

**County Council of Dorchester County**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**April 3, 2018**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on April 3, 2018 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, County Manager; and Donna Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Nichols led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

**CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES- MARCH 20, 2018**

The Council approved the minutes of March 20, 2018 with amendments.

**APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS**

The Council approved the vouchers as presented with Councilman Price abstaining for payments to Dorchester General Hospital.

**FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$8,015,481.00.

**CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY**

The Council convened into Regular Session on April 3, 2018 at 5:45 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613 and motioned to adjourn into Closed 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; and 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. Present were: 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, County Manager; and Donna Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were all of the present Council Members.

The Council convened in a Closed Session on April 3, 2018 at 5:46 p.m. to discuss the following items: 1) discussed matters relating to the actions of a specific individual at a recent County event to ensure no harm to the reputation of the individual and to protect the privacy of said person; and, 2) agreed to a salary adjustment for a Landfill employee by a 5 to 0 vote. Present were: 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, County Manager; and Donna Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist. The purpose of the Closed Session is also set forth in the Written Statement of Closing a Meeting Under the Open Meetings Act, which will be provided upon request.

## **REGULAR SESSION**

### **PROCLAMATION-PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK, APRIL 8-14, 2018**

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring April 8 to April 14, 2018 as Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

## **MEETING WITH MUNICIPALITIES**

Councilman Travers opened up the meeting with municipalities.

Michael Henry, Mayor, Town of Hurlock, stated that the meeting held on March 28, 2018 about issues relating to the Town was very productive at which he and the following were present: Councilman Charles Cephas, President; John Avery, Town Administrator; Jeremy Goldman, County Manager; Councilman Tom Bradshaw, and Councilman Price. He said he looks forward to continuing to foster good relations between County and Town officials. Councilman Travers stated that meetings with the Town will be held quarterly, noting that County officials also meet with City of Cambridge officials on a regular basis. Councilman Bradshaw and Price said they look forward to future meetings.

## **BALTIMORE NEIGHBORHOODS, INC (FAIR HOUSING ORGANIZATION) PRESENTATION**

Cindy Smith, Grant Administrator, introduced Lauren Jackson, Education & Outreach Program Director, Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc who will speak about the services BNI provides to promote fair housing in the community and to ensure it is safe, affordable and healthy.

Mr. Jackson said the name of the organization is somewhat deceiving since it serves the entire State of Maryland. She provided the following information on the two programs that BNI runs: 1) a Tenant-Landlord Program which runs a hotline from 9 a.m. to 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday, to provide them information about their rights and responsibilities under State law and refers callers to other state and local resources when appropriate; and, 2) a Fair Housing Program which provides community education and outreach, assistance to tenants in obtaining addressing various issues as well as training on the fair housing laws for housing providers, local government, tenants, landlords and other organizations. She explained that the Fair Housing Act

prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status or national origin. She noted that there are also federal protected classes, Maryland protected classes and the following additional protected classes for Dorchester County: age, ancestry creed.

The Council thanked Ms. Jackson for the overview.

## **BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE UPDATE**

Marcia Pradines, Project Leader, Chesapeake Marshlands, National Wildlife Refuge Complex, provided Council an overview of the items listed on the attached update outline, information and maps regarding Blackwater National Wildlife (BWR).

She said a 133 acre parcel in the Coursey Creek area, accessible by boat only and surrounded by parcels owned by BWR, was acquired with land and water conservation funds using Outer Continental Shelf revenues. She referred to the statement she made in previous discussions that Nanticoke is one of BWR's strategic priorities areas for acquisition. She noted that two easements for properties in that area, one for 138 acres and another for 107 acres, were recently signed with private landowners yet have not been closed. Ms. Pradines said the following two properties have been also acquired with Migratory Board Conservation Commission funds (duck stamp proceeds): 1) a 136 acre parcel in Sharptown from The Nature Conservancy Chesapeake (TNC) property next to Camp ESPA in the County; and, 2) TNC's approximately 83 acres Chesapeake Forest Products property in Wicomico County. She recognized that Liz Zucker, Eastern Shore Project Director, TNC, is present. She stressed that property is only acquired from willing landowners.

