

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2015

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on March 17, 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)(2) to protect the privacy or reputation of individuals with respect to a matter that is not related to public business; pursuant to §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; and 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 that meeting.

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Nichols led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

The Council approved the following additions to the agenda: lease renewal requests, a request to renew a contract for owner's representative services for the incubator project and a Maryland Department of Environment Tidal Wetlands application.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- MARCH 3, 2015

The Council approved the minutes of March 3, 2015 as amended with Councilman Travers abstaining because he was not present at that meeting.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented with Councilmen Nichols and Price opposing the following payments: General Sales Administration \$457, invoice 84583 and \$737.60, invoice #84605; Tactical Conversions \$1,920, invoice #1143. Councilman Price also opposed the Facility Logix payment.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$9,874,647.27.

EXECUTIVE SESSION SUMMARY

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in an Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. on March 17, 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)(2) to protect the privacy or reputation of individuals with respect to a matter that is not related to public business; pursuant to §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; and 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.

Action taken at the closed session: 1) discussed personnel concerns relating to a County Department; 2) approved the request of Emergency Services Director to add an individual to the on-call Paramedic list by a 5 to 0 vote, with two votes via written proxy; 3) approved the request of Warden to promote an employee to fill a Captain/Chief of Security position by a 4 to 1 vote, with two votes via written proxy; 4) approved the request of Emergency Services Director to hire an individual to fill an Emergency Medical Services Manager position by a 4 to 1 vote; 5) discussed a request to extend lease agreements for office space in the County Office Building- agreed to continue discussions in open session; 6) discussed with legal counsel a matter relating to a tax sale property; 7) discussed with legal counsel a request to extend a contract for services relating to the proposed incubator facility-agreed to continue discussion in open session; 8) discussed with legal counsel a Maryland Department of Environment Tidal Wetlands application for property adjacent to a County owned parcel-agreed to discuss in open session; and 9) discussed the County Manager position-took no action.

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-2015 NATIONAL OUTDOOR SHOW-MISS OUTDOORS, LITTLE MISS AND MR. OUTDOORS

The Council presented commendations to the following: Paige Bleyer for being selected Miss Outdoors 2015, Logan Jump for being selected Little Mr. Outdoors 2015, and Madelyn Beirly for being selected as Little Miss Outdoors 2015.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

VICTIM AWARENESS EVENT-CIRCUIT COURT-STATE'S ATTORNEY

William Jones, State's Attorney, said at a meeting every Spring the Council has presented a Proclamation for Crime Victim's Rights Week, for which a representative from Parole and Probation, Brett Wilson, Circuit Court Judge, and himself usually attend. He stated that he is working with Parole and Probation staff and Judge Wilson on the placement of a bench near the Court House bandstand which will be dedicated to victims in Dorchester County. He advised that a victim awareness event, which includes the bench dedication, is currently scheduled for April 25, 2015 at 1 p.m. He explained that there will be a short ceremony and victims may be invited to speak. The Council approved the use of Spring Valley for this event and agreed to present the Proclamation.

CHANGE ORDER REQUEST-OLD BEULAH CAPPING DESIGN CONTRACT- LANDFILL-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, to execute a change order in the amount of \$4,000 to the contract between the Council and Maryland Environmental Service for engineering and design services related to the capping of Old Beulah for the revision of bid documents and the standard procurement process to satisfy United States Department of Agriculture grant/loan requirements which will bring the total design contract amount to \$254,264.47.

CAPPING PROJECT, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT & ENGINEERING SUPPORT SERVICES CONTRACT-OLD BEULAH-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to accept a proposal from Maryland Environmental Service to provide construction management and engineering support services for the capping of Old Beulah at the cost of \$552,058, the lowest bid. The Council acknowledged that: 1) the cost of this work is considered within the scope and included in the project budget estimates; 2) these services are required to meet the requirements imposed by MDE and the conditions of the loan and grant for this capping project; 3) this work will be contracted as an amendment to the existing engineering services contract with this entity which was for the original design work, including tasks through the bidding process. Councilman Price referenced his understanding that a

County employee cannot perform these services. In response to a question from Councilman Price, Mr. Moore advised that County staff will be involved in the project.

