



# TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

June 7, 2016

Present – President Corey W. Pack, Vice President Jennifer L. Williams, Dirck K. Bartlett, Chuck F. Callahan, Laura E. Price, County Manager R. Andrew Hollis, County Attorney Michael Pullen and Assistant County Attorney Anthony Kupersmith.

- I. Agenda – Mr. Pack requested and received Council’s unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda of Tuesday, June 7, 2016.
- II. Disbursements – Mr. Pack requested and received Council’s unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, May 31, 2016 and Tuesday, June 7, 2016.
- III. County Manager’s Report:
  - A. Request for Roads Department – Requested Council approval to award the contract for road construction material to elevate the road at the Knapps Narrows dredge spoil site on Donnell Jones Road to the low bidder, Andrew Frase Excavating, LLC, in the sum of \$60,105.00. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Ms. Williams, the Council approved the award by voting 5 – 0 as follows:  
  
Mr. Pack – Aye  
Ms. Williams – Aye  
Mr. Bartlett – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Callahan – Aye
  - B. Department of Parks and Recreation Summer Camps – Mr. Hollis stated that there was only one vacancy remaining for the summer camps being held by the Department of Parks and Recreation. He stated that the success of this year’s camps may warrant expansion of the camp offerings next year.

The Council meeting recessed at 2:09 p.m.

The Council meeting reconvened at 2:14 p.m.

IV. Public Hearing:

Resolution No. 226, A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED AT 4659 BACHELOR POINT ROAD, OXFORD, MARYLAND 21654, FURTHER IDENTIFIED AS TAX MAP 53, PARCEL 128, LOT 1, CONSISTING OF 1.893 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS (THE “PROPERTY”), OWNED BY RONALD L. WALKER AND ANNE Y. WALKER, FINDING THAT THE PROPOSED REZONING FROM THE COUNTY’S EXISTING RURAL RESIDENTIAL (“RR”) ZONE TO THE TOWN OF OXFORD’S R-1 (RESIDENTIAL) (“R-1”) ZONE WILL ALLOW A SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER DENSITY, EXCEEDING 50%, THAN COULD BE GRANTED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPERTY UNDER THE COUNTY’S EXISTING

“RR” ZONING, AND WAIVING THE 5-YEAR HOLD ON THE PROPOSED REZONING IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE § 4-416, MARYLAND ANNOTATED CODE, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, Planning Officer, Mary Kay Verdery, stated that the Planning Commission, at its meeting on May 4, 2016 had reviewed Resolution No. 226 and had found it consistent with the comprehensive plan and map of the designated growth area for the Town of Oxford. Ms. Verdery stated that despite a difference between the County zoning of 1 dwelling per 5 acres and that of the Town of Oxford of 4 dwelling units per acre, restrictive covenants prohibit further subdivision of the parcel and its use will remain a single family residential dwelling. She stated that staff and the Planning Commission recommend that the County waive the five-year hold on development density. Brynja Booth, attorney for the Town of Oxford, concurred with Ms. Verdery’s statements and stated that the owners of the property requested to be annexed into the Town so that the property can be connected to the Town’s municipal wastewater system due to a failing septic system; the Town of Oxford annexed the property on May 26, 2016. The public was then afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. Upon motion by Ms. Williams, seconded by Ms. Price, Resolution No. 226 was brought to second reader with the Council voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye  
Ms. Williams – Aye  
Mr. Bartlett – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Callahan – Aye

Upon motion by Mr. Bartlett, and no objection by the Council, a full reading of the Resolution was waived. The Council approved Resolution No. 226 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye  
Ms. Williams – Aye  
Mr. Bartlett – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Callahan – Aye

Resolution No. 226 is effective immediately.

