

**County Council of Dorchester County**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**April 7, 2015**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on April 7, 2015 with the following members present: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; William V. Nichols; Rick M. Price and Don B. Satterfield. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney; Jeremy Goldman, Acting County Manager; and Donna Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Council adjourned from a Regular Session and convened in a closed Executive Session pursuant to Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, pursuant to §3-305(b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; pursuant to §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; pursuant to §3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

Voting in favor of the closed Executive Session were all Council members present at the beginning of that meeting.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Travers led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

**CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

The Council approved the following additions to the agenda: 1) commendation to Delema Adams for her years of service at the Early Childhood Learning Center; 2) Confirmation of the execution of an emergency medical services billing agreement with a local volunteer fire company; 3) a request to advertise a Motor Equipment Operator II position in the Highway Division; 4) a request to advertise a Planning Technician in the Planning and Zoning Department; 5) a request to advertise for grass cutting services relating to tax sale property maintenance; and 6) a Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge grant application request for a Federal Highways Maple Dam Road project.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES- MARCH 17, 2015**

The Council approved the minutes of March 17, 2015. Councilman Price clarified that these minutes have been amended to correct his erroneous referral to a vendor for the

incubator facility. He explained that his opposition was to a payment to Facility Logix and not Willow Construction.

#### **APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS**

The Council agreed to add to the disbursements Amoss 508 fund distributions to the Taylors Island Volunteer Fire Company which represent the cumulative funds withheld through the regular third quarter FY15 distribution for a total of \$17,497.70. The Council approved the vouchers with Councilman Satterfield abstaining for payments made to Ruth Satterfield.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$9,330,932.75.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION SUMMARY**

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in an Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. on April 7, 2015 in a closed session at Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland, pursuant to Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, pursuant to §3-305(b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; pursuant to §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; pursuant to §3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

Motion made, seconded and carried to conduct a closed session pursuant to the above. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative to conduct the closed session for the purposes stated above and to discuss the topics listed below.

Councilman Travers announced that the Council convened into an Executive Session on April 2, 2015 at approximately 5:30 p.m. to discuss personnel items relating to the FY16 budget pursuant to General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b)(1).

He further announced that the following actions were taken at the April 7, 2015 closed session: 1) discussed with legal counsel a matter relating to an emergency medical services billing agreement-agreed to discuss in open session; 2) approved the request of the Public Works Director to fill a Motor Equipment Operator II position in the Highway Division by a 5 to 0 vote - agreed to consider a request to advertise in open session; 3) approved the request of the Public Works Director to hire an individual to fill a Landfill Manager position by a 5 to 0 vote; 4) confirmed the hiring by the State's Attorney of an individual to fill a grant funded Assistant State's Attorney position by a 5 to 0 vote; 5) approved the request of the Warden to hire individuals to fill five vacant Correctional Officer positions and approved a list for future hiring by a 5 to 0 vote; 6) approved the request of the Planning and Zoning Director to fill a Planning Technician position by a 5

to 0 vote-agreed to discuss a request to advertise in open session; 7) discussed a matter relating to a County property acquired via tax sale; 8) discussed a matter regarding an economic development project; 9) discussed with legal counsel a request to renew farm leases; 10) discussed with legal counsel a matter relating to County properties acquired via tax sale-agreed to discuss in open session; and 11) discussed with legal counsel a matter relating to the landfill.

The above information is being provided to the public pursuant to and in compliance with Section §3-306(b) and (c) of Title 3 of the General Provisions Article.

## **REGULAR SESSION**

### **COMMENDATION- ROBERT TENANTY RETIREMENT**

The Council presented a commendation to Robert Tenanty congratulating him on his retirement and recognizing his 15 years of dedicated service to Dorchester County.

### **PROCLAMATION-MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD**

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring April 2015 Month of the Young Child which was accepted by Donna Greenleaf, Early Childhood Coordinator for DCPS/Co-Chair of Early Childhood Advisory Council; Nancy Shockley, Dorchester Community Partnership for Children; and Mary Beth Johnson, a member of the Early Childhood Advisory Council.

