

**County Council of Dorchester County**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**August 4, 2015**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on August 4, 2015 with the following members present: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; Rick M. Price and Don B. Satterfield. Also present were 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)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto and §3-305(b)(4) to consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State.

Voting in favor of the closed Executive Session were all Council members.

**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 addition of a confirmation of polls relating to letters of support and the renewal of a Conservation Reserve Program contract for a County owned property to the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES- JULY 21, 2015**

The Council approved the minutes of July 21, 2015.

**APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS**

The Council approved the vouchers, with additions, as presented, with Councilman Travers abstaining for reimbursement for the payment of training expenses for the Sheriff's Office.

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

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$6,528,358.68.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION SUMMARY**

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in an Executive Session at 5:00 p.m. on August 4, 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)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; and §3-305(b)(4) to consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State.

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.

Action taken at the closed session: 1) discussed a matter relating to a County owned property; and 2) discussed a preliminary matter that concerns a proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate in the State.

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**

### **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PRESENTATION-MID-SHORE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.**

Holly Ireland, Executive Director, Mid-Shore Mental Health Systems, Inc., (Mid-Shore) provided a presentation on Youth Engagement on the Mid-Shore. She thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak.

Ms. Ireland explained that in October 2006 the Maryland Children's Cabinet, in recognition of the need for youth to be engaged in their communities and care, established the Maryland Youth Council. She said this is an advisory group comprised of youth from the ages of 13 to 19 across the state. She said in 2007 transformation grant funding, which was awarded through Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), was used to fund a Mid Shore Mental Health System youth engagement program for the mid shore region. She noted that in 2009, at the end of the grant, Talbot County, the lead agency, received another SAMHSA grant for six years, which included one year of planning and five years for the implementation of a program for the nine counties on the Eastern Shore. She said as a result the Youth Engagement model was adopted. Ms. Ireland noted that the grant period will expire at the end of this fiscal year. She explained that the Maryland Institute of Innovations and

Implementations will sustain services for youth at risk at out of home placement in residential treatment facilities for behavior health care utilizing stability and safety grants from the Maryland Departments of Human Resources and Juvenile Services and Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene funds.

Ms. Ireland explained that Mid-Shore staff are in the process of preparing a proposal for submission to private foundations and benefactors to continue youth engagement in five mid-shore counties, including Dorchester. She noted that last month the Governor's Office of Children identified youth disengagement as a priority and made notification of funding availability which was pursued by some of the mid shore Local Management Boards. She stated that Dorchester County ranks fourth in the state for disengaged youth which includes those who are not employed, not enrolled in school or are homeless. She said she is requesting a one-time contribution of \$27,000 to \$30,000 from Dorchester County.

In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Ms. Ireland said another youth model was previously utilized in Dorchester County and although participation fluctuated it substantially increased when students from the alternative learning center participated. She noted that 120 youth from almost 9 counties attended an overnight lock-in at the YMCA of Chesapeake in Easton, each of the two years that event was held. She explained that at one of these events the highest attendance was from Dorchester County youth. Ms. Ireland said the Youth Engagement model includes one-on-one mentoring, which she believes is essential. She explained that their goal is to outreach to 120 youth with a goal of achieving a participation rate of 75%. Pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Ms. Ireland said she is now focusing on five counties in the mid shore region for which \$150,000 is needed.

In response to questions from Councilman Travers, Mr. Ireland advised that they will focus on the youth in the counties that provide funding and for planning purposes need a funding commitment by September 2015. Councilman Travers noted that the County's budget process ended May 2015 and; therefore, a funding mechanism will need to be identified if Council agrees to allocate funding to this program. Jeremy Goldman, Acting County Manager, provided Ms. Ireland staff's contact information so she may schedule a meeting with him to discuss budget requests and county budget cycles.

Councilman Satterfield queried as to the number of youth that returned to school as a result of the program. Ms. Ireland noted that re-engagement in education was not previously tracked.

The Council thanked Ms. Ireland for providing information on youth engagement.

