MR. PACK: Second.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 18 a second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 19 vote, please.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 2 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 4 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 6 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 8 MR. PACK: Aye.
 9 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Ray.
 10 I'll call Preston Peper up, director of
 11 Parks and Recreation. Parks and Recreation is
 12 requesting to utilize FY22 capital budget
 13 funds. House Bill 590 for LED lights for the
 14 Talbot Community Center and replacement
 15 scoreboards at Perry Cabin Park.
 16 As you read in your packet, Parks and
 17 Recreation is requesting Council approval to
 18 utilize State FY22 capital budget funds as
 19 follows: \$155,795 utilizing the source well
 20 purchasing agreement contract and Musco
 21 Lighting, LLC funds to complete the LED light

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1 retrofit at Talbot County Community Center,
 2 \$42,013.67 utilizing source well contract to
 3 award to Nevco Scoreboards and Video Displays
 4 to replace scoreboards at Perry Cabin Park.
 5 Both projects are made possible thanks to
 6 Delegate Mautz.
 7 And Preston is here to provide any further
 8 detail on this request.
 9 MR. PEPER: We were actually fortunate.
 10 Delegate Mautz actually put this in the House
 11 Bill 590 budget specifically for this, lights,
 12 to do the retrofitting of the lights at the
 13 Talbot County Community Center, something that
 14 has, as you remember, it's been in the budget a
 15 couple of times. And then also to replace the
 16 scoreboards at Perry Cabin ball field that
 17 aren't working properly.
 18 So source well is a national bid process.
 19 So we are seeking your approval to use that in
 20 order to purchase these items.
 21 MR. PACK: Preston, should this be

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1 approved tonight, I hope that it will since
 2 it's OPM, what is the time frame on getting the
 3 lights up and at the ball field?
 4 MR. PEPER: So it's a matter of timing.
 5 Luckily we're at that point where the ball
 6 field lights and the scoreboards, it's not the
 7 critical time of year right now. It's kind of
 8 down time. So we do have time before next
 9 spring to get those put up.
 10 So hopefully I think Musco is probably the
 11 bigger one with the lights. They're actually
 12 just putting the lights, replacing the tops of
 13 the posts. So the poles aren't being replaced.
 14 So I'm hoping probably a four to six-week
 15 turnaround.
 16 MR. PACK: Have they assured you that
 17 there's not a supply problem on their end?
 18 I know a lot of things have been backed
 19 up, not by the vendor, by the suppliers.
 20 MR. PEPER: Each time we talk to him, it's
 21 been about four to six weeks. As soon as we

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1 say go, they've always said it could be four
 2 weeks, it could be six weeks to get those done.
 3 MR. PACK: Okay. Thanks.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 5 MR. PACK: You need a motion?
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.
 7 MR. PACK: I make a motion that we proceed
 8 with the light replacement and scoreboard
 9 replacement.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Pack made a
 11 motion.
 12 MR. DIVILIO: I'll second.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Divilio seconded it.
 14 Madam Secretary, could you call the roll.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 18 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 20 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.

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1 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 3 MR. PACK: Aye.
 4 MR. PEPER: Thank you.
 5 MR. STAMP: Next item, I'll call Jessica
 6 Morris up. Jessica is going to share with you
 7 an opportunity we have regarding Community
 8 Development Block Grants.
 9 And so Jessica, thank you.
 10 MS. MORRIS: Yes. So the county is
 11 eligible to apply for a State fiscal 22
 12 Community Development Block Grant.
 13 Mary Kay Verdery is our grant
 14 administrator. She did put out a notice to the
 15 nonprofits in our community asking for letters
 16 of interest to partner with the county on the
 17 block grant. The county has allocation to
 18 apply for up to \$800,000.
 19 We did receive five letters of interest.
 20 And I will go through them very briefly.
 21 The first was from Polaris Village

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1 Ministries to rehabilitate a non-residential
 2 structure on Port Street in Easton for a
 3 community center child care center. And they
 4 are seeking 500,000 in Community Development
 5 Block Grant funds.
 6 The Chesapeake Multicultural Resource
 7 Center is requesting to rehabilitate a
 8 non-residential structure on Higgins Street in
 9 Easton for a community center and a community
 10 garden. And they would be seeking \$125,000 in
 11 Community Development Block Grant funds.
 12 Midshore Pro Bono to continue to provide
 13 legal assistance to low to moderate income
 14 residents in Talbot County. Seeking \$50,000.
 15 The Foundation of Hope to fund a program
 16 coordinator for development and empowerment
 17 training to sixth grade girls in Talbot County.
 18 Seeking \$75,000.
 19 And Building African American Minds to
 20 construct a new academy center. Seeking
 21 \$800,000 in Community Development Block Grant

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<p>1 funds.</p> <p>2 The staff has review and analyzed the five</p> <p>3 letters of interest and believes that the</p> <p>4 Council, is recommending to Council to partner</p> <p>5 with Polaris Village Ministries, Chesapeake</p> <p>6 Multicultural Resource Center, Midshore Pro</p> <p>7 Bono, Foundation of Hope.</p> <p>8 At this time, we are not recommending to</p> <p>9 partner with Building African American Minds.</p> <p>10 Although it's a wonderful project, they are</p> <p>11 preliminary, still working on fundraising for</p> <p>12 that project and would have an opportunity to</p> <p>13 work with the county in the next round.</p> <p>14 So pending Council approval this evening,</p> <p>15 Mary Kay would be coming back to you at your</p> <p>16 next meeting to actually have a public hearing</p> <p>17 and describe more of these projects in further</p> <p>18 detail.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds great.</p> <p>20 Council, discussion.</p> <p>21 MR. LESHER: Well, I'm just thrilled to</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>2 could you call the vote, please.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>6 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>8 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>10 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>13 MS. MORRIS: Thank you.</p> <p>14 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Jessica. Great</p> <p>15 job.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>17 MR. STAMP: The next item I have is listed</p> <p>18 publicly is appointment of county attorney.</p> <p>19 And what I want to do is, for Council, go back</p> <p>20 over some of the things that got us here.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.</p>
<p>Page 127</p> <p>1 see these projects coming forward and this</p> <p>2 opportunity to be made to these organizations</p> <p>3 in this way. It's nice that we've gotten the</p> <p>4 word out and found all of these, identified all</p> <p>5 these needs in the community.</p> <p>6 So I'll move to approve the letter.</p> <p>7 MR. DIVILIO: Happy to support. Second.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.</p> <p>9 Council, discussion?</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: No comment.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So we got a motion</p> <p>12 and a second.</p> <p>13 I would make one comment. Jess, you've</p> <p>14 done a great job and so has Mary Kay.</p> <p>15 MS. MORRIS: Yes. Mary Kay is doing a</p> <p>16 wonderful job.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Mary Kay has done a really</p> <p>18 good job, and I wanted to reach out to her.</p> <p>19 She's been a big part of this. So I really</p> <p>20 appreciate all you guys have been doing.</p> <p>21 MS. MORRIS: Thank you.</p>	<p>Page 129</p> <p>1 MR. STAMP: For this decision by Council</p> <p>2 tonight.</p> <p>3 So first, by Charter the county attorney</p> <p>4 reports directly to the County Council,</p> <p>5 providing legal services for county government,</p> <p>6 number one.</p> <p>7 Number two, in November 2020, voters</p> <p>8 reaffirmed their desire to require that the</p> <p>9 county attorney reside in Talbot County.</p> <p>10 Number three, on December of 2020, then</p> <p>11 acting county attorney, Tony Kupersmith,</p> <p>12 tendered his resignation.</p> <p>13 Number four, Council began an advertising</p> <p>14 process for a county attorney in January into</p> <p>15 February of 2021, with Council Member Pack and</p> <p>16 Divilio leading a Council committee.</p> <p>17 There were six applications received, none</p> <p>18 from Talbot County, three selected to be</p> <p>19 interviewed, one pulled out prior to</p> <p>20 interviews, two were interviewed by Council</p> <p>21 Members Pack and Divilio and then the whole</p>

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1 Council.