LANDFILL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to adopt a FY16 holiday schedule for landfill operations.

OFFSHORE BLIND AND RIPARIAN RIGHTS RENEWAL REQUEST-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to renew Offshore Blind and Riparian Rights Licenses for the following six County waterfront properties for a three year period: Cassons Neck Road, Hoopers Island Road (north end of causeway); Hoopers Neck Road (south end of causeway), Wharf Road, Ragged Point Marina Road and Hoopers Island Road (Wallace Creek). The Council acknowledged that these licenses restrict the construction of onshore and offshore waterfowl hunting blinds at these properties. Additionally, the Council acknowledged that property owned and licensed by governmental entities are exempt from fee requirements.

SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION AND DISPOSAL REQUEST-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to declare two unusable, pull behind sander units (Units #817 and #824) located in the Public Works Department shed as surplus and to dispose of this equipment.

ROOSTER ISLAND RESTORATION PROJECT-COUNTY COMMITMENT-PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Moore noted that the County received a no-interest loan from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in the amount of \$160,000 with a 20 year payback period. He said DNR staff would like to close out the loan and provided the following three options: 1) pay the loan in full; 2) pay the loan over a 20 year period; or 3) proceed with the project and pay the loan at completion.

Councilman Travers questioned whether the proposed redesign of the project has been revised. Mr. Moore said the proposed design alternate is still alternate #2 which incorporates the use of a jersey type concrete barrier. Mr. Moore said the County's share of the redesign is \$118,000.

In response to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Mr. Moore confirmed that Dave Wilson, Resource Conservation and Development, has reviewed alternate #2 and concurs with County staff that this proposed design can be amended which will substantially reduce construction costs. Mr. Moore noted that Mr. Wilson is in the process of contacting the contractor of the original project.

Mr. Moore confirmed that \$96,000 of the DNR loan has already been used for the project design. He said it is his understanding that there may outstanding invoices of approximately \$58,000. He noted that there is an outstanding balance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) for the County's portion of the project. Mr. Moore advised that the County's share of the reconstruction project, utilizing alternate #2, is \$826,000 and the cost for alternate #3 is \$742,000 which is at a lower height and does not include jersey type barricades. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Mr. Moore said the Army Corps is responsible for 75% of the project construction cost which totals \$2.2 million.

Brady Bradford, a resident, expressed his understanding that the Council discussed the possibility of installing an offshore weir to protect the lighthouse and reduce wave action. He confirmed for Councilman Travers that he is referencing the area between Rooster Island and the lighthouse. Councilman Travers said the original project failed during the monitoring period and the Council has been advised that the County is responsible for a portion of the cost to redo the project. He explained that the Council and County staff have been trying to identify an alternate design for the project to reduce costs and possible funding resources. Councilman Travers noted that if the Council agrees to move forward with this project, it will have to be placed in the proposed FY16 budget. Mr. Goldman advised that DNR has granted the County an extension. Mr. Moore clarified that the deadline was extended by approximately two weeks.

The Council agreed to add a discussion regarding this proposed project to its Thursday, March 19, 2015 budget work session agenda.

BID AWARD-CRUSHED STONE ANNUAL CONTRACT-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to award the bid for supplying crushed stone to the Public Works Department, beginning March 1, 2015 and ending February 28, 2016, to Dorchester Dumpin Company, LLC, the lowest bidder.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT TIDAL WETLANDS APPLICATION

Mr. Moore noted that the Council asked him to review written correspondence and enclosures, from J.B. Hall, Environmental Planner, Lane Engineering, LLC, in which he advised that he has submitted an application to the Maryland Department of Environment on behalf of Jamie Harrington of Two Sons, LLC (Two Sons) to obtain authorization to perform work in tidal wetlands at its property which is contiguous to a County owned parcel and provide comments. Mr. Moore said the Two Sons property adjoins the County's Wingate Dock, which is located at the intersection of Wingate Bishops Head Road and Farm Creek Road. He explained that the permit is for the replacement of the bulkhead, finger piers and mooring pilings in the marina which was previously known as Snook's. The Council concurred with Mr. Moore's opinion that this work will not have a negative impact on the County facilities or property and agreed to make no comment on the MDE application. The Council recognized that County staff will coordinate with the

owner/contractor regarding the tie-in of the new bulkhead to the County's existing bulkhead and will monitor the project as it progresses.

