

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2019

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on February 19, 2019 with the following members present: William V. Nichols, President; Jay L. Newcomb, Vice President; Libby Handley Nagel; George L. Pfeffer, Jr. and Ricky C. Travers. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney and Donna F. Lane, Acting County Manager.

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 DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Nichols reported total cash and investments as \$7,620,387.49.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into Regular Session on February 19, 2019 at 4:30 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; 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)(4) to consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State. Present were: William V. Nichols, President; Jay L. Newcomb, Vice President; Libby Handley Nagel; George L. Pfeffer, Jr. and Ricky C. Travers. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney and Donna F. Lane, Acting County Manager. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were all of the Council Members which were present at the beginning of the meeting.

The Council convened in a Closed Session on February 19, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. to discuss the following items: 1) received information regarding an entity's proposed acquisition of property; 2) received information and discussed matters relating to the potential County acquisition of a property for public use; 3) discussed the filling of a vacant Emergency Medical Services Shift supervisor position in an acting capacity; and, 4) approved the request of the Public Works Director to hire an individual to fill a Motor Equipment Operator position by a 5 to 0 vote. Present were: William V. Nichols, President; Jay L. Newcomb, Vice President; Libby Handley Nagel; George L. Pfeffer, Jr. and Ricky C. Travers. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney and Donna Lane, Acting County Manager. 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. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were all of the present Council members.

REGULAR SESSION

PROCLAMATION-CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH MONTH

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring February 2019 as Oral Mental Health month.

DORCHESTER COUNTY TRAINING GRANT PRESENTATION-ACCEPTANCE-LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSURANCE TRUST-EMERGENCY SERVICES

Tim Ailsworth, Local Government Insurance Trust, presented the Council with a check in the amount of \$3,440 for a Dorchester County training grant which will be used to purchase 80 licenses of the online training program through the National Safety Council, "Coaching the Emergency Vehicle Driver: Ambulance." He commended the County's Emergency Services Department for seeking the grant to obtaining training on safely operating an ambulance. The course adapts National Safety Council proven defensive driving techniques to the unique nature of ambulance work, training drivers to navigate in traffic safely in emergency and non-emergency situations under severe time constraints and stress. There is no County match.

2019 LEGISLATION CONCERNS-DORCHESTER COUNTY SEAFOOD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Bobby Whaples, President, Dorchester County Seafood Heritage Association, provided Council information on 27 bills that have been introduced in the Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session that will adversely impact watermen and the seafood industry. He said they are seeking the Council's opposition of legislation to prevent the dredging and use of Man-O-War shells for oyster restoration. He said the permit process for the use of this natural shell has taken nine years and now there is a bill to halt this use. He stated that the following entities were supportive of this prior to the submission of the legislation: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in 2012. He explained that although the

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) recommended to DNR the dredging of this area, during this legislative session they have sponsored a bill to prohibit the dredging of the shells. Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) has also put in bills that will adversely impact the seafood industry. He noted that when sanctuaries were created in 2012, they took half of Dorchester County's productive oyster bottom, compared to 25% of Maryland's bottom. He said scientists in Virginia advise that sanctuaries work for three years at which time they decline, noting Maryland is in its ninth year although it was a five-year plan. He said he attended Horn's Point Oysters Future Program meetings for two years along with other stakeholders, including CBF, CCA, Nature Conservancy, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and watermen, which cost \$2 million. He explained that there was 75% consensus among 26 people to proceed with a plan, referring to the recent legislation by CBF and CCA to make sanctuaries permanent after they agreed in the program to open up on a rotational basis hand tonging only. He expressed dismay at scientists' recent claim that substrate is better than natural shell. He asked the Council for letters of opposition.