Ms. Pradines referred to the printout on the history of the Nanticoke, noting it was originally intended to be a separate refuge and became a part of BWR in 1995. She recognized that there are some interested parties from the Nanticoke area present. She said on the back of the printout are current and proposed protected areas. She explained that as part of the Nanticoke River Partnership Alliance it was decided that certain parcels of land would be purchased by the following entities: TNC, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services, The Conservation Fund and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

Ms. Pradines said BWR has a partnership with Delmarva Restoration and Conservation Network, a consortium of organizations that range from all major nonprofits, State and federal organizations and others. She cited the Network's intention of development conservation goals for the Delmarva area and identifying which entities will be involved in the conservation efforts. She noted that group, which currently meets monthly, is in the preliminary stages of development. She said they are in the process of identifying a list of species to consider, determining a focus and considering talking points as well as future communication plans. She said as the group comes to fruition they will involve the County in these meetings. She noted that this may be an avenue to engage private landowners to assist in conservation efforts. Councilman Bradshaw said he is the chair of Delmarva Resource Conservation and

Development, which would like to partner with BWR in its conservation efforts. He confirmed for Ms. Pradines that he will be the main contact for this organization.

Ms. Pradines advised forestry management program planning documents have been completed and they are waiting for the market to proceed before proceeding. She said pre-commercial thinning was completed on three tracts, consisting of 93 acres, about two weeks ago. She stated that they are working with the Maryland Department of Agriculture on an Emerald Ash Borer biocontrol project in the Nanticoke area for which the comment period recently closed. She said last year 180 acres of wheat and clover were planted as well as 120 acres of corn/milo of which some corn was standing at the end of February 2018. She advised that approximately the same plan will be followed this year with the exception that the corn will be planted behind the Harriet Tubman National Park Visitors Center. She explained that it is being placed in this location since there will be large blocks of corn plantings and due to the need to rotate the crops. She stated that they will also be cooperatively farming milo with Lin Spicer, noting the waste grain will be spread through the winter and migratory season.

She advised that BWR will hit its impoundment target in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Plan (CCP) and noted that: 1) the construction of a 55 acre impoundment will begin with Duck's Unlimited this spring using North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funds; and, 2) Duck's Unlimited has been able to secure funds from NAWCA and the Chesapeake Waterfowl Festival for an additional 58 acre impoundment. She also provided a hunt update.

Ms. Pradines said BWR is partnering with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Karen Noonan Environmental Education Center and the County's Public Works Department to rehabilitate the road to that facility. She advised that another County partnership project consists of providing a spoil site (Barren Island) for material obtained from a dredging project. Councilman Travers referenced an article about comments Senator Benjamin Cardin made about the approval of the Barren Island site for spoils for another project. In response to a query from Ms. Pradines, she said she is not aware of that project and she will call Senator Cardin. She explained that the containment area needs to be built up. Councilman Travers inquired as to whether costs for the Tar Bay Channel dredging project, may be defrayed if the Army Corps builds up the area for the Mid Bay Island project. He noted that the Army Corps is involved in both projects. Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, said pursuant to an Army Corps representative from the Baltimore District, the containment will not be overbuilt as part of the Port project and costs to increase this area are included in the proposed budgets for both that project and the Tar Bay project.

Ms. Pradines noted that during a storm, which resulted in flooding, BWR housed a County Emergency Medical Services personnel and an ambulance. Anna Sierra, Emergency Services Director, thanked her, noting that the EMS crews raved about the BWR staff's hospitality.

Ms. Pradines also shared information about future and past events including a youth fishing tournament and the burning of over 2,282 acres of BWR marsh. She thanked the Council for allowing her the opportunity to provide an update.

## **MANAGERS COMMENTS**

### **FY2018-1 OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT AND TRANSFER-BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, advised that before the Council is a request from Dr. Diana L. Mitchell, Superintendent, for a FY 2018-1 Board of Education Operating Budget Amendment and Transfer which: 1) reallocates categorical expenditures from Textbooks & Instructional Supplies (\$29,728) to Instructional Supplies (\$19,033), Instructional Other (\$5,695) and Mid-Level Administration (\$5,000); and, 2) includes a budget alignment to utilize reserves in the ESMEC Health Alliance to cover up to \$535,000 in health insurance claims expense.

Councilman Nichols motioned to approve Dr. Mitchell's request which Councilman Travers seconded. Councilman Travers, questioned why the \$535,000 in excess funding cannot be applied towards next years anticipated health insurance increase of \$900,000. Tim Brooke, Comptroller, Dorchester County Public Schools, said: 1) the reserves accrued over several years; 2) in the FY19 public school system budget there are \$200,000 in ESMEC reserves available; and, 3) this past year the public school system ended in a deficit which affected revenues. He confirmed for Councilman Travers that the \$535,000 cannot be applied towards next years anticipated increase. The Council approved Dr. Mitchell's request.

### **GRANT AUDIT LETTER-GRANT ADMINISTRATOR**

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Administrator, to execute correspondence attesting there were no findings for the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 to meet certain grant requirements.

### **BID AWARD-HURST CREEK RESILIENCY GRANT PROJECT-GRANT ADMINISTRATOR**

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith, on behalf of Delmarva Resource Conservation and Development, project manager, Hurst Creek Resiliency Grant project, to award the bid for a consulting contract to Coastline Design, PE, lowest bidder for \$44,000. Councilman Bradshaw abstained. Pursuant to a query from Councilman Travers, Ms. Smith confirmed that the consulting services are for the project design only.