## **2016 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE SESSION DISCUSSION**

Councilman Travers noted that the Council will meet with legislators on October 6, 2015 regarding legislative proposals for the 2016 Maryland General Assembly Legislative

Session. He referenced the Council's 2015 legislative initiative regarding the Elections' Office and the Council's prior discussions regarding State sprinkler system requirements. The Council briefly discussed topics to be included with the legislative initiatives, which include restoration of highway user funds and commercial fishing license increase concerns.

In response to an inquiry from Councilman Price, Councilman Travers noted that since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is not performing maintenance dredging in the County and instead is focusing on the Ports of Baltimore and Salisbury County staff are trying to work with State officials to garner funding for this work. Pursuant to a question posed by Councilman Travers, Mr. Moore confirmed that Army Corps staff have not expressed an interest in changing its current dredging practices. Mr. Moore said funding was received from the Department of Natural Resources for dredging relating to Slaughter Creek in the County.

Councilman Travers referenced the Council's July 21, 2015 decision to invite Mark Belton, Secretary, Department of Natural Resources, and Ben Grumbles, Secretary Department of Environment, for a discussion regarding dredging and shoreline issues and a tour of issue areas. Mr. Goldman said invitations have been sent.

The Council will also discuss proposed legislative initiatives at its August 18, 2015 and September 15, 2015 meetings.

#### **ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION MEETING TOPIC DISCUSSION**

Councilman Travers noted that the Annual Transportation Meeting with Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) officials will also be held on October 6, 2015. He referenced the items listed on the April 8, 2015 letter Council sent to MDOT listing the County's 2015 highway priorities which included items to relieve congestion and road reconstruction requests.

He expressed his understanding that the preliminary design phase of the roundabout on Route 16 and Woods Road is underway. Councilman Bradshaw noted that a survey has been completed. Councilman Travers said according to a Maryland Broadband representative they had to move lines for this project.

In response to a question from Mr. Goldman, Mr. Moore confirmed that improvements were made to Neelson Street and the Neelson Street and Maryland Route 392 intersection. Councilman Bradshaw said this work was necessary because the Town of Hurlock installed new water and sewer lines.

Councilman Price noted that Town of Hurlock representatives continue to express concern about maintenance of rail crossings in that municipality. Councilman Travers noted that general maintenance of rail crossings was included in the MDOT letter.

Councilman Travers referenced the inclusion of the repair of the timber boardwalk at the Sailwinds Park Visitor Center in this correspondence. He questioned which entity is responsible for the replacement of the walkway from the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Dorchester to the Visitor Center. Mr. Moore explained that: 1) the County owns the boardwalk from the fishing pier under Route 50 to the Sailwinds property line; 2) the hospital is responsible for the remainder of the boardwalk in that area; and 3) the State Highway Administration (SHA) owns the boardwalk from the water's edge to the parking area (the curved portion). He said the walkway to the Visitors Center building is deteriorating. Councilman Bradshaw expressed his belief that the steel portions are rusting and should be painted. Mr. Moore said there have been discussions about replacement versus repair and that he believes Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, is working with SHA on this issue.

Councilman Travers stressed the need to address the wooden walkway to ensure public safety and to determine which areas each entity is responsible for repairing and/or replacing. In response to his inquiry, Mr. Moore opined that material other than wood can be utilized. Pursuant to a question posed by Councilman Satterfield, Mr. Moore said he is unsure whether hospital representatives have inspected the boardwalk in front of the facility, noting his understanding that they have occasionally performed emergency repairs.

Councilman Price noted that the Council was advised last year that SHA representatives wanted to conduct a study of the MD Route 392/MD Route 331 intersection in the Town of Hurlock, however, funding was not available until July 1, 2015. He suggested the Council seek the status of this study at its October 6, 2015 meeting with MDOT officials.

## **MANAGERS COMMENTS**

### **BOARD APPOINTMENT-REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE-MID-SHORE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS**

The Council approved the request of Holly Ireland, Executive Director, Mid-Shore Mental Health Systems, to appoint Jackie Weston as Dorchester County's representative on the Regional Behavioral Health Advisory Committee with a term expiration date of May 31, 2017.

### **COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE-MARYLAND RURAL COUNTIES COALITION**

The Council briefly discussed the appointment of a Council member to represent Dorchester County on the Maryland Rural Counties Coalition. The Council acknowledged that Councilmen Satterfield and Price will be attending the coalition's event at the Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference in August. The Council agreed to consider this appointment at a future meeting.