Pursuant to a question posed by Councilman Nichols, Mr. Whaples advised that Senator Stephen Lafferty introduced the legislation to prohibit the dredging and use of Man-O-War shell and Delegate Michael Bush, Speaker of the House submitted the bill in favor of permanent sanctuaries. He explained that plans were developed to have a three-year rotational harvest on sanctuaries. He opined that if they were implemented there would be double the amount of sanctuaries and public bottom for harvest.

In response to a query from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. Whaples said the Eastern Shore delegation supports the Association in its goal to protect the seafood industry. He said the majority of the legislation is from Baltimore County, Montgomery County and Prince George's County, which do not have an abundance of waterways. Councilman Newcomb said the Council has sent a letter in opposition to the prohibition of the dredging and use of Man-O-War shell for oyster restoration. Mr. Whaples said the Oyster Replenishment program should be revived. Councilman Newcomb noted that the County contributed \$10,000 annually under that program for shell to be placed on bottom.

Charles MacLeod, Legal Counsel, said he lobbies on behalf of the Delmarva Fisheries Association, which this group is a member. He opined that there is concerted effort among certain legislators to clamp down on the oyster fishery during this legislative session. He referenced a recent article in The Baltimore Sun proposing a moratorium on the harvest of oysters. He advised that local support is needed. He said he can provide the Council a list of the bills. Mr. MacLeod stated the Clean Chesapeake Coalition, of which Dorchester County is a part of, is advocating for the commercial fishery to be included in the restoration of the oyster population. He noted that the plan to restore oysters the last decade has been to use sanctuaries, hatcheries and aquaculture instead. He explained that the Rural Counties Coalition, which Dorchester is part of, wrote a letter in opposition to House Bill 298 entitled "Oysters – Tributary-Scale Sanctuaries – Protection and Restoration." The Council acknowledged that a request for a letter in opposition to this legislation is on the agenda. Mr. MacLeod noted that western shore legislators are

writing the bills relating to the oyster industry. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Nichols, Mr. MacLeod advised that Charles County and St. Mary's County are part of the Rural Counties Coalition.

Robert Newberry, President, Delmarva Fisheries Association and a Queen Anne's resident, explained that he sat on a Senate Committee chaired by Senator Paul Pinsky, at which the Senator bolstered misinformation. He said he submitted rebuttals and questioned the science. He expressed concern about potential legislative action against the farming industry as well as the seafood industry, noting that he is a farmer. He advised that the Association members are attending County Council meetings throughout the State to garner letters of opposition. He explained that any County in which federal monies and permits are involved, have the legal right to object to rules set by the State. He referenced the Little Choptank restoration project for which federal monies and permits were obtained, noting that no action was taken to obtain comment from Dorchester County. He explained that tests conducted in a federal lab in Wye Mills, showed that the material shown to them was not the same used for the project. He said when they advised U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel it was not the same material, they changed the specs which invoked another permit, for which Dorchester County was not asked to provide information. He stressed the need to use natural shell to ensure the livelihood of watermen in Dorchester County and Somerset County.

Councilman Pfeffer said, he attends Maryland Association of Counties legislative committee meetings each week as the County's representative. He noted that the Rural Counties Coalition discussed the opposition of House Bill 298 which is on the agenda for Council's consideration.

Mr. Newberry said Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair, Environment & Transportation Committee and Senator Pinsky are the legislators that pursue the most legislation that adversely impact the oyster industry based on a query from Councilman Nichols. He explained that despite the fact DNR was holding a permit from the legislative body, Bill Anderson, Assistant Secretary of Aquatic Resources, DNR was unable to testify in the Senate. Tommy Powley, resident, noted that DNR was allowed to testify in the House.

Larry Powley, resident, said historically there were 200,000 acres of oyster beds in the Chesapeake Bay and now there are only 3,600 acres with 164 acres of shell under mud. He expressed dismay that watermen are not allowed to dredge the shell from the mud. He said Dorchester County, Talbot County and Somerset County harvest two-thirds of the oysters in Maryland. He expressed dismay that even though \$30 million was spent in Harris Creek for an oyster restoration project, CBF gave the oysters an "F." He explained that since federal monies were used for the project the creek cannot be touched. He said Dorchester County has the most packing houses in the State. He cited his concern about the impact on the local economy.