### **COMMENDATION - SHARON LANASA, OUTSTANDING LIBRARY EMPLOYEE AWARD**

The Council presented a commendation to Sharon Lanasa, the first recipient of the Citizens for Maryland Libraries Outstanding Library Employee Award, for her contributions to Dorchester County, particularly in the areas of early childhood literacy and community outreach.

### **COMMENDATION-DELEMA AMES -YEARS OF DEDICATION-EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING**

The Council presented a commendation recognizing Delema Ames, posthumously, for her 40 plus years of dedication to the Early Childhood Learning Center and both Family and Center Childcare which was accepted by George Ames, her husband and family members.

### **INTRODUCTION-PHILIP LAHAYE, VICE PRESIDENT, NORTH AMERICAN RACE OPERATIONS-IRONMAN**

Philip Lahaye, Vice President, North American Race Operations, Ironman, acknowledged that Scott Langin, Operations Manager, who runs Ironman events in the

United States and assists him on the corporal level, is also present. He thanked the Council for its support of Ironman Maryland. He noted that with the assistance of Gerry Boyle it took five months instead of 15 months to plan an Ironman Maryland event in Dorchester County, which took place on September 20, 2014. He said the Eagleman Triathlon and the September Ironman Maryland event combined were ninth in the world and fifth in North America.

Mr. Lahaye said he will attend the 2015 Eagleman and Ironman Maryland events, noting that the second event has sold out. He advised that over 2,500 athletes from approximately 42 countries will be present at the event. He said earlier today he spent four to five hours with business owners in order to ensure that future events do not negatively impact the County. Mr. Lahaye said the Ironman Foundation has been active this year and has provided \$45,000 directly to several non-profit organizations under a grant program. He commended Mr. Boyle for his assistance and thanked the residents for their patience and understanding during events and the Council for supporting Ironman events in the County. In response to questions from Councilman Travers, he advised that the 2015 Ironman Maryland events sold out in six to eight weeks and there are only 43 entries remaining for the Eagleman event.

## **LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

The Council convened into Legislative Session to hold a public hearing.

**BILL NO. 2015-3 AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY MARYLAND TO AMEND CHAPTER 155, ENTITLED ZONING ORDINANCE, SECTION 155-50, NN, SUPPLEMENTARY USE REGULATIONS, SECTION 155-13, TERMS DEFINED, AND SECTION 155 ATTACHMENT 1, TABLE OF PERMITTED USES OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE TO ADD RETREAT CENTER OR CAMP AS A SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE IN THE AC, AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION, RC, RESOURCE CONSERVATION, AND AC-RCA, AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION – RESOURCE CONSERVATION AREA DISTRICTS, ADD THE DEFINITION OF RETREAT CENTER OR CAMP, AND INCLUDE SUPPLEMENTARY USE REGULATIONS FOR A RETREAT CENTER OR CAMP.**

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said a public hearing is being held on legislation to amend the Chapter 155, the County's Zoning Ordinance, to add: 1) a retreat center or camp as a special exception use in the Agricultural Conservation (AC), Resource Conservation (RC), and the Agricultural Conservation-Resource Conservation (AC-RCA) area districts; 2) the definition of a retreat center or camp; and, 3) supplementary use regulations.

Rodney Banks, Assistant Planning and Zoning Director, said this is a text amendment that defines a retreat center or camp as a new use for which a special exception must be obtained from the County's Board of Appeals. He said the legislation includes supplemental use regulations and definitions. He explained that the applicant, Young

Life, Inc., has a committed financial interest in real property in County and have the right to acquire lands of Tudor Farms, which are in the vicinity of the Decoursey Road Bridge.

Mr. Banks stated that the proposed text amendment: 1) permits the development and operation of a retreat center or camp on land of at least 700 acres; 2) states that the number of overnight participants shall not exceed 800; 3) allows upon the approval by the County Board of Appeals, overnight participants to exceed 800 for up to eight nights during any calendar year; and, 4) requires site plan approval. He noted that the County's Planning Commission members began reviewing this proposed text amendment in the Fall of last year and on January 7, 2015 unanimously approved the text amendment and recommended Council's approval.