V. Eligible for Vote:

Bill 1329, A BILL TO REPEAL THE *COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND*, ADOPTED FEBRUARY 15, 2005, AND ENACT THE *TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, 2016*, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF LOCAL GOV’T. ART. § 10-324, LAND USE ART. §1-405, MD. ANN. CODE, AND TALBOT COUNTY CHARTER § 403 (b) AND § 404 (c), and amendments, were brought forward for vote. Prior to the vote, Mr. Pack stated that following discussion with Mayor Willey of the Town of Easton, members of the Easton Economic Development Corporation and Planning Officer Mary Kay Verdery, he had requested that staff draft an amendment for Council’s consideration which would add language to the Comprehensive Plan so that the Easton Economic Development Corporation could seek State and federal grant funding. The Clerk then read the proposed amendment into the record as follows:

*The County will work with the Town of Easton and the Easton Economic Development Corporation to pursue funding opportunities for the purpose of developing studies to include traffic, economic development and environmental impacts for the Easton Point and Port Street Corridor. The traffic study shall account for vehicular, non-motorized and pedestrian modes of transportation.*

Council discussion ensued with regard to the wording of the proposed amendment which was changed to read as follows:

*The County will support the efforts of the Town of Easton and the Easton Economic Development Corporation to pursue funding opportunities for the purpose of developing studies to include traffic, economic development and environmental impacts for the Easton Point and Port Street Corridor. The traffic study shall account for vehicular, non-motorized and pedestrian modes of transportation.*

The amendment, known as Amendment No. 7, was introduced by Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Pack, Ms. Price, and Ms. Williams. Planning Officer Mary Kay Verdery stated that the Planning Commission had reviewed Amendments 1 through 6, and had only discussed Amendment No. 7 as it had not yet been introduced. Mr. Pack requested and received Council's unanimous consent to move Amendment No. 6 and Amendment No. 7 to second reader and read into the record by the Clerk. At Council's request, Ms. Verdery provided the Planning Commission's recommendation on Amendment No. 6, stating that by a vote of 4 – 0 they recommended supporting the amendment as it acknowledges the remapping and rezoning process that will exclude large unimproved parcels or portions of parcels from within the village boundaries; Council discussion ensued with Ms. Verdery, and Ms. Price explained the reasoning for her introduction of Amendment No. 6 on May 24, 2016. Ms. Verdery then provided the Planning Commission's recommendation on Amendments 1 through 5 as follows:

**Amendment 1** - Replacing the word 'should' with 'shall' in seven Land Use Policies of Chapter 2 of the draft Plan. Ms. Verdery stated that the Planning Commission voted 4 – 0 against recommending the amendment;

**Amendment 2** - Making an addition to Chapter 9 Policy 9-8, stating "Electronic messaging signs should not be permitted." Ms. Verdery stated that the Planning Commission voted 4 – 0 against recommending the amendment;

**Amendment 3**- Describes in a new Policy 9.17, a formula to derive an average development density; and use the resulting calculation to set a minimum lot size for all new subdivisions in villages. Ms. Verdery stated that the Planning Commission voted 4 – 0 against recommending the amendment;

**Amendment 4** - Proposes changing the Tier status from 3-A to 3-C, for an area being considered for near-term redevelopment. Ms. Verdery stated that the Planning Commission voted 4 – 0 in favor of recommending the amendment; and

**Amendment 5** - Specifies that a digital version of the Tier map will be adopted as the official record document in the County Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Verdery stated that the Planning Commission voted 4 – 0 in favor of the amendment.

Council discussion ensued as the Planning Commission's recommendation on each amendment was read into the record. Mr. Pack requested and received Council's unanimous consent to bring all seven amendments to third reader. Upon motion by Mr. Bartlett and no objection by the Council, a full reading of the amendments was waived.

The Council did not approve Amendment No. 1 by voting 1 - 4 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Nay  
Ms. Williams – Nay  
Mr. Bartlett – Aye  
Ms. Price – Nay  
Mr. Callahan – Nay

The Council did not approve Amendment No. 2 by voting 1 – 4 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Nay  
Ms. Williams – Nay  
Mr. Bartlett – Aye  
Ms. Price – Nay  
Mr. Callahan – Nay

The Council did not approve Amendment No. 3 by voting 0 – 5 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Nay  
Ms. Williams – Nay  
Mr. Bartlett – Nay  
Ms. Price – Nay  
Mr. Callahan – Nay

The Council approved Amendment No. 4 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye  
Ms. Williams – Aye  
Mr. Bartlett – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Callahan – Aye

The Council approved Amendment No. 5 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye  
Ms. Williams – Aye  
Mr. Bartlett – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Callahan – Aye

The Council approved Amendment No. 6 by voting 3 – 2 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye  
Ms. Williams – Nay  
Mr. Bartlett – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Callahan – Nay