2 At that point, Council Members Pack and

3 Divilio and Council began exploring contracting

4 legal services, similar to what five other

5 counties on the Eastern Shore do as well.

6 A contract was developed between MacLeod

7 Law Group, who had been providing temporary

8 legal services, which was reviewed by a third

9 party attorney for legal sufficiency, Mr. Phil

10 Hoon.

11 Number seven, the Local Government

12 Insurance Trust, LGIT, Mr. Kevin Karpinski, an

13 attorney, issued Council advice on the county

14 attorney as it related to residency

15 requirements. He advised whether the Council

16 hired a county attorney or contracted a person,

17 that person should remain acting until they

18 meet the residency requirements and then acting

19 could be removed.

20 The county did engage to contract with

21 MacLeod Legal Services. And we are presently

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1 four months into a 12-month contract, with

2 eight months remaining.

3 Does Council desire to remove the acting

4 title now that Mr. Thomas meets the residency

5 requirement as of August of 2021 to satisfy the

6 county charter?

7 So that's the question I'm bringing

8 forward, Council, to you is whether you want to

9 move forward to drop the acting from his title

10 to satisfy the requirements of the county

11 Charter.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Council?

13 MR. LESHHER: Mr. Stamp, I know that we're

14 four months into this, and we've been over some

15 of this ground before.

16 But could you review for us briefly about

17 how the financial arrangement for this compares

18 to the previous arrangement with an in-house

19 attorney?

20 MR. STAMP: Sure. If you look at the

21 budget numbers, prior to the arrangement with

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1 MacLeod Legal Services, the county employed a

2 county attorney and an assistant county

3 attorney. And we have a paralegal in the

4 office, you have a paralegal in your office.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.

6 MR. STAMP: With this arrangement, you

7 maintain the paralegal in the office. You have

8 a county attorney and you have access to four

9 individuals with the firm that are at the

10 disposal of Mr. Thomas to address various

11 issues.

12 The contract is for a fixed amount of

13 money that it less than you would have paid

14 previously. And it's a fixed amount of money

15 with the exception of costs for litigation. So

16 hopefully that helps answer your question.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.

18 MR. STAMP: What I will say is that

19 dovetails into this is that staff is working

20 very diligently, as Council has directed and as

21 we are supposed to, to build as much

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1 transparency as we can into our processes.

2 And so you're going to see a lot more

3 information on various things on our website

4 that will be available moving forward, some of

5 which is --

6 MR. LESHHER: Mr. Stamp, I know this is a

7 12-month contract, as typical with these sorts

8 of arrangements.

9 Council is at liberty to terminate this

10 arrangement at any time; is that correct?

11 MR. STAMP: That is correct.

12 MR. LESHHER: And regardless, it would be

13 reviewed at the 12-month time?

14 MR. STAMP: That is correct.

15 MR. LESHHER: Thank you very much.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshher.

17 Mr. Divilio.

18 MR. DIVILIO: I'm just surprised he's

19 still sitting there after we just said we got

20 him for so cheap.

21 No other comments. I'm happy to support.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Ms. Price.
 2 MS. PRICE: Well, I kind of like getting
 3 was it five or six of you for the price of one?
 4 MR. THOMAS: Four (inaudible).
 5 MS. PRICE: That's what's really unique
 6 because not everybody can know everything. And
 7 to have other people that maybe have more
 8 expertise in another area of law, I think at
 9 least in the four months we've been doing this,
 10 has been very beneficial so far.
 11 So it has worked out well. And as long as
 12 similar price and whatnot, but this seems to
 13 make a lot of sense. So for those who were
 14 concerned about this arrangement, obviously
 15 Mr. Stamp went through all of the procedures
 16 that we went through. And it's all above
 17 board.
 18 And I'm really happy that you're here,
 19 along with your partners at our disposal.
 20 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Pack.

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1 MR. PACK: Yes, very briefly.
 2 Mr. Stamp, thank you very much for going
 3 through the process and laying this out. And I
 4 know it must have been frustrating to have to
 5 stop and answer these questions, because some
 6 of them as I read them are rather insulting to
 7 me.
 8 To think that the Council would not
 9 undergo a contract without it being reviewed by
 10 outside counsel, that we would not make sure
 11 that the county's interests are protected and
 12 going into a contract of this kind.
 13 We do contracts every day around here.
 14 This isn't something new. So to have to stop
 15 and take your time to answer these, thank you
 16 for doing that. I know it could have been a
 17 bit frustrating on your end.
 18 And look, I'm going to be for
 19 transparency. I liked the fact that we had our
 20 own in-house attorney with Mr. Pullen and then
 21 with Mr. Kupersmith and Ms. O'Donnell working

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1 as deputy county attorney. So even I was a bit
 2 hesitant about going contractually through a
 3 firm.
 4 But minds are meant to be changed. If
 5 don't change your mind, you'll never change the
 6 world around you, right?
 7 So and Mr. Thomas has proven himself to be
 8 a very worldly and skilled attorney. I know
 9 Chip, known Chip for a while through some other
 10 county endeavors in Caroline County and Kent
 11 County. I know you came from a very reputable
 12 firm.
 13 And we do have still that requirement
 14 regarding residency of the county attorney,
 15 which he meets. He actually doesn't live too
 16 far from me. We can throw a football back and
 17 forth to one another.
 18 But again, thanks for going through the
 19 process for just laying this out for the public
 20 and having to go answering these questions.
 21 Yes, we did have the contract reviewed. Yes,

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1 we did make sure the county interests are
 2 protected. Mr. Divilio and I sat on the first
 3 couple of rounds to make sure that we did vet
 4 people out appropriately.
 5 And this is what this Council has always
 6 done traditionally. We did nothing different
 7 in vetting out this position, nothing at all.
 8 So again, I am supportive of removing the
 9 acting title. He meets the residency
 10 requirement. He certainly has shown himself to
 11 be a well adept attorney, even pointing out
 12 things that procedurally I didn't know. So
 13 thank you very much.
 14 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 16 And I'll end it and add that Mr. Stamp, I
 17 really appreciate you doing all this for us.
 18 You've answered it very professionally, exact,
 19 and this Council is behind you. Okay.
 20 I commend Council for making a business
 21 decision on this. This is a great decision for