The Council agreed to send a letter of opposition to House Bill 298 entitled "Oysters-Tributary-Scale Sanctuaries-Protection and Restoration" which: 1) will establish five oyster sanctuaries throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its main tributaries including

Harris Creek, Little Choptank River, Tred Avon River, St. Mary's River and Manokin River; and allows for aquaculture activities within a sanctuary but prohibits catching of oysters or removing oyster seed from a sanctuary.

Mr. Newberry underscored the responsibility legislators have to uphold the Constitution. He said an important part is the public trust doctrine that refers to the rights of every citizen of the Chesapeake Bay equally and non-discriminatory. He noted designating areas in the Bay as sanctuaries and only allowing those involved in aquaculture the use of those areas, they are violating the public trust doctrine.

The Council agreed to send letters of opposition to legislation that adversely impacts watermen and the seafood industry, which legislation will be provided to Council's Office staff by Mr. MacLeod. Mr. Whaples and Mr. Newberry thanked the Council.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT REGIONAL PLAN-UPPER SHORE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

Dan McDermott, Executive Director, Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board, acknowledged that Melissa Mackey, who is responsible for the services provided to individuals, is present. He provided a background of the Board. He also provided an overview of the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Regional Plan. He explained that during a Board meeting next Tuesday they will discuss the local plan which will be provided to the Council in April for its concurrence.

Councilman Pfeffer said the statistics in the plan can be a valuable tool for school boards, colleges and in the development of programs. He said according to those statistics: 1) the cost of living index in the United States is 100; 2) over that amount is a higher cost of living; 3) the average salary is \$55,223; 4) on the Shore there is a higher cost of living index of 7.2% higher than that of the U.S.; and, 5) the average salary on the Shore is \$41,232.

Mr. McDermott said the data is a good conversation started with businesses. He explained that in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and other entities he was able to bring front line staff to Dorchester County to tour Protenergy and the Hyatt. He stated that as a result one staff member was able to speak about one of the jobs, since he/she had personally visited the business. He advised that he is going to continue to do this.

The Council agreed to adopt the plan and sign the concurrence sheet for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Regional Plan.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS-PORTABLE TOILETS-MARINE FACILITIES-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Ryan White, Public Works Director, to advertise a request for proposals for portable toilets for 13 County marine locations. The Council recognized that: 1) Department of Natural Resources (DNR) funding designated for this fiscal year will cover this cost; and, 2) funding will be sought from DNR for this purpose for next year.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS-TRUCK WASH FACILITY-PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. White presented his request to advertise a request for proposals for a truck wash facility for which funds of \$210,000 were approved in the FY17 Capital Budget. He said they have reached out to vendors who may bid on this. Councilman Travers made a motion to approve his request which was seconded by Councilman Pfeffer.

In response to inquiries from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. White stated that: 1) the estimated cost of construction is \$180,000; 2) heavy equipment as well as County vehicles can be washed in this facility; 3) being able to use this facility, particularly in light of salt requirements in the County, will extend the life of large equipment. Councilman Newcomb expressed concern about using these funds in light of current budget constraints. Pursuant to a question posed by Councilwoman Nagel, Mr. White said a power washer is currently used at the Public Works Department and there is no water pit. He said in order to use this type of equipment, a concrete area must be built to allow substances, such as oil, to dry, which will then be placed into the landfill. He stated that Environmental Protection Agency staff have expressed concern about the use of this equipment. Ms. Nagel opined that a power washer is more cost effective than the facility. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Mr. White said the design plans include a water and oil separator. Mr. White noted that the State Highway Administration donated the power washer to the County. Councilman Newcomb expressed concern about using money for this facility in light of current road surface and ditching needs. Councilman Nichols expressed concern about the cost for the facility. Councilman Nichols recognized the need to extend the life of vehicles. He queried as to whether building a pit and having inmates wash vehicles was an option. Mr. White said \$30,000 has been expended for the plans, which was approved by Council within the past several weeks. The Council approved Mr. White's request with Councilman Newcomb and Councilwoman Nagel opposing.

