



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

September 8, 2020

Present – Vice President Chuck F. Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Laura Price, County Manager R. Andrew Hollis and Acting County Attorney Anthony Kupersmith. President Corey W. Pack was absent.

- I. Agenda – Mr. Callahan requested and received Council’s unanimous support for approval of the Agenda of Tuesday, September 8, 2020.
- II. Minutes – Mr. Callahan requested and received Council’s unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, July 14, 2020.
- III. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received Council’s unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, September 1, 2020 and Tuesday, September 8, 2020.
- IV. Update on COVID-19 – Ken Kozel, President and CEO, University of Maryland Shore Regional Health; Sara Rich, CEO, Choptank Community Health System – Prior to the updates, Mr. Divilio stated that he had invited Mr. Kozel and Ms. Rich to speak in order that citizens can be kept apprised of up-to-date information on COVID-19 and the measures their organizations are utilizing for protection of the community. He expressed his appreciation to both organizations for their efforts. Ms. Rich provided an overview of the mission of Choptank Community Health System (Choptank) and a brief history of the organization which began in 1980 and now provides medical and dental services in Caroline, Talbot and Dorchester counties. She stated that in 2019, Choptank provided care for approximately 30,000 patients at its six locations, its school-based health centers and through its program to the migrant community. She provided statistical information on the number of individuals served at the various locations, the services offered at the school-based health centers and stated that Choptank remained open during COVID-19 in hopes of preventing unnecessary hospitalizations while providing continuity of care to the patients it serves. She stated that during the height of the pandemic, approximately 65 to 70 percent of visits to Choptank were virtual visits, translating into more than 8,000 individuals served virtually, and that the virtual option remains available for those who wish to use it. She stated that Choptank began curbside (drive-up or walk-up) testing for COVID-19 in late February to ensure the safety of both patients and staff, and since that time has continued to partner with the Talbot County Emergency Operations Center. She briefed the Council on educational outreach efforts for COVID-19, particularly for non-English speaking patients in communities on the Eastern Shore and outlined additional safety measures which have been implemented to help ensure a safe environment for patients and staff in order that certain patients could receive more extensive procedures. Ms. Rich concluded her presentation by stating that it is a good time to get annual check-ups that may have been postponed during the height of the pandemic and encouraged parents to make sure their children stay current on immunizations which have shown a nationwide decrease since the beginning of COVID-19. Mr. Kozel expressed his appreciation to the Council for trying to balance the needs of the community with its safety and well-being, to Ms. Rich for the partnership and collaboration between UMMS Shore Regional Health and Choptank Community Health System, particularly during COVID-19, and to Talbot County Health Officer, Dr. Fredia Wadley and all those who participate in the weekly calls to keep the community up-to-date on the status of COVID-19 and provide support services for same. He stated that UMMS Shore Regional Health is focusing on several major elements with regard to COVID-19, including preparation for any surge in patients which may occur. He outlined restrictions and guidelines put into place in order to keep as many COVID-19 patients as possible

out of the ICU, but, stated that should a surge of COVID-19 patients become extremely ill, preparations for a “worst case scenario” have been made which would quadruple the ICU capacity from 22 to 88 beds, while also assuring that non-COVID-19 patients continue to receive the care they need. Mr. Kozel spoke of making sure that the hospital staff is adequately supplied with PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), to minimize the risk of spread of COVID-19 to patients and staff and stated that the community had generously offered various types of PPE and funding for the purchase of the equipment during the early days of the pandemic. Lastly, he stated that as part of the University of Maryland Medical System, Shore Regional Health has access to various resources, including PPE, ventilators, and additional staffing, if and when needed. He stated that as the fall season approaches, UMMS Shore Regional Health is concentrating on flu shots and encouraging everyone to consider getting the COVID vaccine when it becomes available. He stated that, in his opinion UMMS Shore Regional Health is prepared if a surge in patients occurs. Mr. Kozel concluded his presentation by providing information on COVID-19 testing, which is being conducted at Chesapeake College in order to provide more testing capacity to the community; drive-up testing is conducted on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and no appointment is needed although on-line registration is requested. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Kozel.