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 138</p> <p>1 this Council to make.</p> <p>2 We are so happy to have you. Patrick,</p> <p>3 you've done a great job for us these four, five</p> <p>4 months. You fit right in. You're at our</p> <p>5 disposal.</p> <p>6 And I think what is impressive about you</p> <p>7 is if you don't know the answer, you'll find it</p> <p>8 for us. You know what I mean? And you've got</p> <p>9 a whole team right behind you.</p> <p>10 And that's what people need to understand.</p> <p>11 We're up here making business decisions, and</p> <p>12 it's a good decision to have you because we</p> <p>13 have all kinds of tentacles at our resources.</p> <p>14 And everybody, the big thing is the</p> <p>15 revenue that we're saving the taxpayer. That's</p> <p>16 what we look at. We look at what we're going</p> <p>17 to be saving. And you've saved us a lot of</p> <p>18 money. So I really appreciate it.</p> <p>19 And once again, Mr. Stamp, thanks a lot</p> <p>20 for your hard work. And like Mr. Pack said,</p> <p>21 we're trying to be transparent on everything we</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 140</p> <p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>3 MR. STAMP: And Mr. Council President and</p> <p>4 Members of Council, I alluded to it a moment</p> <p>5 ago, but I do want to just talk momentarily.</p> <p>6 I know that we're in some very interesting</p> <p>7 times right now, and we are still in the middle</p> <p>8 of a pandemic. And there's certainly a</p> <p>9 psychological effect that's weighing on a lot</p> <p>10 of people, and some people may not be at their</p> <p>11 best these days.</p> <p>12 But I will say this, that our staff is</p> <p>13 working diligently to make sure that we are as</p> <p>14 transparent as we possibly could be.</p> <p>15 We get a number of Public Information</p> <p>16 Access requests. And we try to work really</p> <p>17 fast to get that information out.</p> <p>18 As a matter of fact, what we're trying to</p> <p>19 do is identify that information that obviously</p> <p>20 needs to be transparent and post that on the</p> <p>21 website so anybody at any time can just go</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 139</p> <p>1 do. So keep your head up. You're doing a</p> <p>2 great job. Okay.</p> <p>3 Madam Secretary, I think I got a motion</p> <p>4 and a second; don't I?</p> <p>5 MR. PACK: You don't have a motion. But</p> <p>6 Mr. Divilio (inaudible).</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm sorry. I apologize.</p> <p>8 MR. DIVILIO: I'll make a motion that we</p> <p>9 remove acting as the title.</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: I'll second Mr. Divilio's</p> <p>11 motion.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So we got a motion</p> <p>13 and a second. Can you 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. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>21 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 141</p> <p>1 reach in and grab it.</p> <p>2 So we've been able to, through our county</p> <p>3 website, talbotcountymd.gov, we've been able to</p> <p>4 begin posting minutes from meetings from</p> <p>5 different boards and commissions. We'll</p> <p>6 continue to expand that.</p> <p>7 In addition, we are looking at other</p> <p>8 avenues of transparency. We've started putting</p> <p>9 a press release out after every Council meeting</p> <p>10 to try to put context around very complex</p> <p>11 issues to try to enhance communication because</p> <p>12 communication is so important, especially in</p> <p>13 this time in the middle of this pandemic when</p> <p>14 people are concerned.</p> <p>15 So I just want to let you know that staff</p> <p>16 is working diligently to try to enhance our</p> <p>17 transparency and to identify areas where we can</p> <p>18 improve because we can always improve.</p> <p>19 So I just want to share that with you.</p> <p>20 And thank you for your support.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Absolutely. And I want to</p>

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1 back up with that, with your word of
 2 communication.
 3 It's very easy, if you don't understand
 4 something, if you don't understand something,
 5 call the Council. Make a phone call instead of
 6 a PIA. Save us a lot of problems. Save us a
 7 lot of time. Pick up the phone. If you don't
 8 understand something, pick the phone up. So
 9 I'm just going to leave it at that.
 10 MR. STAMP: Thank you, sir.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. I guess it's me
 12 again. So Mr. Stamp you're done, correct?
 13 MR. STAMP: Oh, I'm sorry. This does
 14 conclude the county manager's report.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So next, let's --
 16 MS. PRICE: I ask that so much be
 17 considered a reading of the county manager
 18 report.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan, I believe the
 20 court reporter would like a break.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. You deserve one.

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1 MR. LESHHER: Do you need to move to
 2 recess?
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, we can move to
 4 recess. We need to move to recess.
 5 Madam Secretary, could you call --
 6 MS. PRICE: Motion.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Make a motion.
 8 MR. DIVILIO: I make a motion that we
 9 recess.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We have a motion and
 11 second it. Can you call the roll.
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 15 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 17 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 19 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 21 MR. PACK: Aye.

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1 (Recess taken.)
 2 MR. LESHHER: You've already gaveled us
 3 back into order.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: I thought I did. Okay.
 5 So let's start off with the public
 6 hearing. And Mr. Leshher, you want to call the
 7 first person up.
 8 MR. LESHHER: So public comment is an
 9 opportunity to --
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: I meant public comment.
 11 MR. LESHHER: -- in attendance to address
 12 the Council regarding any county matter.
 13 Any member of the public desiring to be
 14 heard by the Council shall raise their hand and
 15 wait to be recognized by the Council president.
 16 Once recognized, the person shall state their
 17 name and address and then direct their comments
 18 to the Council as a body, not to individual
 19 Council members or other members of the public.
 20 Each speaker shall be permitted to speak
 21 for no more than three minutes. Those speaking

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1 on behalf of an organization shall be given up
 2 to five minutes, unless otherwise authorized by
 3 the Council president.
 4 Speakers are expected to be courteous and
 5 respectful. Personal, impertinent, or
 6 slanderous comments shall not be tolerated.
 7 And the first person on the sign-up sheet
 8 is Mr. Mickey Terrone of Oxford. I do not see
 9 him in the room.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Do you think he's outside?
 11 MR. LESHHER: Well, there's room.
 12 SPEAKER: I didn't see Mikey out there.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You didn't, okay.
 14 MR. LESHHER: Next on the list is Suzanne
 15 Carley. I do not see her in the room.
 16 Next is Kisha Petticolas. She's not
 17 present, either.
 18 Next, Suzanne Todd. Apparently not
 19 present.
 20 Next, Martha Hamlyn. She appears to have
 21 left.

