

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2017

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on July 18, 2017 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 Price 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- JUNE 20, 2017

The Council approved the minutes of June 20, 2017.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers with additions. Councilman Travers abstained for payments made to Simmons Center Market and Councilman Bradshaw abstained for his mileage reimbursement.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$6,581,508.69.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council adjourned from a Regular Session and convened in a 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)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter on July 18, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613.

Action taken at the Closed Session: 1) agreed to hire an individual as Public Works Director by a 3 to 2 vote; 2) discussed personnel matters relating to a County

Department; 3) approved the request of the Emergency Services Director to hire an individual as an Advanced Life Support Provider and to add to the on-call EMS provider list by a 5 to 0 vote; 4) approved the request of the Soil Conservation Manager to hire an individual to fill a Grant Technician position by a 5 to 0 vote; 5) approved the request of the Director of Corrections to hire individuals as Probationary Correctional Officers to fill vacancies by 5 to 0 vote; 6) approved the request of the Emergency Services Director to hire an individual to fill a 911 Dispatcher position by a 5 to 0 vote; 7) discussed with legal counsel issues relating to a personnel matter and a legal fee reimbursement request; and, 8) discussed with legal counsel a payment in lieu of taxes proposal.

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

LAND PRESERVATION AND PARK AND RECREATION PLAN STATUS UPDATE PRIOR TO SUBMITTAL

Rebecca White, Executive Assistant, provided an update on the status of the preparation of the Land Preservation and Park and Recreation Plan (Rec Plan) which must be submitted every five years to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). She explained that the following will be included in the Rec Plan: an inventory of agriculturally preserved land; land preservation goals; an inventory of Recreation and Parks facilities; updated goals, strategies and priorities to improve parks; and, recreation facilities and open spaces for public benefit. Ms. White stated that surveys were sent to 500 randomly selected addresses and there was a 28% return rate. She advised that the survey results show the following usage: available water access, 38%; parks and playgrounds, 72%; programs, 46%; and, pool, 37%. She noted that items that were listed as the most important, in order, were parks, preservation of environmental areas, athletic programs, the protection of farm land and more water access. She said at stakeholder meetings residents advised that they cannot distinguish which programs Recreation and Parks offers versus other entities.

Ms. White advised that she is currently editing and formatting a draft Rec Plan and has information from the following to include in that document: Soil Conservation, Tourism the Department of Health and Planning and Zoning. She noted that the required DNR format for the plan has changed since 2012 and is now more data oriented.

Councilman Travers queried about the difference in the current plan requirements and the 2012 requirements. Ms. White explained that: 1) conducting a user demand review through an equity and proximity analysis is a new requirement; 2) the topics are the same; and, 3) additional data is required. Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, explained that State agencies are relying more on data to make decisions. He said they are also requiring the disclosure of the source of the data. He expressed his understanding that the State is moving towards a competitive funding process.

Mr. Goldman advised that: 1) a rough draft will be submitted to DNR; 2) DNR will review the document and provide comments; 3) the plan will be revised if necessary; and, 4) it will then be submitted for Council's review and consideration.

SAILWINDS PARK USE PLAN PRESENTATION-SAILWINDS PARK, INC.

Frank Narr, President, Sailwinds Park, Inc. (Sailwinds Park), provided a presentation entitled "Use Plan-the Open Spaces at Sailwinds Park Cambridge, MD," which is attached. He explained that Sailwinds Park is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization which was a stakeholder in the discussions regarding the Rec Plan under the umbrella of the tourism. He noted that he has provided hard copies to the Council of the following documents which were also sent via email: 1) overview of Sailwinds Park; 2) the use plan document; and, 3) information regarding branding Sailwinds Park.

Mr. Narr provided an overview of the activities at the Park as well as short term and mid-term goals. At Mr. Goldman's request, he expanded on their plans for the beach which include guarding and combing and removing non-native vegetation, particularly, if public use is allowed. He also referenced a potential partnership between the County pool and the Dorchester County Family YMCA, which offers open water lifeguard training.

Councilman Travers said there may be Program Open Space funds available to improve the area for the benefit of citizens. Mr. Goldman advised that discussions are being undertaken regarding the County's lease arrangement with Shore Health regarding the amphitheater. Mr. Narr said hospital representatives have reviewed the proposed plan and have some concerns regarding potential liability if the beach were to be designated as a public area.