### THIRD AMENDMENT-ROAD CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT-PLANNING AND ZONING

The Council approved the following requests of Steve Dodd, Planning and Zoning Director: 1) to approve an amendment to a public road construction agreement for Section Two of the Mill Pond at the Cabin Creek subdivision that will allow Perry Otwell to sell some of the lots in Section Two to Russell Stevens, with each party being responsible for building a portion of the roads serving this section; and, 2) to authorize Councilman Travers as President to sign the agreement contingent upon the approval of E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, and the review of Public Works staff.

### REQUEST TO PURCHASE PRINTER PLOTTER-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Jeremy Goldman, as Emergency Services Director, to utilize FY14 Homeland Security Grant funding, with no County funds, to purchase a printer-plotter from Amazon at the cost of \$6,800, which provided the lowest quote. Mr. Goldman explained that this is the same type of equipment used in the Planning and Zoning Office so if necessary supplies can be shared.

### REQUEST TO EXPEND CAPITAL FUNDS-REAR MOUNTED TRACTOR BLADE-RECREATION AND PARKS

The Council approved the request of Scott Eberspacher, Recreation and Parks Director, to expend FY16 Capital Funds to purchase a rear mounted tractor blade from Eastern Shore Service Corporation at cost of \$2,175.

### FY14 PAVING SCHEDULE ADDITION – PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, to utilize up to \$41,000 remaining in the FY15 blacktop fund to pave Wharf Road. The Council recognized that all of the major road overlays in the FY15 paving schedule have been completed. Mr. Moore explained that this is currently a tar and chip road which is subject to tidal action. He further explained that the use of this road has increased due to commercial use relating to the purchase of oysters and seeding operations. He noted that Wharf Road will be paved prior to the planned wedging and raising of Elliott Island Road. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Mr. Moore said approximately .5 miles will be paved, noting that the Elliott Island Marine Facility parking area has been paved.

### LANDFILL ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING CONTRACT AMENDMENT – PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore for Council to execute an Amendment to Contract to consent to the sale and the transfer by GCI Environmental Services of the Landfill Environmental Monitoring Contract with the Council to Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, LLC, consultant, which assumes and agrees to be bound by

all of the terms and provisions of this contract for groundwater monitoring services at all solid waste landfills in the County through June 2016. Mr. Moore explained that Steve Brown, who conducts the monitoring as a GCI employee, is the consultant who entered into a contract with this company to purchase the monitoring and testing part of its business. In response to query from Councilman Price, Mr. Moore said neither the scope of work or inspection timeline will be changed.

#### **FY16 WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS ACCEPTANCE – PUBLIC WORKS**

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to accept the award for FY16 Waterway Improvement Grants to Dorchester County for the following: 1) \$99,000 for Countywide Maintenance; 2) \$99,000 for the Golden Hill Bulkhead; and, 3) \$50,000 for Engineering and Permitting relating to the dredging of Slaughter Creek.

#### **FY17 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT FUNDS REQUEST – PUBLIC WORKS**

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to submit the following grant requests to the Department of Natural Resources for the FY17 Waterway Improvement Fund cycle: 1) \$99,000 for Countywide Maintenance; 2) \$99,000 for Elliott Island Jetty/Breakwater Replacement; 3) \$20,000 for the Ragged Point Electrical System Replacement Project; and 4) \$99,000 to \$3,000,000 for Dredging Projects (Tar Bay, Hurst Creek, and Slaughter Creek).

#### **FY15 MARYLAND HERITAGE AREAS AUTHORITY BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND GRANT EXTENSION – TOURISM**

The Council approved the request of Katie Clendaniel, Program Administrator, Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area, to accept and execute a concurrence for a Maryland Heritage Area Authority FY15 Operating Grant budget revision to close a gap in the staffing of the Program Administrator position and to extend the project completion date to September 30, 2015.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF POLLS**

The Council confirmed its decisions in the interim between meetings, by means of a poll, to send letters of support for the following entities FY16 grant application requests to the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area by a five to five vote: 1) the Cambridge Lighthouse Foundation Board's request for funds for the design of improved lighting for the Choptank River Lighthouse; 2) the National Outdoor Foundation's request to market the National Outdoor Show; and 3) the Nause Wawaish Band of Indians' request for funds for the Annual Native American Festival by a 5 to 0 vote.