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<p>1 MS. PRICE: Shouldn't we just go through 2 who is here? 3 MR. LESHER: Next is Jim Richardson. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: They signed up. 5 MR. LESHER: Who appears to have left. 6 Next on the list is Stephanie Chester. 7 Next on the list is Ridgely Ochs. 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, Ms. Ochs. How are 9 you? 10 MS. OCHS: Good. How are you? 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Good, good. 12 MS. OCHS: Thank you. I'm Ridgely Ochs 13 from Bozman. 14 I just wanted to applaud Mr. Divilio's 15 courage and Mr. Leshner and Mr. Pack for making 16 the right decision. 17 There was a lot of conversation tonight 18 about respect and respecting the citizens of 19 Talbot County. But I would say that one of the 20 reasons why I got involved with wanting to move 21 this monument was I felt it was disrespectful</p>	<p>1 decision made tonight. And I want to thank 2 Mr. Divilio and the rest of the Council for 3 their decision. 4 I also want everyone to stay safe because 5 I know there's a lot of comments from a lot of 6 people. I think it's unwarranted. So 7 hopefully this will bring some peace in the 8 community. 9 If I've ever said anything to this Council 10 or any individual that might have been taken in 11 a rude way, I apologize. I tried to stay -- 12 sometimes the emotions get the best of me. 13 But I appreciate your time. Thank you for 14 making this decision. 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, Mr. Herr. 16 Appreciate it. 17 MR. LESHER: Next is Keith Watts. 18 MR. WATTS: Good evening, Council. 19 Sometimes words are not enough to say thank 20 you. 21 What I will say is I saw an awful lot of</p>
<p>Page 147</p> <p>1 to a sizeable number of people that live in 2 this county and have for many centuries. 3 So again, thank you. I know this is a 4 complicated, difficult issue for a lot of 5 people, but you did the right thing. Thank 6 you. 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. 8 MR. LESHER: Next is Jayden Chester. He's 9 not present. 10 Next is Henry Herr. 11 MR. HERR: Hi. I'm part of the Move the 12 Monument group, but I'm speaking for myself. 13 So I just need three minutes. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. 15 MR. HERR: If you recall, I sat in front 16 of you in 2019. And I said that I think maybe 17 this monument should be moved. 18 And I told you that I wasn't going to go 19 away. And I know I have sent many e-mails on 20 this subject and I've spoken a lot on this 21 subject. I just, I think it's very big, that</p>	<p>Page 149</p> <p>1 courage here tonight, tremendous courage 2 because it takes a great deal of courage to 3 have a change of heart. It also takes a great 4 deal of courage to take a different position 5 from that which may be the majority of this 6 Council tonight. 7 You talked about respect and being 8 respectful. And I think it's so important for 9 the community, whatever the outcome was 10 tonight, to continue to respect each other 11 because we all live together. 12 There are certainly individual acts of 13 courage on each and every single person's part 14 that is here tonight, both in the audience and 15 on that dais. And you should be -- well, I 16 shouldn't say you should be. That sounds like 17 I'm telling you something to do. But I think 18 that you can take some solace in the fact that 19 you did what you felt was in your hearts. 20 Whether I agree with that or not, it doesn't 21 matter, so much as we continue to look at each</p>

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1 other and listen to each other and respect each
 2 other because we all live together.
 3 And I think we all, in our own ways, have
 4 Talbot County's best interest at heart always.
 5 Sometimes that's not easy.
 6 If you look over I guess it would be my
 7 left-hand shoulder, there's a bust in the
 8 corner of that room that I don't think I ever
 9 heard anybody talk about. And I think that
 10 somewhere, wherever that heaven is or wherever
 11 that greater power is and wherever that man is,
 12 I think he's smiling tonight and saying thank
 13 you for being you, even if we agreed or didn't
 14 agree.
 15 So thank you for your candor, thank you
 16 for your courage, thank you for bringing us to
 17 this point, and thank you for leading us from
 18 here because now it's the way forward. Thank
 19 you for your service.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Watts.
 21 MR. LESHER: Next is Richard Potter.

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1 MR. POTTER: Good evening. So I
 2 definitely want to speak to Councilman Divilio.
 3 Thank you for your courage tonight. I
 4 appreciate that. I appreciate you and your
 5 diligence in trying to find a peaceful solution
 6 to this issue.
 7 I know tonight was difficult, and I'm
 8 pretty sure the days ahead will be difficult.
 9 But that's leadership.
 10 One of the quotes that I will leave this
 11 Council is one from Winston Churchill. And it
 12 states mountaintops inspire leaders, but
 13 valleys mature them.
 14 So thank you. And again, I know DE&I,
 15 diversity, equity, and inclusion, was thrown
 16 around quite a bit tonight, those terms. But
 17 again, everyone starts somewhere on their DE&I
 18 journey. And within that starting place, there
 19 is opportunities for change of heart.
 20 So with that, I can respect that and thank
 21 you for the work that you've done tonight.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Potter.
 2 Appreciate it.
 3 MR. LESHER: Next on the list is Harriette
 4 Lowery, but it appears she has departed the
 5 room.
 6 Then Jess Taylor. I do not see her
 7 present.
 8 Next is Clive Ewing.
 9 MR. EWING: Good evening. Clive Ewing,
 10 Easton, Maryland.
 11 Obviously, and I'm speaking for myself,
 12 obviously I'm disappointed in how the Council
 13 went about advancing the Talbot Boys resolution
 14 to a vote tonight.
 15 Transparent government is the best
 16 government, and you have left a lot to be
 17 desired.
 18 This action does nothing to advance
 19 understanding and unity in this county, but I
 20 am heartened by a letter that the Council has
 21 received this afternoon, I don't know if you

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1 had a chance to review it, from the Shenandoah
 2 Valley Battlefield Foundation. Anybody receive
 3 that? Okay.
 4 I'll let others share with the public what
 5 that says, which gives the opportunity for the
 6 local folks to have a say in this. And that is
 7 much more than what I think you did over this
 8 period, Councilman.
 9 You knew a lot of us have invested a lot
 10 of time and energy in this. And never a
 11 response, not a one. We'll always remember
 12 that.
 13 Thank you.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Ewing.
 15 MR. LESHER: Next is Lynn Mielke.
 16 MS. MIELKE: Good evening. I'm Lynn
 17 Mielke and --
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: How you doing, Ms. Mielke?
 19 MS. MIELKE: -- and I reside in Easton,
 20 for the record.
 21 And I have been involved with the Talbot

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1 Boys issue since 2015, and I will suggest that
 2 it's not over yet.
 3 But what I want to share with the Council
 4 is an observation that I've made over those
 5 years as well as tonight. And that observation
 6 is of the residents of Talbot County and how no
 7 one has come and torn down the monument, no one
 8 has defaced it or put paint on it. It's been a
 9 courteous and, indeed, a protest, the protest
 10 for its removal is very consistent with what
 11 the founding fathers had sought in terms of
 12 peaceful protest and sharing your opinions.
 13 Tonight, for instance, there were the Move
 14 the Monument people and there were the Preserve
 15 Talbot History people. And everyone was
 16 courteous to everyone else, with a couple of
 17 exceptions. There was one obscene sign on the
 18 Move the Monument side. But other than that,
 19 the Move the Monument people were handing out
 20 snacks to everyone.
 21 And I guess it sort of reminded me of if

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1 you read the history of Culp's Hill, the Battle
 2 of Culp's Hill, where you had Talbot Countians
 3 both on the Confederate side and on the Union
 4 side fighting each other. But when the battle
 5 was over, they helped each other.
 6 The battle here is not quite over, but I
 7 would hope that until it is, and even when it
 8 is, that each side will respect the other and
 9 show them the grace that I observed tonight and
 10 I have observed over the last few years.
 11 Thank you.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 13 MR. LESHER: The next is Reverend Nancy
 14 Dennis, whom I do not see in the room.
 15 The next is Reverend Wendell Gay, who I do
 16 not believe is in the room.
 17 Next, Dave Stepp.
 18 MR. STEPP: Good evening, Council.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.
 20 MR. STEPP: My name is Dave Stepp from
 21 Easton, Maryland. Representing our Talbot

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1 Family Group.
 2 Members of the Talbot County Council,
 3 thank you, again, for your time and attention,
 4 as well as for your service to our county and
 5 community. I also appreciate your hearing of
 6 my concerns at the last meeting, 21 days ago
 7 back on August 24th.
 8 In response to my committed
 9 follow-through, I received two responses from
 10 members of the Council, one of which was a
 11 thank you, the other of which involved a bit of
 12 dialogue, neither of which indicated any
 13 intention to act.
 14 Again, I don't sit before you today to
 15 discuss a particular position on the Talbot
 16 Boys statue, but to ask for your action as a
 17 charter County Council on other urgent
 18 non-partisan issues that our county needs to
 19 address.
 20 May I pull up the recap of my asks of the
 21 Council?