TRAVEL REQUEST-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Jeremy Goldman, as Emergency Services Director, for Steve Garvin, Emergency Planner; Amanda Harding, Emergency Services Administrative Assistant, and himself to attend the Maryland Emergency Management Association Conference in Ocean City from May 26, 2015 through May 29, 2015. The Council acknowledged that the Maryland Emergency Management Agency will pay the cost for lodging and conference fees for Mr. Goldman and FY 2013 Homeland Security Grant Program grant funds will cover these costs for Ms. Harding and Mr. Garvin.

TRAVEL REQUEST-DETENTION CENTER

The Council approved the request of Steve Mills, Warden, for senior staff and himself to attend the Maryland Correctional Administrator's Association Conference (MCAA) in Ocean City from May 31, 2015 through June 2, 2015 at the cost of \$640 (\$160 per person, four individuals), which will be paid from the Detention Center budget under the mileage and conference line item.

BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council approved the request of Keasha Haythe, Economic Development Director, for Don Keyes, Information Technology Director, and herself to work with various groups and organizations to seek opportunities to move forward with information gathering on obtaining broadband connectivity for Dorchester County. Councilman Satterfield said he attended the last Maryland Broadband Cooperative meeting and believes this collaboration between Ms. Haythe and Mr. Keyes will assist in bringing broadband to the County.

FY16 MARYLAND HERITAGE AREA AUTHORITY GRANT APPLICATION REQUESTS-MANAGEMENT-EXHIBIT INSTALLATION-TOURISM

The Council approved the request of Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, on behalf of the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area (HCCHA), to submit the following grant applications to the Maryland Heritage Area Authority and to execute a letter of support: 1) FY16 Management Grant for funds in the amount of \$100,000 to support the continued management, programming and operations of HCCHA with a local match from the FY16 Tourism budget, a match from mini grant recipients and in-kind services; and 2) a FY16 Project Grant for funds in the amount of \$6,700 to refurbish the photo-mural exhibits on the main level of the Visitor Center with a \$5,025 match from the FY16 Tourism budget and an in-kind match of \$1,675.

CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE TRUSTEE REPLACEMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Council discussed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the support counties of Chesapeake College (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne and Talbot) for the implementation of the following procedures for the appointment of members to the College's Board of Trustees: 1) the president of the college will notify each of the five counties of any vacancy which might occur during a term and of the expiration of a Board members' term in the fall preceding such expiration; 2) the president will provide a list of current board members and their areas of expertise, identify priority areas to add to the board, provide a breakdown by race, ethnicity and gender and identify gaps; and 3) promptly in the event of a vacancy on the Board and by January of the year in which the new member's term will begin, the president, a board member from the county and the county council and/or commission president or designee shall meet and confer and the county's(s) shall pick one or more recommendations to forward to the Governor's Appointments Secretary.

The Council agreed to enter into this MOU with the other support counties provided the document is revised to change "Commissioners of Dorchester County" to "Dorchester County Council". The Council recognized that representatives of the other four support counties are in the process of reviewing this document and that if any changes are made, they will be provided for its review and consideration.

SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD APPOINTMENT

The Council approved the recommendation of Nicholette Bligen-Smith, Dorchester County Social Services Director, to appoint James Pinkett to the Social Services Board to replace Wendell Foxwell, who submitted his resignation, effective February 23, 2015.

ATM LEASE RENEWAL REQUEST-STATE EMPLOYMENT CREDIT UNION

The Council approved the written request of Christopher DeLuca, on behalf of the State Employment Credit Union, to extend the lease dated December 29, 2003 between Dorchester County and State Employees Credit Union of Maryland for a one year period at the same monthly rate of \$250 with an expiration date of March 29, 2016.