TRAVEL REQUESTS-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Anna Sierra, Emergency Services, Director, for Steve Garvin, Emergency Planner, and Greg Fries, Special Operations Manager, to travel to Ocean City to attend the MEMA Emergency Management Symposium from May 28 to

May 31, 2019 at the cost of \$1,054 which includes hotel, meals (most of which are covered by conference), and registration. Lodging and meals are covered by Homeland Security/Emergency Management Planner (EMPG) grants and will not require any additional County funding. Councilwoman Nagel opposed.

The Council also approved Ms. Sierra's following requests:

- to send Loreal Vaughn, 911 Supervisor to NCIC/METERS Train the Trainer Course from April 21 to April 26, 2019 at the cost of \$527 which includes lodging, meals and travel (gas for county vehicle and toll);
- for Brian Stevanus, 911 Supervisor, to attend the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch Navigator Conference in National Harbor, Maryland on April 23 to April 26, 2019. Early bird pricing ends March 1 and will save the County \$150 at estimated cost of \$1,581 including conference, hotel and food-rotate 911 staff through this every year, cost covered within 911 budget;
- for Mr. Garvin and Mr. Fries to attend the FEMA Emergency Management Institute training course Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools from March 11 to March 14, 2019. Training course is free, lodging covered through FEMA, cost of meals which is approximately \$240 for each will be covered by Homeland Security Grants and will not require additional County funding.

CONTINGENCY FUND EXPENDITURE REQUEST-PUBLIC WORKS-FINANCE

The Council approved the request of Michael Spears, Finance Director, to use contingency funds for the following two projects, which were not budgeted: Pinks Pond, \$55,712 and guardrails at the Hooper's Island Causeway, \$66,250.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The Council reviewed a list of meetings, Boards and Committees for which County Council representatives are needed. The Council agreed that: 1) Councilman Newcomb will attend State Highway Administration/County quarterly meetings; 2) in addition to Councilman Pfeffer, Councilman Travers will attend Town of Hurlock/County meetings; 3) to appoint Councilman Pfeffer to the Mid-Shore Regional Council.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION AMENDMENT-PLANNING AND ZONING

The Council, based on the request of Rodney Banks, Acting Planning and Zoning Director, agreed to extend the Public Road Construction Agreement with Warwick Enterprises/Goose Crossing Farm, LLC, the landowner of a property known as Lord's Crossing Subdivision, Section 2, for one year, which requires them to construct and maintain certain public improvements for the subdivision.

FY19 MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE DESTINATION MARKETING GRANT ACCEPTANCE-TOURISM-FINANCE

The Council agreed to accept a FY19 Maryland Department of Commerce Destination Marketing Grant award for \$58,879 for Tourism for marketing expenditures which are reimbursed at 100% or 50% based on guidelines provided by the granting entity.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE MOSQUITO CONTROL BUDGET-2019 SEASON

The Council approved the written request of Brian Prendergast, Program Manager, Maryland Department of Agriculture, for a commitment of \$435,391 for mosquito spraying for the 2019 season from the County's FY19 budget.

LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST-HOUSE BILL 513- DELEGATE JEFF GHRIST

The Council approved the written request of Delegate Jeff Ghrist for a letter of support for House Bill 513 authorizing certain county boards of education to establish a regional Career and Technical Education school subject.