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1 Number one, never fund Critical Race
 2 Theory, or CRT, laden material. Inspect that
 3 no tenets of CRT are being taught in our
 4 schools, and ensure any teacher or
 5 administrator who ignores such an ask is
 6 appropriately and fairly reprimanded.
 7 Contrary to what leadership is telling
 8 you, the tenets are still well embedded in
 9 Talbot County. Just ask around. Again, it's
 10 time we stand for true and real unity, which
 11 Talbot County exemplifies, not the
 12 indoctrinated division that CRT brings.
 13 Number two, ensure that all Talbot County
 14 residents have the freedom to choose when it
 15 comes to their health, period. Ban the Talbot
 16 County Health Department's vaccine passport
 17 program known as Vaccine Check or any other
 18 subsequent attempt at vaccine passports, both
 19 digital or paper, to ensure that there will be
 20 no gateway to a two-class society depriving our
 21 residents the opportunity to procure life's

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1 most basic necessities and services.
 2 Number three, remember, this is America.
 3 And contrary to unconstitutional mandates that
 4 seem to be a dime a dozen these days, we as
 5 Americans have the right to choose. If you
 6 believe a mask works and it's the right
 7 prophylactic for you and your family, then by
 8 all means wear one. If you simply believe that
 9 it is our God given right to just breathe and
 10 you don't want a cover on your face, then don't
 11 wear one, nor should you be forced to by any
 12 government or rouge government official acting
 13 in the aforementioned unconstitutional
 14 fashions.
 15 My ask here is incredibly short and
 16 simple. Ensure no mask mandates in Talbot
 17 County ever again, in schools, in public,
 18 period.
 19 Fourth, last but certainly not least, may
 20 I remind you of the responsibility you have in
 21 nominating Police Accountability Board in

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1 response to Maryland's HB670, more commonly
 2 referred to as Maryland's Police Reform Bill.
 3 Again, my ask here is short and simple.
 4 Please choose unbiased, responsible,
 5 non-politically charged individuals, who not
 6 only understand law and order, but also
 7 understand the daily sacrifices and
 8 split-second decisions that our men and women
 9 in uniform have to face daily.
 10 In summary, get CRT out of our schools now
 11 and never fund any aspect of it in the future.
 12 Allow individual and family choice when it
 13 comes to vaccines. Get digital vaccine
 14 passports out of our county.
 15 As a quick reminder, the Talbot County
 16 Health Department reports to you guys. So you
 17 can hold them accountable.
 18 Never require proof of vaccinations for
 19 access to goods, services, or to attend
 20 in-person school. Get rid of mask mandates
 21 altogether, allowing individual or family

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1 choice when it comes to masking, and utilize
 2 common sense when sitting the Police
 3 Accountability Board.
 4 Just as you can introduce a resolution on
 5 the Talbot Boys statue, you can introduce
 6 resolutions on the items I just spoke about.
 7 Please remember that your primary
 8 responsibility as representatives of our county
 9 is to ensure the rights of all citizens are
 10 protected.
 11 I understand that sometimes those
 12 decisions are hard against popular belief or
 13 contrary to false narratives. Either way, that
 14 is what you are elected to do. It's time to
 15 act on behalf of all citizens of Talbot County.
 16 As before, I'm sending an e-mail copy of
 17 my address today to each of you, each of your
 18 Talbot County e-mail in-boxes. Please feel
 19 free to reach out anytime with questions or
 20 concerns, documentations, or any further
 21 clarity.

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1 I'd like to thank you, again, for your
 2 time, your consideration, and most importantly,
 3 your action. Thank you.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 5 MR. LESHNER: Next is Priscilla Morris, who
 6 I do not see in the room.
 7 Then Victor Middleton.
 8 Then David Montgomery.
 9 MR. MONTGOMERY: Mr. Leshner, could I ask
 10 if Mrs. Ewing could speak before me? I think
 11 she's also on the list.
 12 MR. LESHNER: Lynn Mielke already spoke.
 13 MS. MIELKE: Michelle Ewing.
 14 MR. EWING: I don't think she signed up,
 15 but I think she intends to speak, if you
 16 wouldn't mind.
 17 MS. MIELKE: They're tag teaming.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. Come on up.
 19 MR. DIVILIO: This is outside the process,
 20 right?
 21 SPEAKER: Oh, my God.

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1 SPEAKER: We didn't get to sign up because
 2 they took the list and we weren't --
 3 SPEAKER: Yeah. We weren't able to get in
 4 here.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 6 MRS. EWING: Good evening, Laura and
 7 Chuck.
 8 Last summer, 2020, you gave Talbot County
 9 citizens some hope with three to two Council
 10 vote to keep the Talbot Boys monument. We
 11 thought perhaps that there was some reason and
 12 rational thinking left in this country after
 13 the 2020 calamity of widespread burning,
 14 looting, and murdering that occurred.
 15 Frank, this past weekend I was shocked to
 16 learn of your duplicitousnesses and plotting
 17 behind the scenes to remove the Talbot Boys not
 18 just from our courthouse but, in fact, out of
 19 state to the state of Virginia, out of the
 20 state of Maryland to Virginia.
 21 Frank, you are the biggest disappointment

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1 to our county. And thanks to you and Corey and
 2 Pete, our county will forever be divided.
 3 I thank both Chuck and Laura for your
 4 determination and hard work to try to unify our
 5 community --
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Mrs. Ewing.
 7 MRS. EWING: -- with thoughtful unity
 8 resolutions.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Ewing.
 10 MRS. EWING: I would like to read a letter
 11 verbatim from the Shenandoah Valley
 12 Battlefields Foundation to this Council --
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, Ms. Ewing.
 14 MRS. EWING: -- 14, 21.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Can I ask you not to point
 16 out Councilmen because I'd rather you stay
 17 respectful, please?
 18 MRS. EWING: Okay.
 19 SPEAKER: Other people did, though. Other
 20 people did.
 21 SPEAKER: You got to take the good with

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1 the bad.
 2 SPEAKER: Other people did.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, let's just try to
 4 keep it respectful, please.
 5 MRS. EWING: Let all of us I think.
 6 So dated from the Shenandoah Valley
 7 Battlefields Foundation.
 8 Dear Mr. Divilio, it has been brought to
 9 our attention that there are many in your area
 10 who are continuing to fight for the Talbot Boys
 11 monument to remain in its current location.
 12 The monument policy of the Shenandoah
 13 Valley Battlefields Foundation makes clear that
 14 the preferred and optimal long-term treatment
 15 of monuments is for them to remain where
 16 originally placed and cared for in perpetuity.
 17 No part of our response to your previous
 18 inquiry should be construed to supersede our
 19 position that whenever possible, monuments
 20 remain unmolested in their original location.
 21 To that end, the Shenandoah Valley

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1 Battlefields Foundation supports local efforts
 2 to preserve the monument in place. And if
 3 removed, request that an attempt be made to
 4 re-erect the monument in Talbot County.
 5 If and when it is evident that the
 6 monument will not and cannot remain safely in
 7 Talbot County, the foundation is committed to
 8 offer to become its permanent steward under the
 9 terms of our letter to you dated September 3,
 10 2021.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Ewing.
 12 MR. LESHAR: David Montgomery.
 13 MR. MONTGOMERY: Thank you. I'm David
 14 Montgomery. I live in Easton. I'll be
 15 speaking on behalf of Preserve Talbot History,
 16 though I doubt I will need five minutes since
 17 Ms. Ewing's reading of that letter really
 18 states many of the things that need to be put
 19 on the record right now.
 20 And without naming names, I thank some of
 21 you for your steadfast support.