PASS THROUGH GRANT REQUEST-DELMARVA REGIONAL HEALTHCARE MUTUAL AID GROUP

Based on information provided by Jeremy Goldman, Acting County Manager, the Council agreed that the Delmarva Regional Healthcare Mutual Aid Group (DRHMAG) may utilize Dorchester County as a "pass through" entity for a \$25,000 grant which will be utilized for a training project. The Council acknowledged that a contract for this training will be sought pursuant to the County's procurement process and that DRHMAG will be responsible for following this process and for all associated costs.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION GRANT APPLICATION REQUESTS-SHERIFF'S OFFICE-GRANT MONITOR

Body Armor for Law Enforcement

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to submit a FY16 Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention grant application titled "Body Armor Purchase-Dorchester County" under the Body Armor for Local Law Enforcement Program in the amount of \$20,176 with a 50% cash match, which is covered by a United States Department of Justice Body Armor Partnership Grant, to purchase 32 vests for sworn officers. The Council acknowledged that the U.S. Department of Justice Body Armor Partnership grant application will be submitted soon and if it is not approved there are funds in the Sheriff's Office budget to cover the cost to purchase vests, although the entire 32 may not be purchased.

Gun Violence Reduction Grant

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to submit a FY16 Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention Grant application for Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program funding in the amount of \$26,600, with no local match, to be used for overtime support for implementing and developing strategies specifically intended to reduce gun related crime, including the attendance of Sheriff's Office personnel at gun bashes and auctions as well as visits to pawn shops and gun shops to locate stolen weapons.

School Bus Safety Enforcement

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to submit a FY16 Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention Grant application titled "School Bus Safety Enforcement" under the School Bus Safety Enforcement Fund for funding in the amount of \$23,100, with no local match, which will be utilized to cover overtime pay for deputies to follow school buses and issue citations for those drivers who fail to stop when a school bus is loading or unloading passengers.

Sexual Offender and Compliance Enforcement

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to submit a FY16 Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention Grant application for Sex Offender and Compliance Enforcement Program funding in the amount of \$7,130 which will be used to offset the salary of the deputy assigned by the Sheriff to monitor sex offenders.

LEASE RENEWAL REQUEST-VETERANS AFFAIRS-STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION

The Council approved the request of Ernest Peterkin, Lease Acquisition Agent, State Department of General Services, to renew the lease between the Council and the Department of Veterans Affairs for the use of Room 101 in the County Office Building, which contains 240 net usable square feet, more or less, at \$1 per annum for five years commencing on August 28, 2015.

The Council also approved Mr. Peterkin's request to renew the lease between the Council and the State Department of Assessments and Taxation for Room 204 of the County Office Building, which consists of approximately 2,478 net usable square feet of space, more or less, at the cost of \$9.00 per square foot, payable in equal monthly installments, for five years, commencing on August 28, 2015, with a review of the lease terms at the end of this period.

CONTRACT EXTENSION REQUEST-OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE SERVICES-INCUBATOR FACILITY

The Council approved the request of Keasha Haythe, Economic Development Director, to renew a contract with Facility Logix to continue to provide services as Owner's Representative for the incubator project through the construction phase for a period of 10 months ending in December 2015 at the cost of \$72,696 to be billed monthly with an option to renew this contract on a month-to-month basis in case the incubator project lasts longer than anticipated. Councilmen Price and Bradshaw opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marla Garris, resident, said she attended the House Judiciary Committee hearing today on House Bill 855 entitled "Law Enforcement Explorer Program-Funding" that was sponsored by Delegate Tony Knotts, which establishes a fund to be used to make specified grants to local law enforcement agencies for law enforcement explorer programs. She expressed her support of this legislation. She referenced the last time she spoke before the Council about the Youth Law Enforcement Academy through which she teaches youth law enforcement and criminal justice. Ms. Garris advised that she has contacted City of Cambridge officials in an effort to bring this program to Dorchester County and has requested \$30,000 in funding from that municipality. She said she is continuing to seek other funding opportunities since the \$30,000 will not cover the entire cost of the program. Ms. Garris said she will be meeting with Richard Smith, Vice Chair of the Legislative Committee for the Maryland State Firefighters Association, regarding funding for this program.

Terry Wheatley, resident, referenced the section of the executive session summary that Councilman Travers read earlier in the meeting regarding the County Manager position. In response to a question from Ms. Wheatley, he explained that the Council discussed the position in executive session and has not begun the hiring process.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Bradshaw noted that the Council sent a letter of support on Senate Bill 305 entitled "Crimes-Theft of Scrap Metal," which, if adopted, will prohibit a person from knowingly and willfully taking the scrap metal of another without authorization and establish specified penalties for a violation. He advised that both Sheriff James Phillips and William Jones, State's Attorney, are supportive of this legislation. He said this bill died in committee because the members were opposed to the fines that were to be imposed.