The Council approved Amendment No. 7 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye  
Ms. Williams – Aye  
Mr. Bartlett – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Bartlett made the following comments following the vote on amendments to the Comprehensive Plan:

Mr. Bartlett – Mr. Bartlett stated that, in his opinion the Comprehensive Plan was a very difficult process, and that it took a lot of effort on everyone’s part to create the document before them for vote. He stated that, in his opinion, public participation was the key to the development of a comprehensive plan with which the County can move forward successfully. He expressed his disappointment that the amendments he had proposed had not been approved but stated that he understands the position of staff and the Planning Commission and yields to them. He thanked all those individuals who had attended the many meetings over the past year and had provided their input on the Comprehensive Plan and stated that, in his opinion, it is a delicate process to keep the right vision for the county, and that the vision can be destroyed in a few words or sentences. He again thanked the public for their input and expressed his hope that they will stay engaged.

Planning Officer Mary Kay Verdery then read a statement into the record summarizing the purpose and goals of the development of a comprehensive plan, including determining a community’s goals and aspirations with regard to community development and preservation, and the guidance provided by the document for various planning policies. She stated that that update of the County’s Comprehensive Plan began in 2011 with input from various County departments as well as the various boards and commissions associated with those departments. She expressed her appreciation to the numerous volunteer and appointed groups that represented citizens, civic groups, and work groups. She also expressed her appreciation to the Office of Law, the Planning Commission and former and current members of Planning staff, particularly Martin Sokolich, for their dedication of time, expertise and devotion to create a document which speaks for county citizens; to County Manager, Andy Hollis and administrative staff for keeping the project focused and on task, and to the County Council for their commitment and willingness to ensure that the vision of county citizens is reflected in the Plan while continuing to promote, protect and monitor the rural character of Talbot County. Ms. Verdery concluded her comments by stating that the success of the document is a result of the commitment of time and resources of the groups just mentioned as well as the invaluable contributions by the citizens of Talbot County

Mr. Pack - Following comments by Ms. Verdery, Mr. Pack stated that, in his opinion, the Comprehensive Plan is the result of the time and energy of not only the Council, but Planning and Zoning staff, administrative staff, the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Public Works Advisory Board and county citizens. He expressed his appreciation to those who had attended the numerous work sessions, beginning in 2015, the many emails, phone calls and other documents provided to the Council with regard to the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that although there was not always agreement on every aspect or chapter of the Plan, in his opinion, the Council was civil in its manner and approach to the Plan, and allowed for free and open exchange of ideas and comments, and that’s what democracy is about. He commended Mr. Bartlett for his passion and commitment to Talbot County, even though his amendments did not pass. Mr. Pack concluded his comments by stating that the Comprehensive Plan is just one piece of the work that remains to be done as the County moves forward into zoning amendments.

The Council approved Bill No. 1329, as amended, by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye  
Ms. Williams – Aye  
Mr. Bartlett – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Callahan - Aye

VI. Council Comments and Vote on “Talbot Boys” Statue: Prior to Council Comments and Vote, Mr. Pack stated that in July 2015, the Council was approached by the local chapter of the NAACP with regard to

some recommendations for Council's consideration relating to the Talbot Boys Statue. At Mr. Pack's request, Mr. Pullen gave a brief historical background as to what has led the Council here today to this juncture on the subject. Mr. Pullen stated as follows:

*The statute is listed as a historical object by the Maryland Historical Trust. And as such, it cannot be changed or removed without permission from the Easton Historic District Commission. The Talbot County Courthouse is also a historical site, and any change to the courthouse grounds also requires permission from the Easton Historic District Commission. And then finally, both the building and grounds are located in the Easton Historic District, which is also subject to the jurisdiction of the Easton Historic District Commission. The Maryland Historical Trust describes the monument's historical significance like this, and this is a quote from their records. "At the battle of Gettysburg, the Union's first Eastern Shore regiment included men of Trappe's Company H who were sent to Culp's Hill, which was at the north end of the Union line, on July 3, 1863. There they fought troops of the first Maryland Confederate regiment, which also included men from the Trappe area. The color sergeants for each side were cousins, both from Trappe; Robert W. Ross for the Union, and P.N. Moore, fatally wounded for the Confederates. So the Union victory at Culp's Hill on the morning of July 3rd at Gettysburg by Union men from Talbot County fighting their Confederate family members and friends precipitated in General Lee's attack later that day on the Union center, which came to be known as Pickett's Charge. Pickett's Charge ended the battle of Gettysburg and effectively turned the tide of the war in favor of the Union." In 1914, the County Commissioners agreed to accept both the Confederate and Union memorials on the courthouse lawn to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. And again, the Maryland Historical Trust describes how the existing monument came about and why there is no Union memorial. This is also a quote from their records. "The monument was sponsored by a committee formed in 1913 chaired by General Joseph P. Stein. After consideration of a statue of local Admiral Franklin Buchanan, who was a Talbot County resident and commander of the Confederate Navy, it was agreed to honor "all the boys in gray." The base was erected in July 1914. The statue was dedicated in June 1916. Efforts in 1914 to raise funds for a Union monument were unsuccessful." So in July of last year, the NAACP asked the Council to remove the statue from the courthouse lawn and place it in a more appropriate setting and to commission a group of Talbot County citizens to discuss the erection of a new statue that would be inclusive of both Union and Confederate soldiers. On July 29th of last year, the Council held a work session to discuss this request. On September 9th, Council attended a meeting hosted by the Talbot Association of Clergy and Laity on the community conversation on the Talbot Boys Statue held at the Talbot County Library. And then again on October 27th, the Council hosted a public comment session at the library. And on November 24th at the regular Council meeting, President Pack announced Council's decision to leave the existing statue in place and accept the recommendation of the NAACP in part to permit the erection of a monument commemorating Union soldiers from Talbot County who fought in the Civil War. So this matter has been placed on today's agenda for whatever additional discussion Council may wish to add and for a formal motion, and vote on the question.*

Mr. Pack requested Council's consideration to read some comments into the record. He stated for the record that the comments are his own, have not been circulated to Council or to staff, but are his observations over the last several months regarding this subject. Mr. Pack then made the following comments:

*Over the last several weeks since we received the opinion from the Open Meetings Compliance Board, I have been mulling over in my mind the decision reached by this Council last November, whether we fully grasped the nature of the NAACP's recommendations and had a deep appreciation of the outcome of our decision. My contemplation was not one of regret or reconsideration, but to explore fully the context of what was before us.*

*The one outcome that I reached was the undeniable fact that war is horrific and full of death and destruction, and unless one is a “necromonger,” there is no joy nor delight one can get from war. So it was from the ashes of war that I found my thoughts drifting to the cries and screams of the Nazi Germany’s concentration camps of Europe. According to the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, researchers found that the Nazis established about 20,000 camps between 1933 and 1945; these forced labor and extermination camps were the scene of mass murder the world had never witnessed before. It is estimated that some 500,000 concentration camp prisoners survived when liberated by Allied troops. But they were a mere shadow of the proud people they once were, they were now physically beaten and mentally broken, crippled by the horrors of their experience. The total easily exceeds 2,750,000 people killed in the SS controlled death camps in Europe.*

*Yet, in the face of so great suffering and death, many of the extermination camps still remain today, a stark reminder of the devastation mankind can afflict upon each other. And it is surprising, many concentration camp survivors spoke out the loudest that the camps should not be removed, but remain as a living testimony to what was done here, lest the world forgets.*

*No war in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was more controversial than the Vietnam War. It was protested on nearly every American campus, from Kent State in Ohio to Berkley in California. Those returning soldiers did not receive ticker-tape parades (like their WWI and WWII brothers); there was no timeless kiss in Times Square and no Yellow Ribbons awaiting their return. For the Vietnam Veteran there were only shouts of baby killer, rapist, arsonist and murderer. The late, Great Mohammed Ali refused to serve and forfeited his heavyweight title and lost millions in prize money. He was revered by many and despised by others because of his stance. Even the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C. was heavily debated as lingering controversy over the war had not waned in the decade since the last troops left the battlefield in 1973.*

*YES WAR is terrible, yet at times an unfortunate and necessary evil.*

*The Civil War, this great battle between the States, which pitted brother against brother also had its share of horror. It is a fact that more Americans died in the Civil War alone than in all other U.S. wars combined. In 1958, the U.S. Congress passed a Bill granting Confederate soldiers equal distinction as veterans as their Union counterparts. (Section 432 of the Veterans Benefits Act of 1957) Currently, the remains of Confederate soldiers are buried at the National Soldiers Home near Washington, D.C. as well as some 150 Confederate remains are now buried in the National Cemetery at Arlington, Virginia.*