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1 In contrast, I think I speak for many of
 2 us that we are outraged that someone we trusted
 3 would switch sides to make this happen.
 4 And this was done in such a surreptitious
 5 manner. That won't be forgotten.
 6 A policy decision like this should not be
 7 made through a procedural maneuver that
 8 eliminates not only public comment, but time
 9 for this Council to review it thoroughly, to
 10 know what the battlefield looks like, to know
 11 what the arrangements are for moving it, to
 12 know how that could be done safely, even to
 13 know whether the base is going to go along with
 14 it or not. All that is missing.
 15 And it particularly shows up that this was
 16 pushed through, even though this letter was
 17 sent at 3:49 p.m. to the Council, which
 18 apparently was not divulged to you by anyone
 19 who received it.
 20 I just want to emphasize the things that
 21 it said. It said that this foundation will

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1 only accept the monument if it will not and
 2 cannot stay safely here. The only way that
 3 could be established as far as I can see is if
 4 the Council voted to take it down, and that
 5 didn't happen. It would only happen if the
 6 Council member who claimed to protect the
 7 monument by arranging this, voted to take it
 8 down.
 9 And there are good reasons why the
 10 foundation has this policy. It's intended to
 11 protect the foundation from opportunism, from
 12 being misused by politicians who are seeking to
 13 avoid the consequences of voting to remove
 14 statues that have popular support. And it
 15 recognizes that monuments are part of the
 16 history of the place where they stand.
 17 Removing monuments erases the history of their
 18 place, just as surely as tearing it down.
 19 I don't know how many people in Talbot
 20 County have ever visited the Battlefield where
 21 it will be placed. I kind of like

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1 Harrisonburg. I've driven by it many times,
 2 and I had no idea it was there. I might stop
 3 by some time, but that's because I have a
 4 friend in Tennessee.
 5 On top of that, the letter stated, as
 6 Ms. Ewing wrote, that their preferred treatment
 7 of monuments is for them to remain where
 8 originally placed.
 9 They are not welcoming this statue as
 10 something oh, this is fantastic, we always
 11 wanted to have a Talbot Boys statue in the
 12 corner here. They're taking it because they've
 13 been assured that we're going to tear it down,
 14 melt it, or put it in a warehouse. Those are
 15 their conditions.
 16 That should have been made clear to the
 17 Council when this proposal was sent up to them.
 18 On top of that, they require that if a
 19 statue is removed, an attempt be made to
 20 re-erect the monument in its home county.
 21 That's exactly what they said.

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1 Only when all these steps have been taken
 2 will they accept the monument. I believe that
 3 on the basis of this letter, this resolution
 4 you just passed should be reconsidered because
 5 I believe it is defective on its face because
 6 of the letter that you received.
 7 In any case, I think the voters deserve a
 8 full accounting of how this scheme was hatched.
 9 I was not satisfied with an answer that hides
 10 behind the community foundation. The cost of
 11 this move won't be covered by 25 and \$50
 12 contributions. We deserve to know who provided
 13 the big money and who believes he or she can
 14 buy the results they want in this county by
 15 putting money up for them.
 16 The most important requirement I think
 17 going forward is to make sincere efforts to
 18 find a place in Talbot County for this memorial
 19 if this Council is determined to take it out of
 20 its current place.
 21 I hope the Move the Monument will support

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1 that objective. They've said all along that
 2 all they want to do is move the monument and
 3 find another place in Talbot County for it.
 4 I've had enough arguments myself in print about
 5 whether or not Spring Hill Cemetery is a good
 6 place for it. I just hope they can live up to
 7 their word once they finish celebrating that
 8 it's going to be moved out of the county.
 9 And no matter what the legal cover for a
 10 sneaky approach might be, this was a
 11 fundamental policy decision. As I see it, the
 12 County Council has just announced to the world
 13 that Talbot County supports the efforts of
 14 those who want to erase the history of the
 15 United States and replace it with unrelenting
 16 hatred of those people who came before.
 17 That's not what the voters want, and we
 18 will make sure they don't forget. Thank you.
 19 MR. LESHAR: Richard Marks, who does not
 20 appear to be present.
 21 And Marjorie Opalski, who I do not see in

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1 the room.
 2 MS. WILCOXON: But I do want to speak.
 3 MR. LESHAR: Mr. President, that's the end
 4 of those who signed up in advance.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
 6 MS. WILCOXON: Thank you.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.
 8 MS. WILCOXON: My name is Shari Wilcoxon,
 9 and I'm from Easton, Maryland.
 10 And I want to say that I think this is a
 11 very sad day for Talbot County to be swept up
 12 in the same horrific Marxist idealism that's
 13 going on throughout our country. Wiping away
 14 history is what Marxism is based in, part of
 15 it.
 16 A good friend of mine from Yugoslavia who
 17 left there 22 years ago called me up and said
 18 are you kidding me, I cannot believe Talbot
 19 County is doing this.
 20 It's really a frightening step. It's
 21 frightening what's going on in our country, and

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1 it's a sad day that it's going on here in
 2 Talbot County.
 3 I, too, want to know who funded it. I saw
 4 you smile, and you're smiling now when we ask.
 5 I would like to know where the money came from
 6 that is supposedly moving this statue. I think
 7 we have a right to know.
 8 How do we go about getting that
 9 information? I guess I can send a written
 10 something and request it back, but that needs
 11 full disclosure.
 12 I do want to thank Laura Price and Chuck
 13 Callahan for your honor and integrity in
 14 sticking with the voters that brought you here.
 15 There's an old idiom that I learned about honor
 16 and integrity, and it's kind of a folksy thing.
 17 But you dance with those that brung you.
 18 I recognize that Frank is not running
 19 again, and maybe that's a big part of his
 20 decision. Laura is not running again, but she
 21 still had integrity.

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1 People talk about respect. No respect and
 2 no response. It's just very, very, very
 3 disappointing. The last second in. Nobody
 4 knew, and then no response, no replies.
 5 It's not what we thought we got. It's not
 6 what we voted for. It's not who you asked to
 7 support you.
 8 I do know that it's not overwhelming.
 9 This county is very split. And I actually
 10 think if it could ever have come to a vote,
 11 that the statue would stay here.
 12 So I want to thank you both, Laura and
 13 Chuck. I'm sorry, Frank and Corey, you also
 14 were voted in by somebody that you're not
 15 representing. So it's very disappointing, and
 16 I hope that you think again about allowing
 17 Marxism to take over not just our country, but
 18 our state and our county and you voted for it.
 19 So thank you.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Wilcoxon.
 21 Okay. Yes, ma'am, come on up.