Councilman Bradshaw referenced House Bill 638 entitled "Natural Resources-Oysters-Shell Seeding, Shell Replenishment, and Rotational Harvest" which, if adopted, will authorize a person to use a power dredge to harvest oysters from any natural oyster bar in the State during a certain time period; will allow the deposit of natural shell in any public shellfish fishery subject to certain requirements; and, includes other provisions relating to oyster restoration. He advised that the Council and Clean Chesapeake Coalition (CCC) members support this legislation. He explained that the CCC membership asked Delegate Marvin E. Holmes, Jr. to introduce the legislation; however, after Delegate Jay Jacobs and other parties aggressively lobbied against it, he withdrew the bill. Councilman Bradshaw explained that during a five hour discussion at Watermen's caucus members of the coalition, watermen and Department of Natural Resources staff, reviewed the legislation and developed amendments. He noted that this has opened up the dialogue between DNR and the watermen, citing his belief that they will continue discussions on oyster restoration methods.

A motion made by Councilman Bradshaw to release the ALS distributions to local volunteer fire companies, provided they meet all reporting requirements, was approved, with the understanding that Finance staff will ensure that each fire company is compliant with these requirements prior to distribution.

Councilman Bradshaw referenced an article in the Delmarva Farmer regarding a University of Delaware scientist's discovery that phosphorus is generated by the Chesapeake Bay and may be more harmful than land applied phosphorus.

Councilman Nichols recognized that Roy Mills, a prior County employee, was present.

Councilman Price inquired about the status of repairs to the roads that were damaged during recent winter weather events. Mr. Moore advised that four two-man crews have been cold patching and repairing damaged areas. He noted that tar and chip roads and cul de sacs suffered the most damage, particularly during the last weather event, because the snow was light and stones were dislodged from the road surface. He expressed his belief that County staff are doing an admirable job. Mr. Moore noted that some residents have called the Public Works Department regarding specific roads.

Councilman Bradshaw said there has been damage to County roads and, in particular, Maiden Branch and Kraft Road, as a result of ATV and other vehicle misuse. He

explained that these dirt roads have been closed so County staff may repair the damage. Mr. Moore noted that a County crew is also working at the Corkran Cemetery which was also damaged by this type of activity. Councilman Bradshaw made a motion for the County to offer a \$1,000 award for reporting this misuse upon the arrest and conviction of a violator. He noted that taxpayers' monies are spent to close off damaged roads and make repairs which include hauling material, filling holes and grading the road surface. He expressed his understanding that privately owned farm fields are also being damaged as a result of this illegal activity.

Councilman Travers expressed his understanding that the Sheriff and Deputies are aggressively trying to curb this activity and suggested that Sheriff's Phillips' opinion be obtained before the Council takes any further action. Councilman Bradshaw withdrew his motion. The Council agreed to ask the Sheriff for his comments regarding this possible incentive.

Councilman Price inquired as to whether "local traffic only" signs can be posted on Palmers Mill Road. Councilman Travers expressed concern about enforcement. Councilman Bradshaw expressed his understanding that several local trucking companies and those truckers who travel to the Caroline County Industrial Park in Federalsburg are using that road as a shortcut. Councilman Travers questioned whether it would be beneficial to meet with the key violators regarding this use. The Council agreed to refer this item to the Traffic Safety Committee for the members to discuss at its next meeting which will be held on March 27, 2015.

Councilman Price inquired about the status of the public hearing on the Solid Waste management plan revision. Mr. Moore said he needs to speak to legal counsel regarding advertising requirements before scheduling that hearing. In response to question posed by Councilman Price, Mr. Moore explained that there are no timing constraints and that the Maryland Department of Environment will schedule its public hearing after the County's public hearing.