On behalf of the Council, Councilman Travers thanked Mr. Narr for his presentation. The Council agreed to forward the proposed Plan to staff for comment.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

PUBLIC HEARING

BILL NO. 2017-6 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE AND EMPOWER DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND, TO BORROW AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$31,000,000 ON ITS FULL FAITH AND CREDIT, AND ISSUE AND SELL ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN ONE OR MORE SERIES FROM TIME TO TIME IN ORDER TO FINANCE, REIMBURSE OR REFINANCE COSTS OF (I) REPLACING NORTH DORCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL, (II) REPLACING SYSTEMS HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, (III) REPLACING EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS RADIO SYSTEMS, AND (IV) RELATED COSTS, AS FURTHER PROVIDED FOR HEREIN; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE BY THE COUNTY FROM TIME TO TIME OF ONE OR MORE SERIES OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$31,000,000 IN ORDER TO FINANCE,

REIMBURSE OR REFINANCE PROJECT COSTS ON AN INTERIM BASIS AND RELATED COSTS; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE BY THE COUNTY FROM TIME TO TIME OF ONE OR MORE SERIES OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS IN ORDER TO CURRENTLY REFUND OR ADVANCE REFUND ANY OF THE BONDS ISSUED PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THIS ACT AND PAY RELATED COSTS, PROVIDED THAT THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF EACH SUCH SERIES OF REFUNDING BONDS SHALL NOT EXCEED ONE HUNDRED THIRTY PERCENT (130%) OF THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF BONDS REFUNDED THEREFROM; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY COUNCIL TO ADOPT ONE OR MORE ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTIONS PRIOR TO ISSUING ANY SUCH BONDS, BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OR REFUNDING BONDS (THE "OBLIGATIONS") IN ORDER TO FIX, PRESCRIBE, DETERMINE OR PROVIDE FOR THE DETAILS OF SUCH OBLIGATIONS AND THE ISSUANCE AND SALE THEREOF; EXEMPTING ANY SUCH BONDS OR REFUNDING BONDS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 19-205 AND 19-206 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND; PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS TO BE MADE BY ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION IN CONNECTION WITH ANY PUBLIC SALE OF SUCH OBLIGATIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES UPON THE ASSESSABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE COUNTY SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE DEBT SERVICE ON SUCH OBLIGATIONS; PROVIDING THAT THIS TITLE IS A FAIR SUMMARY OF THIS BILL FOR ALL PURPOSES; PROVIDING THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT SHALL BE LIBERALLY CONSTRUED IN ORDER TO EFFECTUATE ITS PURPOSES; AND GENERALLY PROVIDING FOR AND DETERMINING VARIOUS MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE OBLIGATIONS AUTHORIZED HEREBY.

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said Bill No. 2017-6, which is scheduled for public hearing, will authorize the County to borrow up to \$31,000,000 on full faith and credit and issue and sell bonds in one or more series to finance, reimburse or refinance costs of the North Dorchester High School replacement, Public Safety radio system and financial hardware/software as provided in the FY 2018 Capital Budget and subsequent Capital Budgets and related costs.

There were no public comments.

Pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Price, Mr. Goldman said the costs for the three items listed in the bill are: 1) \$20.3 million for the replacement of the North Dorchester High School; 2) an amount not to exceed \$700,000 for replacing hardware and software in the Finance Department; and, 3) an amount not to exceed \$10 million for the Emergency Services radio system. He advised that the cost for the radio system is an estimate. He stated that the legislation provides the County the authorization to sell \$31 million or less in bonds. Mr. Merryweather said additional legislation will have to be enacted in order to sell more than \$31 million in bonds.

In response to questions from Councilman Price, Mr. Goldman advised that: 1) the first payment is due in FY 2020; 2) a long term debt obligation will end this year; and, 3) a revenue increase or reorganization of spending will be necessary to avoid raising property taxes. He explained that he is unable to estimate how much revenue will need to be identified to pay the new debt since revenue and housing market figures fluctuate.