In response to inquiries from E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, Mr. Banks confirmed that the amendment only applies to facilities operated by charitable organizations and that Board of Appeals and site plan approval is required.

Gage Thomas questioned how the 700 acre figure was established. Mr. Banks explained that the original acreage the Planning Commission members considered was larger than 700 acres. He said the Applicant worked with Hansen Scout Reservation Boy Scout Camp officials in order to ensure that the proposed text amendment did not infringe on that camp. Mr. Merryweather noted that the Council can consider an amendment to reduce the acreage in the future, if such a need or request arises.

Libby Nagel, resident, said she supports the preservation of agricultural land. She expressed her belief that the amount should be 700 acres particularly since there is only a limited amount of agriculture land in the County with contiguous acreage.

William "Sandy" McAllister, Attorney for Young Life, explained that this faith based Christian organization, which is tailored to middle school and young high school students, operates in all 50 states. He said this will be one of the several dozen camps this organization will operate in the country and internationally. He said the site they plan to use is in excess of 6,000 acres and the proposed camp will occupy less than 100 acres. He stressed that his client wanted to ensure that the Hansen Scout Reservation officials had input because the Boy Scout camp is a non-conforming use.

Mr. McAllister expressed his understanding that the Planning Commission members are cognizant of the need to preserve the County's agricultural heritage. He recognized that there are concerns about residential pressures and that charitable organizations may compete for farm land. He noted that the site plan and special exception process will hold applicants accountable to ensure the preservation of agricultural land in the County.

Mr. McAllister said Paul Tudor Jones is relocating. He explained that originally Mr. Jones agreed to transfer the property to Young Life at the end of last year; however, in order to spend another Christmas holiday on the property he plans to convey a deed at the end of 2015. He said current leases to farmers will be extended and hunting rights will be

more effectively managed. He thanked the Council for its consideration of the text amendment.

Mr. Thomas expressed his belief that: 1) there is a need for this type of use; 2) farm land should be preserved; and, 3) the text amendment should apply to all properties in the County. He said he is not opposed to the passage of this legislation.

In response to a question from Councilman Price, Mr. Merryweather confirmed that an applicant for this use must be a charitable organization, noting that there are checks and balances during the site plan and special exception processes.

The roll call on the enactment of Bill No. 2015-3 was as follows: Travers-aye; Bradshaw-aye; Nichols-aye; Price-aye; Satterfield-aye.

Councilman Bradshaw noted he has provided the Council a copy of proposed legislation for burial site preservation for review which he plans to introduce at the next meeting.

The Council reconvened into Regular Session.

## **REGULAR SESSION**

### **MEETING WITH MUNICIPALITIES-TAX DIFFERENTIAL/REBATE**

Councilman Travers said pursuant to State law once year the Council must hold a meeting with municipalities to provide them the opportunity to discuss proposed tax differentials/tax rebates.

Robert Herbert, Mayor, Town of Church Creek, thanked the Council for adopting a resolution to enforce the County's floodplain management ordinance within Town limits. He said he received a letter from the State Highway Administration (SHA) in December 2014 noting the availability of funding for a Town streetscape project. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Mayor Herbert advised that a preliminary engineering report was prepared and the design may change. He said one of his concerns, which he has not discussed with SHA officials, is whether a floodgate will be necessary once new storm drains are installed.

Frank Cooke, Commissioner, City of Cambridge, said the State statute provides for the recognition of overlapping services. He explained that he met with Michael Spears, Finance Director, regarding the factors and the formula used for the calculation of tax differentials and tax rebates. He said Mr. Spears advised that the formula was designed to offset County costs for planning and zoning, the Sheriff's Office and a small portion for general government activities relating to these two factors. In response to Commissioner Cooke's query, Councilman Travers stated that the formula was established approximately eight years ago. Mr. Cooke expressed his belief that there are overlapping services, such as highway and streets and economic development that are not factored into the calculation. He noted that Mr. Spears provided him ranking

information on tax differentials, noting that the City of Cambridge ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 26 municipalities. Commissioner Cooke asked the Council to consider revisiting this formula.