Councilman Price advised Council that the following individuals spoke at the recent Maryland Association of Counties Legislative Committee meeting: 1) David R. Craig, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning, who spoke about visiting the counties to discuss their concerns about planning and State regulations; 2) Joseph M. Getty, Chief Legislative Officer for Governor Larry Hogan, who explained that it is their objective is to stabilize the State budget to prevent future reductions and to eliminate structural deficit; 3) Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Governor's Office, who advised that the Governor remains committed to the restoration of highway user revenues and that he is also focusing on a heroin task force, planning regional meetings and pre-trial obligations from the Court of Appeals; 4) Christopher B. Shank, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, who spoke on human trafficking, which is now more prevalent in the State and the ramifications of pre-trial requirements. He stated Brian E. Frosh, Attorney General, also attended the meeting and advised the following: 1) legislation is being considered to expand the State's False Claims Act to include claims in addition to medical claims, which may assist local and

state budgets; 2) heroin fatalities have doubled since 2010; and 3) the State of Maryland can testify on the renewal permit application of Exelon Corporation for the Conowingo Dam and hold them accountable for that facility.

Councilman Price thanked the emergency responders, including the Hurlock Volunteer Company firefighters and those from other local volunteer fire companies, the State Police and the Sheriff's Office, for their prompt response to a recent fire at a church in the center of the Town of Hurlock.

Councilman Satterfield expressed concern that several sections of Elliott's Island Road were completely submerged on March 14, 2015 which may make it difficult for emergency vehicles to travel that road.

In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Mr. Moore advised that a request has been submitted to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) for mitigation funds to wedge that road. He said there is also money remaining in the Public Works Department blacktop budget which can be used to raise the road surface.

Councilman Satterfield said on one turn the road surface was covered with six to seven inches of water. Mr. Moore explained that the road may be raised three or four feet if funding is available. He noted that Councilman Bradshaw is monitoring the number of times Elliott's Island Road floods and that the final figures will be provided to MEMA. Mr. Goldman explained that an individual from the State viewed that road during high tide and saw the flooding firsthand. Councilman Bradshaw said he spoke to Gary Phillips, a prior County employee, who expressed his understanding that the base of the road at Ole Ditch is "root mat" and the asphalt is eight to ten inches thick. Councilman Bradshaw explained that Elliott's Island Road is part of his bus route and portions of that road are often covered with three or four inches of water.

Councilmen Price, Satterfield and Travers commended the participants of the North Dorchester and Cambridge South Dorchester High School senior class plays.

Councilman Travers questioned whether the State Highway Administration (SHA) has conducted a study on Vincent Road, which is utilized by farmers to access the grain facility in that area, and whether the entrance to the mill can be moved. He expressed concern about public safety. Councilman Bradshaw said it is his understanding that SHA viewed the area and installed flashing lights. He referenced his prior offer to Donnie Drewer, Resident Engineer, to join him in traveling through that area in his tractor trailer, which Mr. Drewer has not accepted. Mr. Moore advised Council that the rating of a bridge in that area was changed so motorists can use other roads to access the grain facility. The Council agreed to send correspondence to Mr. Drewer to ask him to meet with Mr. Moore about this matter.

Councilman Satterfield said at a State Highway Administration meeting he attended, Mr. Drewer said the SHA will consider moving the crossover if the County is willing to change the turn in the road.

Councilman Travers announced that the County Council will sit as Board of Estimates for the purpose of conducting a Budget Work Session this Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 5 p.m. in the Conference Room of the County's Economic Development Office on Bucktown Road. He said the entrance to the building will be through the Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport Terminal. He also announced the following: 1) the Council will sit as Board of Estimates for the purpose of conducting a Budget Work Session on Thursday, March 26, and on Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 5 p.m. in Room 110 of the County Office Building; 2) the next County Council meeting will be held on April 7, 2015 at 6 p.m.; and 3) the Council reserves the right to meet in executive session prior to its regular session on these dates.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

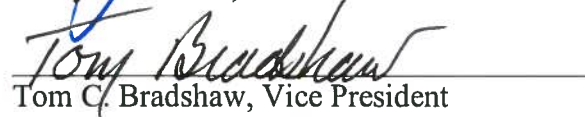


Jeremy Goldman
Acting County Manager

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:



Ricky C. Travers, President



Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President



William V. Nichols



Rick M. Price



Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 7th day of April, 2015.