



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

May 2, 2017

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

- I. Agenda – Ms. Williams requested and received Council’s unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda of Tuesday, April 25, 2017.
- II. Disbursements – Ms. Williams requested and received Council’s unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, May 2, 2017.
- III. Proclamation: Recognition of Judy Center Partnership – Mary Adkins, Coordinator, Talbot County Judy Center Partnership, briefed the Council on the history of the founding of the Judy Center concept in Maryland and its philosophy. She stated that Judy Centers across the state focus on providing programs and services for young children in order to increase school readiness. She stated that various organizations and agencies come together to provide integrated services and programming to young children in Talbot County. She emphasized the importance of expending the time and financial resources necessary to help young children in order to help them succeed as adults. Ms. Adkins then introduced representatives of the various early childhood agencies in attendance. The Clerk read a proclamation into the record which spoke of the importance of recognizing the needs of, and providing services for, young children and their families in our community. The proclamation encouraged individuals and communities to focus on the needs of young children and to support the organizations which meet those needs. Upon motion by Mr. Callahan, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, the Council approved the proclamation by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Mr. Pack presented the Proclamation to Ms. Adkins and representatives of the various agencies in attendance which provide services to young children.

- IV. Recognition of Ray Clarke, Talbot County Engineer, and William “Bill” Wolinski, Talbot County Environmental Engineer – Winners, the Center for Watershed Protection 2017 Innovation and Leadership in Watershed Protection and Restoration Award – Council recognized Mr. Clarke and Mr. Wolinski, recent recipients of the 2017 Innovation and Leadership in Watershed Protection and Restoration Award from the Center for Watershed Protection. The award was presented to Mr. Clarke and Mr. Wolinski for their innovative and cost-effective measures which facilitate improvements in the watershed. Mr. Wolinski stated that Talbot County’s efforts to improve water quality are a collaborative effort with the Council, and staff, as well as local, regional and national organizations which strive to restore and improve water quality in our county and state. The Council congratulated Mr. Clarke and Mr. Wolinski on their award and commended them for their continuing efforts.

Mr. Bartlett presented the Award to Mr. Clarke and Mr. Wolinski.

- V. Proclamation: Correctional Officers and Employees Week: May 7, 2017 – May 13, 2017 – The Clerk read a proclamation into the record which spoke of the importance of the officers and employees of the Talbot County Detention Center to the County’s criminal justice system and public safety, their commitment and importance to the operation and administration of various inmate programs and services both inside and outside the Detention Center, and the professionalism by which they perform their duties. Upon motion by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved the proclamation by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Douglas Devenyns, Director, Talbot County Department of Corrections, introduced the correctional officers and employees in attendance and stated that, in his opinion, the employees in his department do an outstanding job, he is proud of the individuals who work with him and for the County, and he feels very fortunate to work with them.

Mr. Callahan presented the Proclamation to those Mr. Devenyns and the correctional officers and employees of the Talbot County Detention Center in attendance, who accepted on behalf of those unable to attend.

- VI. Public Hearings:

Bill No.1355, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1327, THE 2016-2017 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, TO MAKE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM UNANTICIPATED REVENUES TO CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS IN THE CURRENT EXPENSE BUDGET, TO AMEND THE CURRENT EXPENSE BUDGET THROUGH FOURTH QUARTER TRANSFERS AND SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATIONS was read into the record by the Clerk, brought forward for public hearing, and the public was afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. Written comments on Bill No. 1355 will be accepted until Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 12:00 Noon. Bill No. 1355 is eligible for vote on Tuesday, May 9, 2017.

Prior to the public hearing on the Constant Yield, Ms. Williams read the following statement of explanation into the record.

The County Council, in the FY 2018 Proposed Budget, is proposing to adopt a real property tax rate of 57.08 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation for all properties located outside the incorporated towns. This is 2.37 cents higher than the current real property tax rate. This rate is 2.84 cents higher than the constant yield rate of 54.24 cents, and will generate \$1,319,582 more in property tax revenues in FY 2018 from the unincorporated area of the County. Properties located within the Incorporated Towns will again be granted a tax rate differential which sets their real property tax rates between 6.1 and 13.30 cents lower than the County rate. The County real property tax rates within the Towns are higher than the constant yield rate for the Towns. The County Council will not adopt the FY 2018 Tax rate today. The FY 2018 Tax Rate will be adopted as part of the FY 2017 – 2018 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance, scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 2017.

Following the statement by Ms. Williams, a public hearing was held on the Constant Yield and the public was afforded an opportunity to comment. No public comment was made.