Gage Thomas, Commissioner, City of Cambridge, referenced the worksheet regarding the tax differential Mr. Cooke provided to the Council.

In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Commissioner Thomas stated he believes City taxpayers should receive a higher tax differential.

Councilman Travers said the Council will take Commissioner Cooke's request under advisement.

Commissioner Thomas thanked the Council for supporting the City and its residents.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooke, Councilman Bradshaw explained that the legislation he intends to introduce at the next meeting gives the County authority to establish a Burial Sites Preservation Board. He said it will also allow individuals with an owner's permission the ability to visit and document cemeteries in court records.

## **MANAGERS COMMENTS**

### **REQUEST TO USE EGYPT ROAD REGIONAL PARK-HARRIET TUBMAN GOLF CLASSIC WEEKEND 10K RUN-MARLA GARRIS**

Mr. Goldman said Marla Garris, resident, has submitted a request to use Egypt Road Regional Park on Friday, September 18, 2015 for the Harriet Tubman Golf Classic Weekend 10K run which will be held from dawn to noon. He noted that Scott Eberspacher, Recreation and Parks Director, has provided the Council with comments on this proposed use.

Ms. Garris explained that she chose this Park for her event after consulting with Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, on possible venues. She stated that she also spoke to Gerry Boyle, who has experience with these types of events. She said she viewed the park and the wooded trail with Mr. Eberspacher, which she believes mimics the terrain Harriet Tubman had to navigate to free slaves.

Councilman Travers said Council was provided a copy of an e-mail to Ms. Garris from the office of Dr. Henry Wagner, Superintendent of Schools, in which it is noted that if the 10K is on a school day they cannot accommodate her request to use school facilities for parking. Ms. Garris explained that she is working with a school building facilitator who recently sent her e-mails regarding the proposed use of a school parking lot, which she will forward to Council. She advised that, if necessary, she can seek other parking areas and transport participants to the site by bus.

Councilman Satterfield said expressed concern about the condition of the trail at the Egypt Road Regional Park and questioned whether it is suitable for running. Ms. Garris noted that the high school cross country team practices at this location.

In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Ms. Garris said the registration process for the 10k has not commenced, however, she has notified running groups in southern Maryland and Baltimore City about the event and the rough terrain via e-mail. She estimated that approximately 3,000 to 4,000 individuals will visit the County during the Harriet Tubman Golf Classic Weekend. She said several local businesses have expressed their support for the proposed event. Pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Ms. Garris advised that the number of 10k participants will be capped at 500. Councilman Travers expressed his belief that number of participants should not exceed 200. He suggested she contact the State Hospital, which holds these types of events.

Councilman Travers explained that in addition to obtaining the Council's approval to utilize the park for this event, Ms. Garris must obtain permission from the Board of Education to use school parking facilities.

In response to a question from Councilman Bradshaw, Ms. Garris advised that she received a liability insurance proposal from an insurance company last week.

Councilman Satterfield noted that there are no facilities on site. Ms. Garris expressed her understanding that one portable toilet will be made available to her, however, she would have to provide tables for drinks and other items for runners. She noted that she has already signed Recreation and Parks paperwork which references some of the services to be provided and expressed her intent to rent a second portable toilet. Councilman Satterfield said in his comments, Mr. Eberspacher noted that the rental of portable toilets will be Ms. Garris' responsibility. Councilman Satterfield expressed concern that participants may park on the road which will reduce motorists' visibility if the school board is unable to accommodate her parking request.

The Council deferred Ms. Garris' request so she may seek the Board of Education's approval regarding parking.