- V. Recognition of National Accreditation of Brookletts Place – Talbot County Senior Center – Childlene Brooks, Manger, Brookletts Place – The Talbot County Senior Center; Gary Gunther, Executive Director, Upper Shore Aging, Inc.; Bill Shrieves, Chair, Advisory Committee – Ms. Brooks briefed the Council on the process by which Brookletts Place – The Talbot County Senior Center applied for and received national accreditation, a recognition afforded to only 115 senior centers who meet the rigorous standards of the National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC). Ms. Brooks expressed her appreciation to Council for their support of the application process, and to all those individuals whose hard work over the period of several years helped Brookletts Place attain the national accreditation. Mr. Gunther expressed his appreciation to the members of staff, volunteers and community partners for their efforts for ways to improve Brookletts Place. Council members congratulated Ms. Brooks, Mr. Gunther, and Mr. Shrieves on receiving the national accreditation.
- VI. Presentation of Proclamation – Senior Centers Month – September 2020 –The Clerk read a proclamation into the record in recognition of the role of senior centers in empowering older adults to contribute to their own health and well-being as well as that of their fellow community members through the sharing of their experiences, skills and knowledge
- VII. Update on Free Household Hazardous Waste Day – Saturday, September 26, 2020 – Ray Clarke, County Engineer – Mr. Clarke briefed the Council on the upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Day (HHWD) on Saturday, September 26, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Queen Anne’s County Public Works Facility located at 312 Safety Drive in Centreville, rain or shine. Mr. Clarke outlined the types of products which can be accepted at the event, including, among others, empty propane tanks, pool chemicals, herbicides, oil-based paints and electronics.
- VIII. County Manager’s Report:
- A. Request from Department of Public Works – Requested Council approval hire two (2) entry-level collection system operators for the Talbot County Sanitary District at a starting salary of \$33,282, plus benefits. Ray Clarke, County Engineer, stated that the positions have been advertised, applications received and he requested to move forward with interviews. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved hiring two (2) collection system operators by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

- B. Bid No. 17-08, ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR TALBOT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - Requested Council approval to have Wallace Montgomery and Associates, LLP provide additional engineering services in the sum of \$20,328.50 to prepare an Engineering Report for the Resolution 235 sewer extension project; said Engineering Report is required by USDA as part of the County’s loan application process. Council discussion ensued by Mr. Clarke. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the additional engineering services by voting 4– 0 as follows:

Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

- C. Requests from Department of Parks and Recreation – Requested Council approval to utilize Capital Outlay Funding in the sums of \$15,000 and \$9,000 for installation of security cameras at Tongers Basin, Oak Creek, and Neavitt landings to help decrease theft and vandalism at those locations; and for the purchase of a new ice edger for the Talbot County Community Center ice rink, respectively. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved the purchases from Capital Outlay Funding included in the FY21 Budget by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

- D. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Talbot County, Nancy Gooding, Agnes Blades, and Wye Tree Landscapes, Inc. – Requested Council approval of a Memorandum of Understanding for the installation of WWI, WWII, and Korean War KIA Memorials on the Courthouse grounds. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the MOU by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

- E. Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Reverend Eric Daniels to a three-year term on the Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board as a representative of the private sector; said term will expire June 30, 2023. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved the appointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

- F. Adult Public Guardianship Review Board – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Laura Higgins to the Adult Public Guardianship Review Board to complete the unexpired term of Debbye Jackson; said term will expire January 1, 2022. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the appointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

- G. Talbot County Animal Control Board – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Karla Wieland Cherry and Leslie Israel to three-year terms on the Talbot County Animal Control Board as alternates; said terms will expire on July 1, 2023. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the reappointments by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

- H. Talbot County Economic Development Commission – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Edward “Ted” Bautz and Jean Weisman to three-year terms on the Talbot County Economic Development Commission; Ms. Weisman is a representative of the Town of St. Michaels; said terms will expire June 30, 2023. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the reappointments by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

- I. Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe Advisory Committee – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Harriette Lowery to the Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe Advisory Committee as the representative of the Frederick Douglass Honor Society. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the appointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

- J. Talbot County Local Emergency Planning Committee – Requested Council approval to forward the names of Kelly Griffith (Superintendent, Talbot County Public Schools); Kristopher Durham (Talbot County Health Department – Emergency Planner); Micah Risher

(Easton Airport) to the Governor for consideration of reappointment to three-year terms on the Talbot County Emergency Planning Committee; requested Council approval to forward the name of Donald Cooper (Talbot County Public Schools – Security) for consideration of appointment to a three-year term on the Talbot County Emergency Planning Committee; if reappointed/appointed, said terms will expire on August 1, 2023. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Leshar, the Council approved forwarding the names to the Governor for consideration by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshar – Aye

- K. Talbot County Tourism Board – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Kim Weller and Angela Eade to four-year terms on the Talbot County Tourism Board as representatives of the Town of St. Michaels and the short-term rental industry, respectively; said terms will expire on July 1, 2024. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the reappointments by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshar – Aye

- IX. Public Comments: Members of the public were provided an opportunity to comment on matters of interest to them.

- X. Council Comments:

Mr. Leshar – No comments.

Ms. Price – Ms. Price stated that it was nice to see everyone’s faces again, even though virtually. She stated that she hoped it worked out for the public, and, having participated via phone for the past few meetings, she realizes what a challenge it has been for the public to understand. She stated that we have been working on the technology and, in her opinion, it is easier to understand everyone when their faces are showing, you can see people’s expressions and hear what they are saying. She requested feedback from the public because, in her opinion, the next few meetings will probably be held virtually.

Mr. Divilio – Mr. Divilio stated that he felt like his children who had just started virtual learning through Talbot County Public Schools and stated that, in his opinion, we are all adapting to technology and that it’s amazing how adaptive children are when they are so young and everything is new to them. He stated that he did not want to have to have this meeting virtually but there is a lot of Council business that, in his opinion, is extremely important, and he is glad that the Council is able to continue to have the meeting. He stated that he won’t allow anything that disrupts the business that we are doing or put the police in an awkward position. He stated that he does not like having to do this, but he is using technology to move forward in the best way possible. Mr. Divilio concluded his comments by stating that he hopes Mr. Pack is having a great time away.