The roll call on the enactment of Bill No. 2017-6 was as follows: Bradshaw – aye; Price – aye; Travers – aye; Satterfield – aye; Nichols – nay.

Councilman Nichols said he does not believe the County should go to bond for funds to purchase the hardware/software; therefore, he opposed the bill. Mr. Goldman said he is hopeful that monies from the County's next fiscal year budget will be available to acquire the hardware/software. He stressed that to ensure funds will be available just in case the purchase was included in the bond bill.

INTRODUCTION

AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-120 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND TO REPEAL AND REENACT WITH AMENDMENTS CHAPTER 78, ENTITLED "DOG CONTROL", OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM FOR THE REGULATION OF DOGS, PROVIDING DEFINITIONS FOR WORDS USED IN CHAPTER 78 OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE, PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT, PROVIDING FOR THE APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER 78, PROVIDING FOR ANIMAL CARE OF DOGS, PROVIDING FOR THE SEIZURE AND IMPOUNDMENT AND DISPOSITION OF DOGS, PROVIDING FOR THE REDEMPTION OF DOGS, PROVIDING FOR PROCEDURES CONCERNING PERSONS BITTEN OR EXPOSED TO DOGS SUSPECTED OF HAVING RABIES, PROVIDING FOR LICENSES AND VACCINATION OF DOGS AND PROVIDING ANY VIOLATION OF THIS CHAPTER SHALL BE A CIVIL INFRACTION.

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, explained that in February 2017 Sheriff James Phillips and a Committee submitted revisions to the County's Dog Control Ordinance. He noted that at the public hearing on legislation to adopt the amendments, based on citizens input, the Council asked the Sheriff and Committee members to review the changes they suggested.

Sheriff Phillips said after he and the Committee members took the comments into consideration some revisions were made and the bill was redrafted. He explained that due to concerns regarding enforcement, particularly since there are only three Dog Control employees, he is gradually revising the Ordinance.

The Council agreed to proceed with publication of a public hearing on this matter.

REGULAR SESSION

The Council adjourned into Regular Session.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT-NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Mr. Goldman introduced Jeff Trice, the new Economic Development Director. Mr. Trice provided an overview of his work experience.

SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION REQUEST

The Council approved the request of Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, to declare the rotary fan that was once located on the top of the old jail as surplus property so it can be sold at auction.

FY17 BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST-BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Council approved the request of Diana Mitchell, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools, for a Board of Education FY17 Operating Budget Amendment and Transfer which: 1) reallocates categorical expenditures from Mid-Level Administration (\$130,000) to Administration, Health Services and Maintenance of Plant to cover additional legal and supply expenses, additional costs for school nurse services due to the need for substitutes and unexpected expenses related to the maintenance of building and grounds; 2) includes a budget alignment to utilize reserves in the ESMEC Health Alliance to cover up to \$535,000 in health insurance claims expense which will be recorded through the Alliance and not through the Board's financial records; and, 3) designates \$138,000 in Federal government subsidy funds for the replacement of the gym floor at the South Dorchester Pre K-8.

FY18 SENIOR CARE PROGRAM ANNUAL PLAN-SOCIAL SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Lisa Hartman, Acting Director, Dorchester County Social Services, to continue the Senior Care Program for Dorchester County with Maryland Department of Aging funding for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. Pursuant to a query from Councilman Price, Kathleen Rineholt, Family Services Supervisor, advised that level funding was received and there is no significant change in programs or figures.

FY17 BUDGET TRANSFER REQUESTS-FINANCE

The Council approved the following FY17 Budget Transfer Requests submitted by Robert Willey, Assistant Finance Director: 1) Elections-to transfer \$ 3,575 to cover unplanned costs resulting from the County's conversion to a VoIP system and additional poll judge costs from other line items with unused funding; 2) 911 Communications Center-to transfer \$93,000 to cover cost overruns in overtime and new costs of the shift differential by transferring unused regular salaries as well as \$18,166 to cover cost overruns (mostly) in contractual expenses from the following line items - rental, training & telephone expense; 3) Circuit Court-to transfer \$8,314 to shift unspent funding in various line items (mostly contractual) into office supplies to cover planned purchases of supplies; 4) Airport-to transfer \$2,545 to shift unspent funding in various line items (contractual & maintenance) to areas with budget overruns, mostly fuel. 5) Highways- to shift excess funding of \$228,000 from various accounts (mostly asphalt and "other" materials) to accounts with budget overruns (mostly resurfacing stone) and to recognize the shift toward more contractual labor as well as the transfer of \$7,000 to cover budget overruns in several administrative accounts with excess funding in admin repairs; 6)