MARYLAND HERITAGE AREAS AUTHORITY GRANT APPLICATION REQUESTS-TOURISM

The Council approved the request of Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, to apply for the following Maryland Heritage Areas Authority project grants for FY2020: 1) Management grant for \$100,000 with a \$5,000 cash match in the requested FY2020 budget, which supports the management and operating costs of the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area, which is a division of Dorchester County Tourism; 2) Block grant for \$25,000 with no County cash match which assists and encourages the preservation of historical, archeological, natural, and cultural resources and supports economic development through heritage tourism within the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area (HCCHA); 3) Project grant entitled "Virtual and Augmented Reality Tour along the Underground railroad for \$40,000 with a \$10,000 cash match in the FY 2020 budget request to update and enhance interpretation along the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway; and, 4) Project grant entitled "Dorchester Celebrates 350 Years for \$10,000 with a \$5,000 match in Tourism's budget request for FY 2020 to be used to honor Dorchester County's 350th Anniversary in 2019 through a celebration centered on the opening of a 50-year-old time capsule that was sealed in 1969 and the sealing of a new time capsule.

DISCUSSION-SANITARY DISTRICT-BERM INFILTRATION POND-BROOKS ROAD

The Council received information from Donna F. Lane, Acting County Manager, regarding an August 7, 2018 decision by the prior Council to provide assistance to the Dorchester County Sanitary District for a berm infiltration pond on Brooks Road in

Woolford, Maryland. She explained that the Sanitary District was to provide \$10,000 and the County, \$5,000, to hire contractors to perform certain work which has been completed. She noted that no monies have been received from the Sanitary District. She stated that it is her understanding that the remaining work to be performed by the County, at its own expense, is the placement of fill dirt around the pond, re-grading, seeding the area and installing a new fence. She also cited her understanding that the Sanitary District is: 1) in the process of advising homeowners of their responsibilities relating to the berm infiltration pond as outlined in their deeds; and, 2) exploring other avenues to address the matter including pumping some of the water out of the pond and hooking the homes up to a sanitary system.

Ryan White, Public Works Director, stated that due to the amount of rain in the past several weeks the pond is within one foot of freeboard and water is also laying behind the pond. He expressed concern that the use of machinery may result in damage to the berm, which is made of a topsoil and not clay material. He explained that the original contractor, who was hired by the Sanitary District prior to County involvement, removed trees which resulted in voids in the ground that weakened the pond. He expressed his understanding that the purpose of the material placement, re-grading and re-seeding of the area is so the Sanitary District can maintain the area, not for structural integrity. He said ditch dirt, which is currently saturated will be used. He noted that due to the effects the rain has had on the area around the pond as well as the material to be used for the project, it will be an extended period of time before any work can commence. He reiterated his concern about damaging the pond.

Councilman Nichols said when this matter came before the Council in August 2018, he: 1) questioned whether there was any legal recourse from the contractor who performed the original work which resulted in voids in the soil around the pond; and, 2) requested a copy of the contract which has not been produced by the Sanitary District. He expressed his uncertainty that the County is properly equipped to perform the required work. Mr. White cited his concern that additional rainfall may cause additional problems to the pond. Councilman Nichols stressed the need to obtain further information on how to address this matter. Mr. White noted that at the January 22, 2019 Sanitary Commission meeting, individuals from the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE), provided input on the matter. He said proposed ways to address the matter were discussed, the majority of which are long term. He noted that one solution, the temporary pumping of water from the pond to a sanitary station in Woolford by above ground pumps seemed to be the quickest solution.

Councilman Nichols said he spoke to Senator Adelaide Eckardt and she said a long-term solution may take up to three to four years as grant funding will need to be obtained. He noted that she is providing assistance to the Sanitary District on this matter.

Councilman Newcomb asked Lin Spicer, who performed some work for the pond, his thoughts about placing dirt on the berm. Mr. Spicer suggested waiting until dry weather, pumping down the water in the pond, removing any tree stumps and then placing material on the pond. He said the incorrect material was used when the pond was constructed.