*The 59<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States authorized the furnishing of headstones for the graves of Confederates buried in federal cemeteries. One Congressman remarked: “This act formally reaffirms Confederate soldiers as military combatants with legal standing. It grants recognition to deceased Confederate soldiers equal with the status of deceased Union soldiers.”*

*The Talbot Boys statue, which turned 100 years old last month (May 1916), is a monument to those 84 Americans who fought and died in armed conflict. Yet it is also a reminder of the dark pains of this nation’s history. Like war, slavery has touched nearly every part of the globe since the beginning of civilization. It’s nothing to be proud of or to boast about, but the fact remains that humans have enslaved one another. But, the Talbot Boys statue is not promoting slavery or the values of the Confederacy, it’s memorializing young men of Talbot County, who fought in battle and died. The Talbot Boys statue is a part of the history of Talbot County, and removing it weakens that story. The Talbot Boys, along with the Unionville soldiers, Frederick Douglass, the Wye House, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, The Town that Fooled the British and the newly discovered Hill Community in Easton all tell the history of Talbot County; the good, the bad and*

*the ugly. If every time we remove a statue, a monument or book because it offended us, there would be nothing left. Some have said that statues and monuments are symbolic, and stir emotions of the observer, and that's fine. We all should be moved and inspired to ensure that the horrors of war, genocide and slavery never happen again, but tearing down monuments or casting them off in a closet benefits no one. So I applaud the brave men and women who survived the concentration camps and had the courage to say "no," let the camps remain, let the world see what was done here, for a people who forget the mistakes of their past are doomed to repeat them.*

Following Mr. Pack's comments, Council members made the following comments:

- Mr. Bartlett - Mr. Bartlett stated that in meetings with the NAACP and others as a Council, many expressed their opinions very bluntly and are a matter of record. He stated that, in his opinion, the Council handled the issue as well as any Council could in terms of trying to be open to the public and gathering as much information as possible. He stated that, in his opinion, it was very disappointing for the Council to get the decision it did from the Open Meetings Compliance Board and that because there is no appeal of the Board's decision, the County will never know whether the decision was correct or not. He stated that the decision of the Open Meetings Compliance Board cited that because the County did not have legislation on its books regarding the removal of statues, all discussions of the matter should have been in the open. He stated that, in his opinion, the Council made a deliberate effort to have discussions in the open, citing the tape of the meeting with the NAACP, newspaper articles, etc., affording everyone who wanted to, an opportunity to participate. He commended Mr. Pack for his statements, calling it "remarkable" and it shows a world view that he thinks is admirable which acknowledges all the history of Talbot County, and that we should take advantage of it to learn about the history of our forefathers. Mr. Bartlett concluded his comments by stating that the County must abide by the decision of the Open Meetings Compliance Board as there is no appeal; therefore the Council will vote on the issue today, in public. He stated that when this matter came before the Council before there was no dissension - we reviewed it, tweaked it as a Council, and there was no dissension so there was no need for a vote. He stated that the Council submitted a statement for the November 24, 2016 meeting and felt that it had addressed the issue.
- Ms. Price - Ms. Price stated that there had been open discussion on the matter beginning back in July 2015 but the Council felt that it was important to attend other meetings, like those hosted by the Talbot Association of Clergy and Laity (TACL), and by the Council. She stated that, in her opinion, most of the Council members gave their opinion on the subject. She stated that as an elected official, she has always tried to reflect the will of the people who elected her, and in this case, there was overwhelming support to leave the statue where it is. She stated that, in her opinion, we have a responsibility to acknowledge history, preserve it and learn from it, and not change it. Ms. Price concluded her comments by stating that both Mr. Pack and Mr. Bartlett expressed beautifully how this Council feels and that the Council was never trying to hide anything from anybody. She stated that the Council listened to both sides and the best we could do was to reflect the will of the people and what they have been saying to us for almost a year.
- Mr. Callahan - Mr. Callahan stated that after today, he hopes we can move forward, put all this behind us, learn from it, unite, and work together as a county. He stated that as elected officials the Council has a responsibility, not to each other's feelings, but to the county and the citizens we represent. Mr. Callahan concluded his statements by thanking all those who had presented their views on the matter.