## **RENEWAL OF CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM-COUNTY PROPERTY**

The Council agreed to seek the renewal of the Conservation Reserve Program contract for 5603 Sharptown Road, Rhodesdale, Maryland, a County owned property, which will expire on September 30, 2015, for an additional 10 or 15 year period.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Donald Gray, resident, said it is his understanding that Verizon added equipment to the Sandy Hill Elementary School to improve cell phone reception. Councilman Travers explained that after receipt of anonymous correspondence in the Council's Office, the Council learned from the Board of Education that the installation of this equipment was discussed in open meetings, including school board meeting and required zoning meetings. He stressed that a microwave tower will not be placed on the school nor will the existing equipment be raised. Councilman Travers said Verizon will pay the Board a monthly rental fee.

In response to a question from Mr. Gray, Councilman Satterfield explained that the owner of the property on Elliott Island Road he inquired about has been advised that he must remove or renovate the existing 1,300 square foot structure within 90 days. He said it is his understanding that the property owner wants to construct a new building.

Mr. Gray advised that he has viewed several individuals dumping shells at the County's Elliott's Island Marine Facility and then placing them in a boat. Mr. Moore said Public Works staff is aware of this, noting his understanding that individuals are dumping the shells on the parking lot. He noted that unfortunately, Public Works staff has not been contacted when these actions are taking place. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Mr. Gray said he believes they are seeding private bottom. Mr. Gray noted that he recently seeded private bottom with 725 bags. He asked the Council for permission to place 700 to 1,000 bushels of shell at this facility, which he will remove the same day. The Council approved his request and asked him to advise Mr. Moore the date he will be utilizing the wharf.

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

Councilman Bradshaw advised that he attended the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs meeting last night, at which one of the topics was the state recognition of tribes. He said one of the Commissioners said pursuant to COMAR, Maryland law must mimic federal law in the recognition of tribes. He explained that federal law has changed the start date for recognition from 1790 to 1990. He noted that in a prior legislative session three bills were introduced to change the start date without success. He said tribes will seek this State law change during the upcoming legislative session.



Councilman Bradshaw expressed his understanding that Suzanne Baird will be leaving her post as Refuge Manager for the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge on September 1, 2015 and wished her well in her future endeavors.

Councilman Price encouraged the public to attend events in Dorchester County, noting that National Night Out is being recognized in several municipalities. He also encouraged attendance at the Caroline Dorchester 4H Fair which begins August 5, 2015.

Councilman Satterfield explained that he received information that State law requires that information regarding a property tax exemption for disabled veterans and surviving spouse is included on the County's property tax bill. He said he has forwarded it to Mr. Goldman who will ensure that this notice is included on these bills.

Councilman Travers announced that: 1) Members of the Dorchester County Council will attend the Annual Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Summer Conference on August 12 to 15, 2015 at the Roland Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, Maryland; 2) the next County Council meeting will be held on Tuesday August 18, 2015 at 6 p.m.; and 3) Council reserves the right to meet in executive session prior to regular session.

He noted that the annual Rescue Fire Company Seafood Feast-I-Val will be held Saturday, August 8, 2015 at Sailwinds Park.

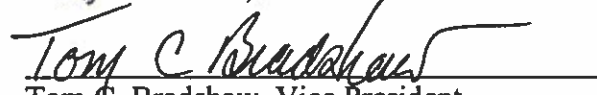
With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

  
Jeremy Goldman  
Acting County Manager

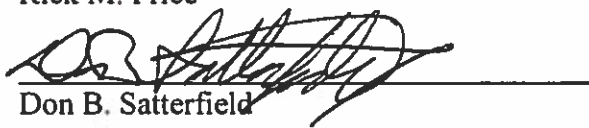
DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:

  
Ricky C. Travers, President

  
Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President

  
William V. Nichols

  
Rick M. Price

  
Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 18<sup>th</sup> day of August 2015.