Maintenance-to transfer \$3,000 to cover cost overruns in health department building maintenance from excess funding in county office building maintenance as well as \$10,000 to cover cost overruns in courthouse building maintenance from excess funding in "other" expense (Transfer Tax Fund); 7) Landfill-to transfer \$62,000 to cover actual costs (mostly contractual) over budget from line items with excess funding; 8) Emergency Services-to transfer \$105 to cover cost overrun in dues from excess funding in mileage & conference; 9) Economic Development-to transfer \$4,695 to cover cost overruns in advertising and contractual from excess funding in lodging, meals, mileage & conference; 10) Eastern Shore Innovation Center-to transfer \$18,707 to cover cost overruns in various line items (mostly contractual & water) from excess funding in various accounts (mostly utilities); and, 11) Planning and Zoning-to transfer \$2,684 to cover actual costs that exceeded estimates out of various accounts with excess funding.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT AWARD- REPAIRS/REFURBISHMENT OF WOODS ROAD-GRANT MONITOR

Mr. Goldman said at last year's Maryland Association of Counties Conference, the Council was advised that the Maryland Department of Transportation would provide the County \$200,000 to assist with Woods Road improvements. He noted that before Council is the grant award. He advised that Mr. Merryweather has approved the grant language. The Council agreed to accept the Maryland Department of Transportation Grant Award of \$200,000 for planning for repairs and/or refurbishment of Woods Road.

Councilman Travers questioned the timeline for the project. Mr. Goldman and Mr. Merryweather said no action should be taken until funding has been received. Pursuant to a query from Councilman Travers, Mr. Goldman advised that the project cost, which has not been determined, will depend on the scale and the scope of the work. He said staff will seek grant funding. Councilman Travers noted that funding for stormwater management may be garnered through the Department of Housing and Community Development Community Development Block Grant program. Mr. Goldman said Clean Chesapeake funding is available and some monies may be garnered from the State for sidewalks. Mr. Moore advised that two years of highway user revenue funds in the amount of \$280,000 are available and more will be forthcoming in the winter. He opined that at that time there will be \$440,000 available. He said the estimated cost for a study is between \$25,000 to \$35,000. He explained that budget estimates, based on the improvements the Council wishes to pursue, will be sought.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES- EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Anna Sierra, Emergency Services Director, to purchase three Physio-Control LUCAS-3 Devices at the cost of \$41,683.78, utilizing FY18 Capital Budget and FY18 Operational Budget funds. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Mr. Goldman said the equipment will be installed in three of the ambulances that serve the most remote areas in the County.

PURCHASE REQUEST-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES CHASE VEHICLE- EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Ms. Sierra to purchase a 2017 Chevy Tahoe 4WD as the EMS Chase Vehicle through the Maryland State contract at the cost of \$33,689 for the vehicle and for \$2,268 for emergency services and safety related options utilizing FY18 Capital Funding.

FY18 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION SAFE STREETS GRANT AWARD-LMB

The Council approved the request of Nancy Shockley, Local Manager Board Director, to accept the FY18 Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention Safe Streets Grant Award in the amount of \$164,078. The Council acknowledged that funds from this grant will support: Safe Streets Coordinator; Crime Analyst under a contract with City of Cambridge Police Department; Prosecutor through the State's Attorney's Office; law enforcement and a Peer Support Specialist through the Dorchester County Health Department Additions Program. Councilman Price queried whether the Town of Hurlock Police Department is a part of this Program. Mr. Goldman noted that: 1) Safe Streets grant requirements are very specific; 2) problem areas are identified; and, 3) resources are pooled together.

TRAVEL REQUESTS

The Council approved the request of Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, for permission to travel to the Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference from August 16 to August 18, 2017 in Ocean City Maryland for a total cost of \$680 from the FY18 Operating Budget mileage and conference line item.