Ms. Williams - Ms. Williams concurred with Mr. Pack's previous statements, stating that, in her opinion, it was an excellent statement and spoke to what the Council had been looking at. She stated that this is a part of the history of this county, the country, and we cannot deny that history. She stated that she appreciated all the information shared with the Council over the past year, including emails, books, articles, historical journals. She stated that, in her opinion, the Council considered the information, and gave it a lot of thought, and it is her hope that moving forward, the energy and enthusiasm exhibited by individuals on both sides of the question can join together and be redirected to try to prevent slavery wherever it exists.

Prior to the Council vote on the Talbot Boys statue, Mr. Pack stated that no matter the outcome of the vote, the Council has always wanted to have an open dialogue on whatever the issue may be. He stated that there are many times when groups bring matters before the Council that do not go in the favor of that particular group; however, it does not mean that there won't be other issues or other times to continue working together. He stated that there are many issues in the county and we need everyone working together to help make the county the best it can be. He reiterated that there is always work to be done and expressed his hope that citizens would not allow this one issue to keep them from working with the Council on other matters.

Upon motion by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council voted to have the Talbot Boys statue remain in its existing location, that the decision announced at the County Council meeting on November 24, 2015, be affirmed, and that no commission be appointed at this time by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye  
Ms. Williams – Aye  
Mr. Bartlett – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Callahan - Aye

VII. Council Comments:

Mr. Callahan - Mr. Callahan stated that the Comprehensive Plan is done and he is proud of the Council for their involvement in it. He stated that, in his opinion, all the Council members had worked very hard, each definitely wanted to get what we wanted in the Plan, but we all did a great job. He stated that the Talbot Boys matter, although very sensitive, needed to be addressed, but hopefully everyone can now move forward and unite as a county and as a people, and although we have our differences, we keep pushing forward.

Ms. Price Ms. Price stated that, in her opinion what was accomplished with the Comprehensive Plan got overshadowed, and that it was unfortunate that most of the people were here because of the statue instead of the Comprehensive Plan which is big work that is never-ending. She stated that the Council had worked hard on the Comprehensive Plan and hopes people realize what it is that is important in the county going forward rather than continuing to worry about things of the past.

Mr. Bartlett - No comments.

Ms. Williams Ms. Williams stated that she concurred with the comments of Mr. Callahan and Ms. Price. She stated that, in her opinion, the Council has accomplished a great deal, having worked on the Comprehensive Plan since 2011 – a five-year project has finally come to fruition. She stated

that each Council member gave the matter of the Talbot Boys statue an unbelievable amount of thought, consciences were searched and really thought about what is right for the county. She stated that she felt good about the decision of the Council and looks forward to doing things for the county in the future.

- VIII. Upon motion by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council voted to adjourn to Closed Session for discussion of legal, real estate and personnel matters listed on the Statement for Closing the Meeting, which is available for public review; to reconvene for two work sessions in the Meeting Room at the Talbot County Free Library; the first work session is at 4:00 p.m. to discuss wastewater treatment and disposal at Talbot Trailer Park and the second work session is at 5:00 p.m. to discuss mapping and evaluation of County culverts; to reconvene on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Talbot County Free Library for the Incorporated Municipalities meeting; and to reconvene on Tuesday, June 14, 20156 at 1:30 p.m. The Council will be convening in Open Session at 12:30 p.m. and immediately adjourning into Closed Session to discuss legal, personnel and real estate matters by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye  
Ms. Williams – Aye  
Mr. Bartlett – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Callahan - Aye

The meeting recessed at 3:25 p.m.

The transcript of the June 7, 2016 County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the County Manager during regular office hours.

- IX. On Tuesday, June 7, 2016 a Closed Session of the Talbot County Council convened at 1:05 p.m. in the County Council Conference Room. Upon motion by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council met in Closed Session by voting 5 - 0 as follows:

Mr. Bartlett – Aye  
Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Pack – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Ms. Williams – Aye

In accordance with General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(1)(i)(3)(7)(14)the purpose of the Closed Session was for personnel matters to discuss appointment to various County boards and committees and to discuss a personnel matter involving the State’s Attorney’s Office; for a legal matter for an update on a matter involving a Code enforcement case; and for a real estate matter to discuss negotiations for acquisition of private property for a public purpose. The Closed Session ended at 2:00 p.m.