Mr. Callahan - Mr. Callahan concurred with Mr. Divilio’s statement that he hopes Mr. Pack is having a good time. He stated that the 9/11 Ceremony will not be held this year due to COVID-19; however, it means something special to everyone and people recall where they were on that day. He asked for a moment of silence out of respect and in remembrance of all the people who passed away on that day. Following the moment of silence, Mr. Callahan stated that, in his opinion, the Council did an excellent job at its first virtual meeting and he was very proud of the Council, and of staff for their hard work to put us all together. He stated that, in his opinion, we are all trying to get through this, he wants to be positive and we want things safe for the county and our citizens and we will figure it out. He stated that the Council will be back in the Bradley Meeting Room soon but we need to figure out some options for the protesters. He stated that we want the protesters to be safe and to be able to do what they feel is necessary to support their causes; this is not something we are running away from but want to make sure that everyone is safe, which is the most important thing to Council. Mr. Callahan concluded his comments by expressing his appreciation to those who made comments.

XI. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council meeting adjourned.

XII. The Council will reconvene on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in Open Session 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 for the regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

The transcript of the September 8, 2020 County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

XIII. Summary of Closed Session held on September 8, 2020:

1. Statement of the time, place, and purpose of the closed session:

Time of closed session: 4:30 p.m. to 5:25 p.m.
 Place of closed session: Via teleconference
 Purpose of the closed session: To consider various matters as set forth in the statement for closing the meeting

2. Record of the vote of each member as to closing the session:

Names of members voting aye: Callahan, Divilio, Leshner, Price
 Members opposed: None
 Abstaining: None
 Absent: Pack

3. Statutory authority to close session and listing of each topic actually discussed, persons present, and each action taken in the session:

Topic description	Statutory authority	Persons present	Action taken
Discuss personnel matter in Circuit Court	GP § 3-305 (b) (1)	Chuck Callahan, Laura Price, Frank	No action

		Divilio, Pete Lesher, Andy Hollis, Anthony Kupersmith, Judge Kehoe, Kris Short	
Discuss personnel matter in Public Works	GP § 3-305 (b) (1)	Chuck Callahan, Laura Price, Frank Divilio, Pete Lesher, Andy Hollis, Anthony Kupersmith	Council concurred with promotion as outlined
Discuss appointments to various County boards and committees	GP § 3-305 (b) (1)	Chuck Callahan, Laura Price, Frank Divilio, Pete Lesher, Andy Hollis, Anthony Kupersmith	No action
Legal advice regarding personnel matter in Department of Emergency Services	GP § 3-305 (b) (7) and (8)	Chuck Callahan, Laura Price, Frank Divilio, Pete Lesher, Andy Hollis, Anthony Kupersmith, Kim Ferullo, Clay Stamp	Council concurred with recommendation of outside legal counsel to send letter

CASH STATEMENT 09/01/2020

BALANCE 8/25/2020	51,502,915.46
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 8/24/2020	(82,146.30)
ELECTION BOARD PPE 8/4/2020	(1,501.08)
RETURNED CHECK(S) #103, 1639	(2,848.79)
DEPOSITS	1,489,824.85
CHECKS	(668,511.63)
BALANCE 9/01/2020	<u><u>52,237,732.51</u></u>

INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.13%	20,500,000.00

1880 BANK	10,141,402.47
TOTAL INVESTED	<u>30,641,402.47</u>
PETTY CASH BALANCE	<u>12,275.00</u>
<u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>	<u>82,891,409.98</u>

CASH STATEMENT 09/08/2020

BALANCE 9/01/2020	52,237,732.51
TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 8/21 & 8/31/2020	(660,829.50)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 8/21 & 8/31/2020	(18,089.87)
PENSION DED PPE 8/21 & 8/31/2020	(38,507.97)
DEFERRED COMP PPE 8/21/2020 PLAN 401(A)	(7,175.01)
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 8/31/2020	(52,261.47)
BOARD OF EDUCATION 8/2020	(3,635,367.00)
SEPTEMBER 2020 RETIREE HEALTH INS PLAN #727	(31,514.56)
STATE REPORT 8/2020	(874,372.22)
AGRICULTURAL TRANSFER TAX PAYMENT AUGUST 2020	(10,000.00)
WELLS FARGO GOLF EQUIP LEASE PMT	(128.00)
DEPOSITS	2,698,729.52
CHECKS	(508,727.99)
BALANCE 9/08/2020	<u>49,099,488.44</u>

**INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF
DEPOSIT**

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.13%	20,500,000.00
1880 BANK			10,141,402.47
TOTAL INVESTED			<u>30,641,402.47</u>
PETTY CASH BALANCE			<u>12,275.00</u>
<u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>			<u>79,753,165.91</u>