Mr. White referenced comments made at the Sanitary Commission meeting about removing some material at the bottom of the pond. Councilman Newcomb expressed his belief that the Sanitary District and/or the property owners should handle this matter. Councilman Nichols noted that due to the wet weather the project is at a standstill.

The Council asked staff to obtain an update from the Sanitary Commission on the status of the berm pond.

HIGHEST JURISDICTIONAL OFFICER-AFFILIATIONS-EMERGENCY SERVICES

Ms. Sierra said the Highest Jurisdictional Officer is the primary contact with Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) and oversees all career and volunteer affiliations in the County under the County's Medical Director. In response to a question from Councilman Pfeffer, Ms. Sierra recommended Mr. Fries, noting he is on day shift. She stated that the individual who serves as the Highest Jurisdictional Officer has sometimes daily contact with MIEMSS and; therefore, should be on day shift. Councilman Pfeffer made a motion to appoint Mr. Fries, which was seconded by Councilman Travers. Councilman Nichols questioned whether Kim Vickers, 911 Communications Division Chief, can be the Highest Jurisdictional Officer. Ms. Sierra said she cannot since she is not an EMS provider and does not deal with MIEMSS.

The motion by Councilman Pfeffer failed with Councilwoman Nagel, Councilmen Newcomb, and Councilman Nichols opposing. In response to questions by Councilman Nichols and Pfeffer, Ms. Sierra said Debbie Wheedleton, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provider, meets the requirements for the position, is currently on shift work and does the billing. She stated that the individual who serves as the Highest Jurisdictional Officer has sometimes daily contact with MIEMSS and should be on day shift. She cited her concern about discussing this matter in open session. She said if the Council decides not to select a person on day shift to act in this capacity, she recommends they select KJ Marvel, the highest ranking Lieutenant, an EMS supervisor. Ms. Lane clarified that the selection of the Highest Jurisdictional Officer can and has historically been done in open session.

Councilman Pfeffer's motion to appoint Ms. Marvel failed due to the lack of a majority. Ms. Sierra said she is willing to act in this capacity until she leaves County employment.

Councilwoman Nagel made a motion to accept the resignations of Ms. Sierra and Andy Robertson, Emergency Medical Services Manager, and to appoint Dozia Rahilly as Acting Director and the Highest Jurisdictional Officer which Councilman Newcomb seconded. Councilwoman Nagel said Ms. Rahilly is a Lieutenant at the Baltimore Washington International Airport, works at MIEMSS and teaches for the State of Maryland. Councilman Travers asked for clarification from Councilwoman Nagel about her motion. She said there have been questions posed about whether the resignations of Ms. Sierra and Mr. Robertson have been accepted and this motion, if approved will confirm that action. She confirmed that her motion is also to appoint Ms. Rahilly as

Acting Director. Councilman Travers said he is not in favor of the motion. Pursuant to a query from Councilman Pfeffer, Ms. Lane said historically only the appointment of the County Manager has been considered in open session. Councilman Pfeffer expressed concern about Ms. Rahilly's prior commitments which may affect her ability to assume full time duties. In response to a question from Councilman Pfeffer, Ms. Nagel said she has discussed with Ms. Rahilly her willingness and ability to perform the duties as Acting Director. Councilman Newcomb said he does not know Ms. Rahilly, noting that he recently heard good comments about her from individuals who took her class in Hooper's Island recently. Councilman Pfeffer said he believes there should a full-time person in the position. Councilman Nichols suggested the withdrawal of the motion so this personnel matter can be discussed in closed session. Pursuant to a query from Councilman Travers, Ms. Sierra said someone will need to be appointed since Mr. Robertson's last day is Friday. Councilwoman Nagel amended her motion to appoint Dozia Rahilly as the Highest Jurisdictional Officer which was seconded by Councilman Newcomb. The Council approved the appointment with Councilmen Pfeffer and Travers opposing.