#### REQUEST TO HOLD DORCHESTER COUNTY YOUNG LIFE 5K4J-EGYPT ROAD REGIONAL PARK

The Council approved the request of Paige Canterbury to hold the third annual Dorchester County Young Life 5K4J Race on Saturday, June 6, 2015 at Egypt Road Regional Park from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The Council agreed that a Certificate of Insurance naming Dorchester County as the Certificate Holder for the event must be provided prior to this event. The Council acknowledged that the Board of Education has approved the use of the Maple Elementary School parking lot for this event since it is a non-school day. The Council further acknowledged that all proceeds will go the Dorchester County Young Life scholarship program which assists local area teenagers in attending Young Life Summer camps.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS AGREEMENT-RACE2ERASE-SHERIFF'S OFFICE-FINANCE

The Council agreed to execute a Special Events Agreement between Jenny Gootee Whitten, the Council and the Sheriff of Dorchester County to provide public safety services for the Race2Erase event on May 17, 2015 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The Council acknowledged that pursuant to this agreement, public safety services to be provided by the Sheriff's Office include three vehicles and three deputies at cost of \$400. The Council also acknowledged that pursuant to Robert Willey, Assistant Finance Director, the fee is based on FY15 personnel and equipment costs of the Sheriff's Office only and is calculated at an overtime rate on the average deputy salary.

#### SEMI ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT SERVICE FEE-FINANCE

The Council approved the written request of Michael Spears, Finance Director, to adopt a semi-annual property tax payment service fee at 0.31%, which is unchanged from prior years.

#### REQUEST TO USE FY15 BUDGET FUNDING-TRANSFER TAX FUNDS-COURTROOM 1 SOUND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT-CIRCUIT COURT

The Council approved the request of Brett Wilson, Circuit Court Judge, to expend FY15 Capital Funds of \$7,384 and an additional \$400 from the Transfer Tax Fund for the improvement of the sound system in Courtroom 1 at the Circuit Court House. The Council acknowledged that when the Capital Budget request was submitted in late December 2013/early January 2014 the cost for the project was \$7,384 and since then the manufacturer increased the cost of two of the components of the sound enhancement.

#### REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO HOST GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY-INCUBATOR FACILITY-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council approved the request of Keasha Haythe, Economic Development Director, to host a ground breaking ceremony for the incubator facility on June 10, 2015. The Council recognized that Ms. Haythe plans to invite federal, state and local officials that have been instrumental in this project since 2006 and to ask the new Secretary of Maryland Department of Environment to be the keynote speaker if his schedule permits.

#### U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION REQUEST-INCUBATOR FACILITY-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council approved the request of Ms. Haythe to submit an application to the new USDA Rural Business Development Grant Program for funds in the amount of \$225,000 for personnel, equipment and supplies as noted on the proposed grant budget, with a local match of \$75,000 which has been included in the FY16 budget. Councilmen Bradshaw and Price opposed. The Council acknowledged that pursuant to Ms. Haythe the Economic Development Office previously applied for a United States Department of

Agriculture (USDA) Rural Business Enterprise Grant for furniture and equipment for the incubator facility; however, since then that program has been dissolved.

**GRANT APPLICATION REQUESTS-GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT PROGRAM-SHERIFF'S OFFICE-GRANT MONITOR**

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to submit a Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention grant application titled "Protective/Peace Order Entry" for funding under the Domestic Violence Unit Program of \$1,680 with no local match. The Council acknowledged that these funds will cover overtime costs incurred to meet District and Circuit Court compliance guidelines for service and entry of ex parte and protective orders into the METERS/NCIC network.

**GRANT APPLICATION REQUEST - EDWARD J. BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT-SHERIFF'S OFFICE-GRANT MONITOR**

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to submit an Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant application for funding to support equipment needs and overtime for special enforcement initiatives.

**BID AWARD-CHESAPEAKE GROVE INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER-DELMARVA COMMUNITY SERVICES-GRANT MONITOR**

The Council approved the recommendation of Delmarva Community Services staff, submitted by Ms. Smith, to award Phase 1 of the Chesapeake Grove Intergenerational Center project to Duvall Brothers, Inc., the lowest bidder, at the cost of \$658,219 contingent upon United States Department of Agriculture approval of the award. The Council recognized that a FY15 Community Development Grant for \$600,000 was awarded in August 2014 for partial funding for Phase I and the USDA is providing the remaining funding for this project.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REFERRAL-TWIN POINT COVE ROAD**

The Council agreed to refer the written request of Kathleen and Lawrence Ten Eyck, property owners of 6209 Twin Point Cove Road, for "No Outlet or Dead End" signs on the road to the Traffic Safety Committee.

**REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS-LANDFILL COMPACTOR-PUBLIC WORKS**

The Council approved the request of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, to advertise for bids for a compactor for the Landfill Division. The Council acknowledged that \$525,000 is in the FY15 budget for the purchase of this equipment and the guaranteed five year buyback on the existing 2010 unit is \$172,294.

## TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Councilman Price said the Traffic Safety Committee met on March 27, 2015 to discuss two items referred by the Council.

Councilman Price referenced the Council's March 3, 2015 referral of the request of Amelia Wright, resident and owner of a farm at Clark's Canning House and River Road, for the posting of "No Litter/Fines" signs and the placement of cameras on River Road. He said after conferring with Sheriff James Phillips, the Committee members recommend that two "No Dumping" signs be installed on River Road, one facing each direction. He noted that Ms. Wright is present.

Ms. Wright thanked the Council and the Committee members for addressing her concerns. She said in addition to signs she believes the Council should consider placing cameras in that area. She explained that the roadside trash in that areas usually includes items such as mattresses, sofas, chairs and televisions. She opined that because residents have to travel to Ridgely to dispose of these type of items, they are instead disposing of them along County roadways. Ms. Wright advised that she spoke to Sheriff Phillips who confirmed her believe that this is not the only area with this type of problem. She encouraged the Council to look favorably upon providing funding to the Sheriff's Office to purchase cameras. She commended Highway Division staff for being responsive to her requests.

Councilman Price said he also spoke to Sheriff Phillips who advised that he does not have the appropriate equipment to monitor this area.

Gloria Dolan and Ken Heesh, residents, and past members of a County landfill committee that was dissolved several years ago, expressed their belief that four cameras were purchased for the Sheriff's Office for this purpose.

The Council approved the Traffic Safety Committee members' recommendation to post the signs and asked that information be obtained on possibly utilizing inmate labor for roadside trash pickup.

Councilman Price stated that the Committee members also discussed the inquiry of Warren Saunders, resident, about the possible posting of "local traffic only" signs on Palmers Mill Road based on his concerns about safety on that road due to extensive truck use which may also be contributing to the degradation of that road. He explained that the members discussed enforcement issues and how proposed restrictions may affect current users and communities, including farms and other businesses. He said he spoke to Sheriff Phillips who advised him about the difficulties of enforcing "local" restrictions. Based on the recommendation of the Traffic Safety Committee members, the Council agreed to take no action at this time.

## HIGHWAY PRIORITY FUNDING REQUEST LETTER SUBMITTAL - MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Moore noted that he has provided to Council a copy of the correspondence sent to the State Highway Administration listing its highway priority funding requests in 2014. He suggested that the same letter be sent this year with the following additions for items which Council has discussed over the past year: 1) Maryland Route 392 Intersection with Maryland Route 331 in Hurlock, which is a high accident intersection in need of traffic control or design improvements; 2) Maryland Route 14 Brookview Bridge due to concerns that the bridge paved width does not accommodate modern equipment; 3) Maryland Route 50 in Linkwood particularly as it turns off of westbound Route 50 to access the Perdue Grain Tower via Vincent Rd. which is hazardous in addition to recent improvements which including cutting back the roadside area of Route 50 eastbound roadside and installing flashing warning lights; 4) maintenance needs relating to the timber boardwalk at Sailwinds Park Visitor Center; and 5) the need for air-conditioning in the outside restrooms at the Sailwinds Park Visitor Center.

In response to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Mr. Moore confirmed that the proposed correspondence includes provisions for bicycle lanes on Golden Hill Road (Maryland 335) in the Blackwater Refuge area. The Council agreed to clarify that this one of the main areas is Key Wallace Drive to Gootees Marina.

Councilman Price referenced issues the Council discussed at a November 2014 meeting with Maryland Department of Transportation officials regarding rail crossings. The Council agreed to include general maintenance of rail crossings in the letter.