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1 MS. FRANK: My name is Susan Frank, and
 2 I'm very sad to say that at least as of this
 3 moment I'm an Easton, Maryland, resident.
 4 I have one question that I would like to
 5 put to the three individuals who are trying to
 6 erase Talbot County history and the
 7 contributions that the Talbot Boys made. When
 8 you go home tonight, ask yourself before you go
 9 to sleep, what did I do in this vote to remove
 10 the Talbot Boys to better the life of those of
 11 us who have lived and built this county? And
 12 if there is any honesty and integrity left in
 13 your heart, the answer is going to be none,
 14 because what you've done, you've done a fine
 15 job, but you've done a fine job of creating a
 16 situation that pits citizen against citizen
 17 because you chose to disrespect and not listen
 18 to the will of all of the people in this
 19 county.
 20 Thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Anybody left over

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1 here who wants to speak?
 2 How about anybody over here that's left
 3 that want to speak? Okay.
 4 All right, Mr. Leshner. So we're done.
 5 We're going to close the public comment, and
 6 we're going to go to Council comment.
 7 Mr. Leshner.
 8 MR. LESHER: I had the honor of attending
 9 the 9/11 ceremonies at Tilghman Island and
 10 again at the Avalon (inaudible) Pavilion on
 11 Saturday, but also the first period virtual
 12 assembly in Easton Middle School. Easton
 13 Middle School put together an impressive
 14 tribute, anchored by their highly-regarded
 15 band.
 16 And I joined the Talbot County Farm Bureau
 17 yesterday for a tour of the Hutchison Brothers
 18 Farm. Bobby Hutchison said that this was the
 19 best crop that he has ever had in his 48 years
 20 of farming. I learned a great deal from him
 21 showing us best practice storage and evidence

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1 of crop damage from deer and much more.
 2 At our last meeting, we heard from
 3 Dr. James Kelly and Sandra Whelan. And
 4 Dr. William Cerrato responded to us and wanted
 5 to make a few corrections.
 6 He quotes from the CDC website. Wearing a
 7 mask does not raise the carbon dioxide or CO2
 8 level in the air you breathe. A cloth mask
 9 does not provide an airtight fit across the
 10 face. The CO2 completely escapes into the air
 11 through the cloth mask when you breath out or
 12 talk.
 13 CO2 molecules are small enough to easily
 14 pass through any cloth mask material. In
 15 contrast, respiratory droplets that carry the
 16 virus that causes COVID-19 are much larger than
 17 CO2. So they cannot pass as easily through a
 18 properly designed and properly worn cloth mask.
 19 In the United States through March 2021,
 20 the estimated cumulative rate of SARS-COV-2
 21 infection in COVID-19 symptomatic illness in

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1 children ages five to 17 years were comparable
 2 to infection and symptomatic illness rates in
 3 adults ages 18 to 49, and higher than rates in
 4 adults age 50 and higher.
 5 Estimated cumulative rates of infection
 6 and symptomatic illness in children ages zero
 7 to four are roughly half of those children ages
 8 five to 17 but are comparable to those in
 9 adults ages 65 years and older.
 10 Children are less likely to develop severe
 11 illness or die from COVID-19. Nevertheless,
 12 271 COVID deaths among persons age five to 17
 13 and 120 deaths among those zero to four years
 14 have been reported to the National Center for
 15 Health Statistics through July 7th of this
 16 summer.
 17 The extent to which children suffer
 18 long-term consequences of COVID-19 is still
 19 unknown.
 20 In response to Dr. Kelly's assertions
 21 downplaying the severity of pediatric COVID

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1 cases comparing them to the flu, Dr. Cerrato
 2 wrote June 4, 2021, CDC reported that during
 3 the 2019 to 2020 season, flu deaths in kids
 4 numbered 119. Prior to that year, the
 5 2017-2018 season had the highest number of
 6 reported pediatric deaths, with 188.
 7 This tragic milestone underscores the
 8 importance of vaccinating children.
 9 Only 22 percent of children eligible for
 10 influenza vaccination and for whom vaccination
 11 status was known were fully vaccinated against
 12 flu. This is consistent from previous seasons.
 13 We also largely do not know the long-term
 14 effects of COVID-19 effects in children even if
 15 symptoms were mild or asymptomatic.
 16 We have not masked children for influenza
 17 due to its R factor of about one, compared to
 18 an R factor of about seven for the Delta
 19 variant of COVID-19.
 20 Simplified, a child might infect one other
 21 person with influenza and seven others with

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1 COVID-19 Delta variant, the now overwhelmingly
 2 dominant strain here in Maryland.
 3 However, given the effectiveness of masks
 4 and other layered mitigation, only one child
 5 has died from influenza during this past year's
 6 flu season.
 7 Much has been written regarding the mental
 8 health toll this pandemic has had on children
 9 and adolescents. As a board certified child
 10 and adolescent psychiatrist, I see it daily.
 11 There is simply no correlation or causation
 12 linking mask wearing in minors to suicide.
 13 Given all of this, in addition to the
 14 adept briefing by Dr. Maguire, I truly hope you
 15 do not condemn the Board of Education,
 16 employer, or business mask mandates or vaccine
 17 mandates.
 18 Finally, we should choose respected
 19 peer-reviewed sources. Dr. Kelly,
 20 unfortunately, gave voice to the American
 21 Association of Physicians and Surgeons in our

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1 public comment. This group is quite simply a
 2 far right fringe political group of less than
 3 5,000 members out of the nearly 1 million
 4 physicians in this country. They have been
 5 around since 1943 and are known for ignorant
 6 and incendiary assertions that would never
 7 stand up to rigorous peer review.
 8 The former president referenced their
 9 backing in the now debunked treatment of
 10 COVID-19, hydroxychloroquine. They are now
 11 found and referenced when it comes to opposing
 12 what science and data clearly indicates works,
 13 a comprehensive layered mitigation strategy,
 14 which includes masks in K to 12 schools, to
 15 combat the spread of COVID-19.
 16 I want to thank Dr. Cerrato for setting
 17 the record straight.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, Mr. Leshner. Thank
 19 you.
 20 Mr. Divilio.
 21 MR. DIVILIO: No comment at this time.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Pack.
 2 MR. PACK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Callahan.
 3 Yeah. I wasn't able to attend the tour at
 4 Hutchison Farm yesterday. I was actually in
 5 Linthicum, Maryland, attending a funeral of a
 6 close family friend. So glad that tour went
 7 off well.
 8 Just a couple of things I just want to
 9 make an announcement to.
 10 On the 15th, County Council will be
 11 delivering years of services awards to Talbot
 12 County employees at various locations instead
 13 of doing it where we all come together at one
 14 location. I believe that it's going to be done
 15 at various locations throughout the county for
 16 this year.
 17 On the 17th will be the annual county
 18 employees picnic at Hog Neck, which is outside.
 19 It's going to take place at the pavilion from
 20 three to seven.
 21 On the 24th will be the tenth celebration

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1 of the Frederick Douglass statue unveiling.
 2 There's going to be a number of different
 3 events taking place around the county on that
 4 day. You can go onto the Frederick Douglass
 5 Honor Society website and get a complete
 6 listing of those activities for that day.
 7 On the 25th of September, will be our
 8 annual Airport Day. I know we had Micah in
 9 here earlier. Should have asked him to kind of
 10 speak on that, but I just forgot to. So I'll
 11 make a mention of it now, that Airport Day will
 12 take place on the 25th.
 13 They also are looking for volunteers. So
 14 they're actually paying the volunteers 250.
 15 MR. DIVILIO: 250.
 16 MR. PACK: So if you have any -- and I did
 17 pass it on to some young men that I mentor in
 18 the community. So if you have any young people
 19 or nieces, nephews, so forth that want to make
 20 a quick 250. They are also providing lunch as
 21 well. So they'll be out there directing

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1 parking cars and what have you. So please put
 2 them in contact with Micah so they can go ahead
 3 and get those volunteer posts filled for
 4 Airport Day. It's always a big day here in the
 5 county and very well attended.
 6 And look, when it comes to mandates and
 7 vaccines and so forth, I'm always going to
 8 follow what the scientists say what the
 9 professionals, Dr. Maguire, our health officer
 10 here, and make sure I work closely with her as
 11 far as any recommendations she gives to this
 12 body as we move forward.
 13 And over the years, there have been
 14 governmental mandates that come across that
 15 sometimes people did not agree with. Seatbelt
 16 laws were mandated by the government that you
 17 had to wear a seat belt if your car was in
 18 motion.
 19 Child safety seats were mandated by the
 20 government. Your child had to be in a safety
 21 seat.