- X. The County Council held a work session with the Office of Law, Office of Economic Development and Members of the Economic Development Commission on Proposed Legislation Concerning Brownfields Tax Credit on Tuesday, May 31, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room. Paige Tilghman, Director of the Office of Economic Development, stated that the purpose of the proposed legislation, if approved, would be to offer a tax credit to property owners whose properties have been identified as a Brownfields site as an incentive for redevelopment of the site. Anthony Kupersmith, Assistant County Attorney, briefed the Council on the criteria used to identify such properties, the availability of both federal and State funding for such redevelopment projects, and provided hypothetical examples of tax credits over

the period of several years for properties valued at various amounts. Council discussion ensued with Ms. Tilghman and Mr. Kupersmith. Ms. Price requested that information be provided as to whether any projects had ever been funded in rural areas. Council will review the matter once the information requested has been received.

XI. The County Council held a work session with the Planning Commission and Talbot County Department of Planning and Zoning to Discuss Solar Array Projects on Tuesday, May 31, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room. Members of the Planning Commission requested Council direction with regard to an increasing number of applications for installation of solar array energy system projects which have been received by the Department of Planning and Zoning in recent months. Jeremy Rothwell, Planner, stated that currently there is no specific land use for such structures which are classified as utility structures. Susan Gray, Deputy Division Director, Power Plant Assessment Division, Maryland Department of Natural Resources provided Council with information related to State guidelines for review of such systems by the Public Service Commission, the anticipated revenue to be received by owners of property which lease their land for the solar array energy systems and various other facets related to installation of the energy systems. Council discussion ensued with representatives of the various groups in attendance. At Council's request, the Office of Law will draft legislation for Council's consideration of a six-month moratorium on the permitting of solar array energy systems occupying an area of more than two (2) acres. The Council also agreed to appoint a Solar Array Committee to be comprised of representatives of the Public Works Advisory Board, the Department of Planning and Zoning, the Planning Commission, the Office of Law, the Talbot County Farm Bureau and Talbot County citizens. The purpose of the Solar Array Committee will be to make recommendations to the Council during the six-month moratorium period. Council anticipates appointing the Solar Array Committee in the near future.

XII. The County Council held a work session with Staff to Discuss the Proposed Annexation of County Properties at Easton Point on Tuesday, May 31, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room. The purpose of the discussion was to review the various facets involved in the annexation process of County properties at Easton Point, specifically the County owned boat launch area which also serves as the County's only industrial port, small grass park and freestanding house at that location. The County has been asked by Ryan Showalter, Esquire, attorney for several owners of property at Easton Point, whether it wishes to have its property included in an application for annexation into the Town of Easton. Martin Sokolich, Long Range Planner, advised that the Town of Easton has not yet completed a Small Area Plan regarding the proposed development at Easton Point. Mr. Callahan expressed his opinion that it would be better to see the Town's vision for the area before the County determines whether it wishes to include its properties in the annexation application. Following a unanimous straw vote by the Council, Mr. Pack requested that the County Attorney contact Mr. Showalter to advise that the County is not interested in having its property annexed into the Town of Easton at this time. Planning Officer Mary Kay Verdery then read a statement into the record which is anticipated to be offered for consideration on Tuesday, June 7, 2016 as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan; the statement read as follows:

*The County will work with the Town of Easton and the Easton Economic Development Corporation to pursue funding opportunities for the purpose of developing studies to include traffic, economic development and environmental impacts for the Easton Point and Port Street Corridor. The traffic study shall account for vehicular, non-motorized and pedestrian modes of transportation.*