### **CAMBRIDGE MAIN STREET MATCHING FUND REQUEST-EV CHARGING UNITS-GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Goldman said a request has been submitted on behalf of Cambridge Main Street (CMS) for matching funds for EV charging units to match the City of Cambridge's in-kind services match. Katie Clendaniel, Executive Director, CMS, explained that the organization's application for Rural Maryland funding last year was declined because they needed to gather additional information to demonstrate the draw for the project. Ms. Clendaniel advised that she is seeking a \$2,500 match from the County on behalf of CMS. She said she will be asking the City of Cambridge for in-kind services in the form of trenching. Ms. Smith advised that there are

County contingency funds available to use for this match. Based on an inquiry from Councilman Nichols, Mr. Goldman advised that the proposed match from the City for trenching which exceeds \$2,500. The Council approved Ms. Clendaniel's request which Councilman Price opposed. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Ms. Clendaniel said three Telsa units and one universal unit will be located in the 400 block of Race Street which is the most central location and is easily accessible by motorists. Councilman Travers expressed his understanding that this location will be promoted through the electrical car companies with the hope it will entice motorists to shop in the area. Ms. Clendaniel explained that the on board computers of the electrical cars will notify drivers of the location and navigate the vehicles to them.

#### REQUEST TO AWARD BID-MARINE FACILITIES PORTABLE TOILETS-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Ryan White, Public Works Director, to award the bid for portable toilet services at 12 County's marine facilities to Harman's Septic Care, lowest bidder, at \$65 per month with additional service requests of \$32.50 and one location (Elliott Island) at \$70 per month with additional service requests of \$32.50. The Council acknowledged that Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement funds will be used for these services.

#### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING-MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Anna Sierra, Emergency Services Director, to enter into Memorandum of Understanding between the Maryland Department of Information Technology and Dorchester County which provides a structure to the agreement for an upgrade of the County's radio system from 800 MHz to 700 MHz on the MARYLAND FIRST system with a one year termination clause.

#### REQUEST-ADDITIONAL CAMERAS-COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING SECURITY SYSTEM

The Council approved the request of Ms. Sierra to add additional cameras to the existing camera security system at the County Office Building which will be installed in the two stairwells at both ends of the building to cover current blind spots in the network at the request of Sheriff James Phillips. The Council acknowledged that the cost for this project of \$4,431.80 includes the purchase of four cameras, an 18 port switch and installation. The Council further acknowledged that FY14 State Homeland Grant Program funds be used to cover the project cost.

#### SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION REQUEST

The Council approved the request of Don Keyes, Information Technology Director, to surplus a 2006 Chevy S10 truck, VIN No. 1GNDDT13X63K107299, which was inspected and is no longer safe. The Council acknowledged that the lights, radio and equipment will be removed and returned to Emergency Services.

#### MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOND ALLOCATION REQUEST

The Council approved the written request of Maddy Ciulu, Director, Single Family Housing, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), to transfer Dorchester County's 2018 tax-exempt housing bond allocation of \$1,149,917 to the Community Development Administration (CDA) for the CDA Maryland Mortgage Program.

#### **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

The Council agreed to reappoint the following individuals to the Electrical Examiners Board: 1) Jimmy Travers, Jr., as a County employee representative; and, 2) Lou Koski, Jr., Master Electrician. The Council also agreed to reappoint Mary Losty, At-Large Member to the Planning Commission. In response to a question from Councilman Bradshaw, Donna Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist, confirmed that the Seafood Reconciliation Committee appointments are non-district appointments. Councilman Travers noted that this and the other County reconciliation boards meet infrequently. Councilman Bradshaw asked for information about the Committee.