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1 Wear a helmet while you're driving a
 2 motorcycle. I remember when that law was
 3 passed, a lot of motorcycle drivers said why
 4 are you making me wear a helmet. To keep you
 5 safe.
 6 So sometimes government will have to to
 7 keep you safe. Polio shots and vaccines for
 8 children going to school have been mandated by
 9 the government to keep us all safe. Wearing a
 10 T-shirt and a pair of shoes when going into a
 11 store. It's a store policy. Why? To keep
 12 people safe.
 13 So sometimes to keep people safe,
 14 government does have to step in and say we have
 15 to ask you to forego some of your liberties to
 16 keep us all safe. Speed limits are in place to
 17 keep us safe.
 18 So you may not like it, but we do live in
 19 a county of rules. And if we all can see our
 20 way clear of looking at the larger picture,
 21 which is public safety, I think maybe that will

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1 help us ease some of the tension that is out
 2 there.
 3 And hey, getting vaccinated is a choice.
 4 No one is making you get vaccinated. If you
 5 don't want to be vaccinated, you don't have to
 6 be vaccinated.
 7 I wish that you would, I wish that you
 8 would. I mean 90 percent of the people who are
 9 sitting in the ICU right now across the nation
 10 are unvaccinated people. 90 percent are
 11 unvaccinated people.
 12 SPEAKER: Not true.
 13 MR. PACK: So the vaccine has been shown
 14 that it does work. It has been tried and
 15 tested. It has been proven that it does work
 16 to keep people out of the ICU and to keep you
 17 from --
 18 SPEAKER: Not true, not true.
 19 MR. PACK: -- from dying.
 20 So those are my comments, Mr. Callahan. I
 21 just want to make people aware of those

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1 upcoming events in the county.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 3 Ms. Price.
 4 MS. PRICE: Never forget. Those were the
 5 words that we all uttered on September 11,
 6 2001.
 7 We just marked the 20th remembrance of
 8 that fateful day. How far we have come from
 9 the unity we all felt at that time.
 10 Clearly, 9/11 was very different, and we
 11 all did agree, and it was easy to be united.
 12 Issues that Americans were divided on then
 13 didn't divide us as a people. We had our
 14 differences, but we were still able to be
 15 respectful of one another. We were still able
 16 to be friends with those we disagreed with. We
 17 still loved our neighbors.
 18 Events that have happened, especially over
 19 the last few years, have torn us apart. It is
 20 time to heal, I thought it was time to
 21 compromise, to respect one another, and to stop

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1 judging others because they have a different
 2 opinion.
 3 We must never forget who we really are.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Price.
 5 And I'm going to end this and wrap this
 6 up, too. It was very, very touching, the 9/11
 7 ceremonies. Appreciate, Mr. Pack, you being
 8 the head of ceremonies. You did a good job.
 9 I appreciate Pete being down there. It
 10 was good.
 11 Just listening what was going on down
 12 there was very, very touching. So when you're
 13 an EMS, police, firefighter, I wasn't at ground
 14 zero when it happened, but I can tell you this.
 15 I'm a firefighter and I'm a life member. I
 16 can't imagine pulling up to that scene, all the
 17 battalion chiefs in the first tower, it was
 18 probably like eight of them in there, give or
 19 take. Can you imagine how hard it was for the
 20 battalion chiefs to tell them to go on upstairs
 21 and try to save people. And knowing, and

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1 knowing they might not see them again.
 2 So that to me is some of the bravest
 3 people that I've ever seen. And I just get
 4 chills even talking about it because we all
 5 seen documentaries this weekend on that stuff
 6 and the horrific terrorism that happened. And
 7 we don't want to forget that, we don't want to
 8 forget that.
 9 And me personally, knowing I'm a
 10 firefighter and knowing when you're going in
 11 there, and Mr. Stamp is a career man too, I
 12 can't imagine what that feeling was like, I
 13 really can't because it was a reaction. That's
 14 what these guys do. That's what they're made
 15 of. They're heroes. So God bless them.
 16 We need more of them. That's for sure.
 17 We need more people like that that save lives.
 18 And I'll leave it at that.
 19 Let's think about we were here tonight,
 20 and there's a lot of things that were going on,
 21 but nothing will be as bad as that. So just

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1 keep in mind. Things might be bad sometimes,
 2 but let's never forget what could be. And
 3 hopefully it never happen again.
 4 Being that's said, I appreciate you guys
 5 being here tonight, all of you. I know it's a
 6 bit tough on all of us, the emotions and all
 7 that stuff tonight. But we'll all get through
 8 this. And hopefully staff can move on.
 9 And I almost forgot to say that Susan put
 10 all this together. And she got a staff behind
 11 her, Jess and Karen. And you guys did a
 12 fantastic job putting all that stuff together.
 13 And I really appreciate it. So I want you to
 14 be commended because you've been doing it every
 15 year and you're doing a fine job.
 16 So being that's said.
 17 MR. LESHER: Ready to take us out?
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.
 19 MR. LESHER: The County Council's next
 20 meeting will be held on Tuesday,
 21 September 28th, beginning at six o'clock p.m.

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1 The Council will be convening in open session
 2 at 4:30 p.m. and immediately adjourning into
 3 closed session to discuss real estate, legal,
 4 and personnel matters as listed on the
 5 statement for closing that meeting.

6 On Tuesday, September 21st, the County
 7 Council will hold a work session with Parks and
 8 Recreation and Planning and Zoning to discuss
 9 proposed amendments to park rules. The work
 10 session will be held here in the Bradley
 11 Meeting Room and is open to the public.

12 Therefore, is there a motion and second to
 13 adjourn tonight's meeting and reconvene as
 14 noted?

15 MR. PACK: So moved.
 16 MS. PRICE: Second.
 17 MR. DIVILIO: Second.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. There's a motion and
 19 a second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 20 vote, please.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 3 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 5 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 7 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 9 MR. PACK: Aye.
 10 (Meeting concluded at: 8:58 p.m.)
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1 STATE OF MARYLAND
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and
 3 for the State of Maryland, County of Anne Arundel,
 4 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot
 5 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me
 6 at the time and place herein set according to law,
 7 was interrogated by counsel.

8 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 21st
 21 day of September, 2021, at Easton, MD.



Diane Houlihan
 Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2025

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