Councilman Bradshaw stressed the need for improvements to the Route 50 and Vincent Road intersection. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Mr. Moore confirmed that he met with Donne Drewer, District Engineer, regarding this area. He said Mr. Drewer explained that funding is allocated for improvements based on statistical accident data and noted there were no accidents at this intersection.

Mr. Moore advised that Mr. Drewer suggested that motorists use Linkwood Road to access the grain facility. Councilman Bradshaw said that would require accessing a portion of the field at the entrance of this facility. Mr. Moore noted that there have been incidents involving Linkwood Road as a result of congestion which will increase if this road is used for this access.

Ms. Nagel expressed her understanding that when the Perdue Grain Facility was constructed, company representatives made some type of agreement not to utilize a certain road. The Council asked that Mr. Moore contact David Willey, head of the Perdue Grain Division, to inquire about this possible agreement.

**BID AWARD-OLD BEULAH LANDFILL CLOSURE CAP CONSTRUCTION  
PROJECT-PUBLIC WORKS**

Based on the recommendation of Mr. Moore and Maryland Environmental Service staff, the Council agreed to award the bid for the Old Beulah Landfill Closure Cap Construction project to Sargent Corporation in the amount of \$4,252,750. The Council recognized that in order to draw from a USDA grant for this project, \$6 million, consisting of \$4.5 million in County funds and \$1.5 million of a USDA loan, must be expended. The Council agreed to send correspondence to USDA to de-obligate the grant and loan funds since the construction cost is \$2 million less than the original estimate of \$8 million for the project.

**RESOLUTION REQUEST-JUNK DEALER OR SCRAP METAL PROCESSOR-  
MARYLAND STATE POLICE**

The Council approved the request of Corporal Keith Johnson for the Council's adoption of a resolution allowing the Maryland State Police to continue to serve as the primary law enforcement unit in the County in regards to enforcement relating to junk dealer or scrap metal processors. The Council acknowledged that Sheriff James Phillips supports this action.

**GRANT APPLICATION REQUEST-FEDERAL HIGHWAYS MAPLE DAM ROAD  
PROJECT-BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

The Council approved the written request of Suzanne Baird, Refuge Manager, and agreed that the County can serve as the applicant for a federal highway grant application for Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge for funds to conduct a secondary study to obtain additional information on a potential bridging option to address the Maple Dam flooding problem. The Council recognized that this is a pass through grant and no County match is required. The Council further recognized that Ms. Baird will coordinate with Ms. Smith in the preparation of the application.

**CONFIRMATION-EXECUTION OF EMS BILLING AGREEMENT**

The Council agreed to execute an emergency medical services billing agreement with the Secretary Volunteer Fire Company for basic life support services with Councilman Nichols opposing.

**REQUEST TO ADVERTISE A MOTOR EQUIPMENT OPERATOR II POSITION IN  
THE HIGHWAY DIVISION**

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to advertise a Motor Equipment Operator II position in the Highway Division.

#### REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR GRASS CUTTING SERVICES RELATING TO TAX SALE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

The Council agreed to advertise for proposals for grass cutting services for certain properties the County acquired via tax sale.

#### REQUEST TO ADVERTISE-PLANNING TECHNICIAN-PLANNING AND ZONING

The Council approved the request of Steve Dodd, Planning and Zoning Director, to advertise a Planning Technician Position in-house and in a local news publication(s) concurrently due to an employee resignation.

#### TELEPHONE POLL CONFIRMATION

Mr. Goldman announced that in the interim between meetings, Council, by means of a poll, approved the request of Sheriff James Phillips to pre-order 2015 Tahoes to achieve a savings, for which FY16 budget funding will be utilized, by a 4 to 1 vote.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Wendell Foxwell, resident, inquired about status of the County Manager position. He advised Council that several individuals have expressed their support for Jay Newcomb. He referenced the amount of time Mr. Newcomb served as Council President and as Acting County Manager as well as his offer to accept the County Manager position for reduced compensation. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Foxwell, Councilman Nichols advised that Mr. Newcomb kept that position until the Council voted to select another individual as Acting County Manager. Councilman Travers said each Council member has been provided copies of the applications to review, noting that they will turn in a list of names and then interviews will be scheduled.