#### **MANAGEMENT COMPANY PROPOSAL-POOL-RECREATION AND PARKS**

Mr. Goldman said before the Council are two proposals for the management of the County pool beginning with the 2018 pool season for its consideration. He stated that a search of possible alternate ways to manage the mechanics and lifeguard process of the pool was conducted. He advised that: 1) a small team was developed to search for companies that manage pools; 2) one company with an excellent reputation that works here and in Delaware was identified; 3) the amount provided by that company to manage to pool was comparable to current costs paid by the County; and, 4) the recommendation is to enter into an agreement with this company for the upcoming pool season. He explained that the company will be responsible for the mechanics of the pool and lifeguards while the County will manage the front gate, funds and snack bar. Councilman Nichols referenced the two proposals, one of which is for the pool to be opened until Labor Day and the other until August 19, 2018. Councilman Travers noted that last years' pool season ended on Labor Day. In response to a question from Councilman Nichols, Mr. Goldman said he recommends that the pool season end on Labor Day. Mr. Goldman noted that the County's liability will be lowered which will result in a decrease in insurance costs. Councilman Travers advised that pursuant to his inquiry, he was told that those who have served County as lifeguards for the County pool will be considered by the company. Mr. Goldman said they will have to submit an application and if hired, must complete the company's training. He noted that consideration will be given to retaining front desk and snack bar staff. He said there will be more employment opportunities although the County will control a smaller portion. The Council agreed to accept the management proposal with a Labor Day closure. Councilman Nichols opposed, citing concerns about outside management of a County facility.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Greg Robbins, resident, expressed concern about student and staff safety at the local public schools particularly in light of recent events. He noted that other parents in the audience share his concerns. He said he has attended several parent and Board of Education (BOE) meetings

about school safety. He thanked Councilman Travers for attending one of the BOE meetings regarding this issue. He noted that out of the 12 public schools, School Resource Officers (SROs) are only present at two, North Dorchester High School and Cambridge South Dorchester High School. Mr. Robbins referenced the recent school tragedy in St. Mary's County. He said after that incident Kent County approved additional SROs for its schools. He noted that in Wicomico County there are nine SROs who cover the middle and high schools and that Caroline County has secured controlled access at its high school. He stressed the need for safety measures in Dorchester public schools.

Mike Diaz, resident, questioned whether a threat assessment has been conducted of the public school system and if so, how he can obtain information regarding about it. Councilman Travers advised him that he should pose that question to school staff, who are present. Dr. Mitchell said she is not aware of any threat assessment being conducted on the schools since her arrival on July 1, 2017. Dr. Mitchell noted that school staff are scheduled to attend training on April 16 and April 17 which is sponsored by Maryland School Safety of Baltimore. Mr. Diaz expressed his understanding that this will be active shooter training. He cited the need for a threat assessment in addition to safety training. He said he is concerned about the lack of controlled access at local schools. He also expressed concern about the uptick of school shootings, noting the Sheriff's Office participated in active shooting training recently.

Tammy Shockley, resident, expressed her understanding that even if funds are provided to the BOE for school safety, the money is used as its discretion. Councilman Travers confirmed that the Council has no authority or control over how the BOE spends the funds. He explained that: 1) the County provides Maintenance of Effort funding to the BOE pursuant to a State driven formula based on student enrollment; and, 2) there is also a rolling average of all of the counties that is also applied to that figure. Pursuant to an inquiry from Ms. Shockley, Councilman Travers said 42% of the County's budget is provided to the school system. Ms. Shockley expressed her belief that the BOE should utilize funding to provide additional security in the schools.

Dr. Mitchell noted that at the Council's March 8, 2018 budget work session she presented the school systems' budget of which a large portion was devoted to security. In response to a question from Mr. Robbins, Councilman Travers said the County pays the salaries of the School Resource Officers which cost is over and above Maintenance of Effort.

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

In response to an inquiry from Councilman Nichols, Gwendolyn Dales, Director, Dorchester County Board of Elections, advised that: 1) the Elections Board held an emergency meeting on March 30, 2018; 2) the Board members agreed to seek State approval to hold early voting at the County Office Building; 3) their request will be considered by the Maryland Board of Elections on April 12, 2018; and, 4) the six month deadline to submit requests has passed so they need to plead their case. She noted that the Board of Elections April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting has been moved to April 13, 2018 at 5 p.m. in Room 110 of the County Office Building. In response to a question posed by Councilman Travers, Ms. Dales said feedback on the Board's request has not been



received from the State. She noted that William Jones, State's Attorney, is sending a letter of support to Senator Adelaide Eckardt and Congressman Johnny Mautz for this location.

Councilman Price acknowledged law enforcement and emergency services personnel for their service to County citizens. He referenced the ending of the oyster season and the commencement of the crab harvesting season. He wished watermen well with their harvests. He acknowledged and thanked the organizers and volunteers of recent public activities in the County.

Councilman Travers announced that: 1) The next Council meeting will be held on April 17, 2018; and, 2) Members of the Council will attend a Regional meeting with representatives of the support counties of Chesapeake College to discuss the College's budget on Thursday, April 5th at 6:30 p.m. in Denton, Maryland.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:


  
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Jeremy Goldman  
County Manager

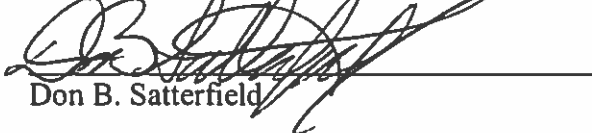
DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:

  
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Ricky C. Travers, President

  
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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 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018.