LEASE DISCUSSION-COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY

A lease discussion regarding county owned property was deferred.

LETTER OF SUPPORT-ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY-AMERICAN LEGION

The Council agreed to send a letter of support for American Legion's acquisition of the corner parcel of State property adjacent to its building for a nominal price.

REQUESTS FOR LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Bond Bill-Richardson Museum

The Council approved the request of Jane Devlin, Executive Director, for a letter of support for the Richardson Maritime Museum's bond request to the State of Maryland for the rehabilitation and re-purposing of the brick building at 103 Hayward Street to house the museum collection and administrative office.

HOUSE BILL 644-COMMISSION ON 380 YEARS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY IN MARYLAND

The Council approved the request of Delegate Julian Ivey for a letter of support for House Bill 644 entitled "Commission on 380 years of African American History in Maryland" which would create a 31-member commission to write a comprehensive study of African American history in Maryland since 1642.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

In response to the request of Stephanie Hallowell, on behalf of American Disabilities Act Committee for the City of Cambridge and the Young Professionals, Dorchester Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Nichols explained that the Council already agreed to send a letter supporting the American Legion's request to acquire a State owned property adjacent to its property.

Greg Barto, resident and business owner, explained that members of the business community were willing to provide funding for Emergency Medical Services personnel to attend a National Conference; however, they were notified at the last minute that they would not be attending the conference. Mr. Barto said funds were garnered to send five individuals to the conference. He asked the Council to reconsider staff's attendance at this conference. Councilman Newcomb said a poll was conducted which resulted in a decision, based on personnel reasons, to not send staff to that conference. Councilman Nichols noted that Emergency Services is short staffed and that travel requests should be presented to the Council for its approval. The Council agreed to send five individuals to the conference contingent upon the list of attendees being modified. Councilman Nichols and Councilwoman Nagel opposed.

Dr. Diana Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools, asked the Council to fully support the Board of Education's budget over Maintenance of Effort. She explained that there are unfunded State mandates they must meet which include hiring a safety school coordinator and mental health coordinator. She said there are other positions for safety and academics they want to fill as well. In response to a question from Councilman Nichols, Dr. Mitchell said the estimated cost for the two positions is \$99,000.

Donna Hooper, resident, expressed her belief that County funding and staff time should not be used to fix a berm infiltration pond for which the homeowners are responsible to maintain. Councilman Newcomb said it is his understanding that the homeowners were not aware of their obligations. He noted that the previous Council agreed to assist them.

Wendell Foxwell, resident, expressed dismay about the late start of the meeting.

Stanley Trice, resident, commended Councilman Nichols for his actions earlier regarding personnel matters.

Camilla Lewis, resident, noted that she attended the last meeting regarding proposed changes to the County's Dog Control Ordinance. She advised that Sheriff James Phillips has advised that he will form a committee and that a proposed plan will be submitted in writing to the Council for its review and consideration. In response to an inquiry from Councilwoman Nagel, Troi Lynn Faith, resident, said she has been advised by the Chair that she can sit on that Committee.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Pfeffer wished Andy Robertson, Emergency Medical Services Manager, well and thanked him for his service to the County in this capacity.

Councilman Nichols announced that: 1) a budget work session will be held on February 28, 2019 at 5 p.m.; and, 2) the next County Council meeting will be held on March 5, 2019 at 6 p.m.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:



Donna P. Lane
Acting County Manager

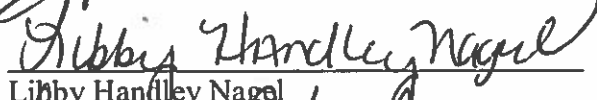
THE COUNTY COUNCIL
OF DORCHESTER COUNTY:



William V. Nichols, President



Jay E. Newcomb, Vice President



Libby Handley Nagel



George L. Pfeffer, Jr.



Ricky C. Travers

Approved the 2nd day of April, 2019.