Tracy Taylor, a Dorchester County resident, advised Council that she has obtained 200 signatures on a petition in support of Mr. Newcomb's application for County Manager, which she will provide to the Council.

Les Simering, resident, said he believes the Council should partner with residents of Dorchester County. He stressed the need for Council to abide by the County's Charter. He expressed dismay that Mr. Newcomb was replaced as Acting County Manager. Based on concerns Mr. Simering expressed about possible conflicts of interest of certain Council members, Councilman Satterfield clarified that on November 28, 2015 he relinquished his job as service processor for the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Simering said he believes the Sheriff should attend Council meetings. He expressed support of the use of County funding to combat heroin abuse and criminal drug activity. Councilman Travers said Council is aware of the need to utilize funds for this purpose.

In response to a question from Terry Wheatley, resident, Councilman Travers explained that Mr. Goldman's salary has been slightly raised to reflect his increased responsibilities

as Acting County Manager. He said he cannot release any further information since this is a personnel matter.

Greg Robbins, a Dorchester County resident, expressed his belief that cameras were purchased to monitor areas for roadside trash. He expressed his belief the Sheriff should attend Council meetings.

### **COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT**

Based on a motion made by Councilman Bradshaw, the Council agreed to send correspondence to Governor Larry Hogan seeking his assistance in garnering the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) concurrence to include the Tar Bay Channel in its maintenance dredging program with copies to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Army Corps and the shore delegation.

Councilman Bradshaw referenced House Bill 638 entitled "Natural Resources-Oysters-Shell Seeding, Shell Replenishment, and Rotational Harvest" which was withdrawn during the 2015 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session. He said the introduction of this bill has sparked dialogue between DNR and local watermen, noting that the new DNR Secretary is attending a Clean Chesapeake Coalition meeting in Wye Mills on April 24, 2015.

Councilman Price advised Council that Governor Hogan; Nancy Knopp, Treasurer and Peter Franchot, Comptroller, spoke at the April 1, 2015 Maryland Association of Counties Legislative Committee meeting. He said Governor Hogan said his initiatives include promoting a business friendly environment and the reversal of the phosphorus management tool regulations. He noted that the Governor cited his desire to visit all of the counties. Councilman Price said Ms. Knopp also expressed an interest in visiting the counties to discuss fiscal matters and referenced the college savings program that provides tax benefits for parents, which is under publicized.

Councilman Price said Mr. Franchot spoke about following at this meeting: 1) the need for the State to manage debt and spending more efficiently and to seek economic reform; 2) his concern about the continued viability of the State Pension Fund; 3) his belief that there should be procurement reform; 4) his commitment to fairness in the private sector; 5) the need for additional financial literacy training in schools; and 6) his belief that the emphasis should be on school maintenance and not construction. He advised that Comptroller Franchot voiced his opinion that school should not begin until after Labor Day. Councilman Price said he referenced a State Task Force's endorsement to seek this change in order to assist the business community and the results of a poll which indicate 72% are in favor of this action.

Councilman Satterfield said after receiving calls from residents in District 1 and in other areas of the County regarding the condition of certain roads, he contacted Highway Division staff, who were very responsive. He encouraged the public to contact this division directly. He noted that there are currently four County crews working on County

roads. Councilman Satterfield applauded Mr. Moore and his staff for the work they perform.

Councilman Travers announced that members of the County Council will attend the 59<sup>th</sup> Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. Delmarva Poultry Booster Banquet on April 15, 2015 at 6 p.m. at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, Salisbury, Maryland. He also announced that the next County Council meeting will be held on April 21, 2015 at 6 p.m. He said the Council reserves the right to meet in executive session prior to regular session.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

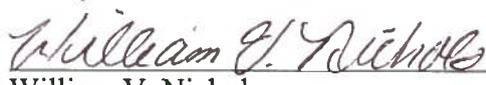
ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeremy Goldman  
Acting County Manager

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ricky C. Travers, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President

  
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William V. Nichols

  
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Rick M. Price

  
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Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2015.