XIII. The County Council held a work session with the Town of Easton, the Talbot County Department of Public Works, Talbot County Department of Planning and Zoning and the Talbot County Health Department to Discuss Wastewater Treatment and Disposal at Talbot Trailer Park on Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Talbot County Free Library in Easton. The owners of Talbot Trailer Park, and their engineering consultant, met with County, Town of Easton and Health Department officials to discuss various long-term strategies to resolve continuing issues with sewerage at Talbot Trailer Park which currently utilizes a berm infiltration pond but which reaches unacceptable levels during heavy rainfall

events. County Engineer, Ray Clarke, stated that Talbot Trailer Park, which currently serves 37 families, is under a Consent Order from the Maryland Department of the Environment with regard to their sewerage treatment. Discussion ensued between the various officials present and the owners of the Park regarding their willingness and financial ability to upgrade the Park via implementation of a more advanced sewerage treatment system, or through annexation into the Town, should the Town wish to proceed with that process. Town officials emphasized that the Town standard for annexation calls for roads, streetlights, curbs and gutters, etc. Various matters related to costs were also discussed, including replacement of current mobile homes in the Park. Officials from the Town of Easton requested more information on potential grants/low interest loans available to owners of the Park for which they might be eligible, and requested that all options for improvements to the Park be considered in order to ensure that the individuals residing in Talbot Trailer Park have a good standard of living.

- XIV. The County Council held a work session with the Talbot County Department of Public Works and the Talbot County Roads Department to Discuss Mapping and Evaluation of County Culverts on Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Talbot County Free Library in Easton. County Engineer, Ray Clarke, provided a PowerPoint presentation which identified the top 20 culverts in the county, in order of priority, which need rehabilitation or replacement. He stated that a total of 72 culverts in the county were evaluated by consultant, Bayland Consultants & Designers, Inc., at an estimated cost of \$1.89 million, not including permitting or design costs. Mr. Clarke stated \$1,000,000 million has been allocated in FY2017 for the rehabilitation/replacement project, \$800,000 of which is State funding and \$200,000 in local funding. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Clarke. A portion of the project will be completed by the Roads Department.

**CASH STATEMENT 05/31/2016**

BALANCE 5/24/2016	\$19,678,112.58
INTEGRA CLAIMS THRU 5/23/2016	(110,392.69)
ELECTION BD SALARIES PPE 5/25/16	(38,612.50)
DEPOSITS	1,190,939.19
CHECKS	(413,697.88)
VOID CHECK # 301461	155.04
<b>BALANCE 5/31/2016</b>	<b><u>20,306,503.74</u></b>

**AIRPORT ACCOUNTS**

AIP-RUNWAY 4-22 EXTENSION ANALYSIS	0.00
AIP37	16,762.37
AIP39	73,794.25
AIP40	30,252.21
AIP41	39,343.53

**AIRPORT ACCOUNTS TOTAL BALANCE **160,152.36****

**INVESTMENTS – CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT**

<u>CERTIFICATE DATE</u>	<u>MATURITY DATE</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.38%	18,000,000.00
<b>TOTAL INVESTED</b>			<b><u>\$18,000,000.00</u></b>

<b>PETTY CASH BALANCE</b>	<b><u>\$15,570.00</u></b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b><u>\$38,482,226.10</u></b>

**CASH STATEMENT 06/07/2016**

BALANCE 5/31/2016	\$20,306,503.74
ELECTION BOARD PPE 5/23/2016	(8,522.04)
USDA RURAL DEV LOAN AIRPORT	(1,304.00)
USDA RURAL LAN SAN DIST	(2,832.30)
INTEGRA THRU 5/31/16	(23,167.22)
PAYROLL-FD/SS/MS WH PPE 5/20/16 & 5/31/16	(140,716.36)
DEFERRED COMP DED	(12,741.78)
MD WH	(34,958.92)
PENSION DED	(33,426.49)
SECU DED	(5,217.11)
ACH TRANSFER	(14,101.75)
FLEX SPENDING ACCT.	(2,968.33)
DEPOSITS	566,040.88
CHECKS	(938,470.17)
<b>BALANCE 06/07/2016</b>	<b><u>19,654,118.15</u></b>

**AIRPORT ACCOUNTS**

AIP-RUNWAY 4-22 EXTENSION ANALYSIS	0.00
AIP37	16,762.37
AIP39	73,794.25
AIP40	30,252.21
AIP41	39,343.53

<b>AIRPORT ACCOUNTS TOTAL BALANCE</b>	<b><u>160,152.36</u></b>
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**INVESTMENTS – CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT**

<u>CERTIFICATE DATE</u>	<u>MATURITY DATE</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.38%	18,000,000.00
<b>TOTAL INVESTED</b>			<b><u>\$18,000,000.00</u></b>

<b>PETTY CASH BALANCE</b>	<b><u>\$15,570.00</u></b>
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<b>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b><u>\$37,829,840.51</u></b>
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