Bill No. 1356, AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE 2017-2018 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, Angela Lane, Finance Director, utilized a PowerPoint presentation to provide an overview of the proposed FY2018 budget. She stated that the proposed budget for FY2018 totals \$83,458,000, or 5.18% over the current fiscal year's budget of \$79,350,000. She stated that the proposed budget for FY2018 includes \$2.526 million from the Prior Year Fund Balance; \$2.1 million was included in the current year's budget that is not anticipated to be needed, and as such, has been transferred to FY2018. Ms. Lane emphasized that the budget as proposed maintains current services for County citizens while still maintaining the lowest Property Tax rate in the state and the second lowest Income Tax rate, 2.40%. She stated that the proposed budget funds the expenses for the public school system by overriding the voter imposed Property Tax Revenue Cap, authorized by State law for the funding of education expenses only, and, that if approved, the amount of the override totals \$1,171,900, which correlates to an increase of 1.59¢ in the Real Property Tax rate to \$0.05708. Ms. Lane stated that this Council has prioritized public safety and health (personnel, equipment, and buildings), infrastructure (roads, buildings, and emergency services) and education (Maintenance of Effort and Non-Recurring Expenses). She highlighted several items in the proposed budget including, establishment of a Central Booking Center at the Public Safety Building at 115 West Dover Street; the funding of two part-time positions for the Sheriff's Office; one part-time investigator for the State's Attorney's Office and 1 full-time position for the Roads Department; funding of a new reading program for grades Pre-K through 5; four new high school academic programs; continued funding for student laptops and ipads; a salary step increase for full-time County employees; an increase in the required level of Maintenance of Effort for Talbot County Public Schools of \$189,000, plus an additional \$1,122,932 for programs not included in Maintenance of Effort; \$2.7 million for the planning and design of a new Easton Elementary School; and \$550,000 for the final phase of the St. Michaels Schools Roof replacement project. She stated that all proposed projects for Talbot County Public Schools have been approved by the Maryland State Department of Education. Ms. Lane provided statistical information and pie charts outlining County General Fund Revenue sources and dollar amounts anticipated for FY2018, General Fund Expenditures for same, including the percentage of increase or decrease from FY2017. She stated that although the County is utilizing \$2.526 million in Fund Balance to balance the FY2018 Budget, \$11.2 million in Fund Balance remains, as well as the \$11.8 million Rainy Day Fund which remains available for catastrophes, emergencies and natural disasters. Ms. Lane concluded her presentation by outlining rate increases for several of the Sanitary Districts which are required by law to be self-supporting. The public was afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. The public hearing was recessed and will be continued at 7:00 p.m. at the Easton High School Cafeteria located at 723 Mecklenburg Avenue in Easton. Written comment on Bill No. 1356 will be accepted until Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 12:00 Noon. The FY2018 County Budget is available on the County website at www.talbotcountymd.gov. Bill No. 1356 is eligible for vote on Tuesday, May 23, 2017.

VII. County Manager's Report:

- A. Talbot County Public Works Advisory Board – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Cory Buxton to a four-year term on the Talbot County Public Works Advisory Board as a representative of the 2nd Election District; said term will expire on May 1, 2021. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved the reappointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- B. Talbot County Offices of Permits and Inspections and Talbot County Office of Environmental Health Outreach Meeting – Mr. Hollis stated that the Offices of Permits and Inspections and Environmental Health will hold a public outreach meeting on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Wye Oak Room at the Talbot County Community Center, 10028 Ocean Gateway, Easton.
- C. Economic Development Strategic Plan Listening Session – Mr. Hollis stated that there will be an Economic Development Strategic Plan Listening Session on Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels.

VIII. Council Comments:

- Mr. Callahan - Mr. Callahan stated that he doesn't know what to say following recent tragic deaths in the community and offered the assistance of the Council if they can help the families of those affected.
- Mr. Pack - No comments.
- Mr. Bartlett - No comments.
- Ms. Williams - Ms. Williams stated that she had a delightful walk in the woods the other day, compliments of Mr. Bartlett who invited her to go along on a tour of Pickering Creek with a group which was great fun. She stated that she got to listen to the birds and watch a group of first graders slosh through the mud trying to catch tadpoles.

- IX. Upon motion by Mr. Bartlett seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council voted to recess the meeting and to reconvene at 7:00 p.m. at the Easton High School Cafeteria for a continuation of the public hearing on Bill No. 1356, AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE 2017-2018 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE; to reconvene on Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room for final budget deliberations; and to reconvene on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 in Open Session at 4:30 p.m. and immediately adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of legal, personnel and real estate matters as listed on the Statement for Closing the Meeting, and at 6:00 p.m. for the regularly scheduled Council meeting by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

The transcript of the May 2, 2017 County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the County Manager during regular office hours.

XI. On Tuesday, May 2, 2017 a Closed Session of the Talbot County Council convened at 12:35 p.m. in the County Council Conference Room. Upon motion by Mr. Callahan, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, the Council met in Closed Session by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

In accordance with General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(1)(i)(7)(8) the purpose of the Closed Session was for personnel matters to discuss appointments to various County boards and committees; and for legal matters to discuss litigation involving Talbot County. The Closed Session ended at 1:00 p.m.

XII. The Council meeting reconvened and a continuation of the public hearing on Bill No. 1356 was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Easton High School Cafeteria. Prior to continuation of the public hearing, Finance Director, Angela Lane, utilized a PowerPoint presentation to provide an overview of the proposed budget for FY2018, as she had done earlier in the day at the 2:00 p.m. public hearing. The public was then afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. Bill No. 1356 is eligible for vote on Tuesday, May 23, 2017.

CASH STATEMENT 5/2/2017

BALANCE 4/25/2017	\$22,298,271.96
ELECTION BRD PPE 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4/2017	(12,764.11)
DEF COMP PPE 4/7/2017 PLAN 401(A)	(2,636.09)
BOARD OF EDUCATION 4/2017	(3,057,519.00)
INTEGRA CLAIMS THRU 4/24/2017	(115,794.33)
ACH TRANSFER VOIDED (CHECK ISSUED)	856.93
DEPOSITS	1,201,122.11
CHECKS	(582,382.89)
VOIDED CHECK(S) #313023	162.65
BALANCE 5/02/2017	<u>19,729,317.23</u>

AIRPORT ACCOUNTS

AIP42	0.00
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AIRPORT ACCOUNTS TOTAL BALANCE 0.00

INVESTMENTS – CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>CERTIFICATE DATE</u>	<u>MATURITY DATE</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.79%	18,000,000.00
TOTAL INVESTED			<u>\$18,000,000.00</u>

PETTY CASH BALANCE

\$15,570.00

GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS

\$37,744,887.23