The Council approved the following requests of Jeff Trice, Economic Development Director, for: 1) authorization for him to attend the Maryland Economic Development Association (MEDA) Basic Economic Development training at the Baltimore City Community College from July 24 to July 27, 2017 at the cost of \$1,348. utilizing funding from the FY18 Economic Development budget; 2) approval for him, Susan Banks, Business Development Manager, and Steve Dolbow, Manager, Eastern Shore Innovation Center, to attend the 2017 Summer Maryland Association of Counties Conference from August 16 to August 19, 2017 in Ocean City Maryland at an estimated cost of \$2,418, utilizing FY18 Economic Development Budget funding.

CORRESPONDENCE REQUEST-REINSTATEMENT OF REGIONAL AIRPORT GRANT FUNDING REDUCTIONS-AIRPORT

The Council approved the request of Meighan "Chis" Chisholm, Airport Manager, to send correspondence to Pete K. Rahm, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation, to restore the Statewide Aviation Grant program to at least its previous \$3 million in funding.

ACCELERATED CAPITAL PROJECT TO RESTORE HVAC-AIRPORT

The Council approved the request of Mr. Chisholm to sole source with the current HVAC contractor for the Airport and approve the replacement of the condensing section of the HVAC at the cost of \$114,276.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS-BITUMINOUS MATERIAL DRAINAGE PIPE-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, to advertise for proposals for bituminous material and drainage pipe.

CONTRACT AWARD-PURCHASE OF RECYCLING CONTAINERS-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the recommendation of Mr. Moore to award a bid and contract to Custom Container, the lowest bidder, to purchase recycling containers at the cost of \$5,601.

BID AWARD-REPLACEMENT LANDFILL WHEEL LOADER-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to award the bid for the purchase of a Wheel Loader for the Landfill Division to Alban Tractor, the lowest bidder, at the cost of \$217,734.03, utilizing FY18 Landfill Capital Budget funding.

REQUEST TO EXTEND PAVING CONTRACT-PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Moore said in 2014 the County began utilizing Russell Paving Co., Inc. for overlays. He advised that there have been product cost increases in sand, stone and asphalt products. He stated that last years' paving schedule has been completed. He referred to past attempts to utilize other local and State government entity pricing to achieve a savings. He noted that the County used the price quote from the City of Cambridge for last year's contract.

The Council approved the recommendation of Mr. Moore to sole source and extend the current contract with Russell Paving Co, Inc. for paving for a one year period for shorter length road hot mix overlays.

REQUESTS TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS-EASTERN SHORE INNOVATION CENTER-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Trice stated that he is seeking approval to advertise for proposals for bids for the Eastern Shore Innovation Center for the construction of a Sensitive Compartment Information facility and for providing a redundant fiber connection to the facility. Mr. Trice stated that grant funding has been obtained for these projects.

Mr. Goldman said the redundant fiber will assist the County by providing conduit for fiber for the Bucktown/Greenbriar tower. He noted that this will reduce the cost for an

emergency services radio system. Pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Price, Mr. Goldman explained that the fiber will not be run to the County's tower and will not serve another facility in the area. In response to a question from Councilman Satterfield, Mr. Goldman said he will provide additional information to him regarding extending the fiber to the tower.

The Council approved Mr. Trice's request to advertise for proposals for both items.

FY18 CORE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES FUNDING AGREEMENT-MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Council approved the request of Roger L. Harrell, Health Officer, to execute the FY 2018 Core Public Health Services Funding Agreement between the County and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene totaling \$698,250 (equal to the County's FY18 budget appropriation) to provide local health services at the Health Department.

LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST-GRANT APPLICATION-NATIONAL OUTDOOR FOUNDATION

The Council approved the request of Marlene Meninger, National Outdoor Foundation, for a letter of support for the organization's application for a Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area mini-grant to assist with the February 2018 National Outdoor Show.

WORKERS COMPENSATION-DORCHESTER COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY ASSOCIATION

Mr. Goldman advised that Lenny Pfeffer, President, on behalf of the Dorchester County Volunteer Fire Company Association (Association), has asked the Council to consider transferring the Worker's Compensation policy for the Association to another vendor. He noted that the County is the funding source for this insurance. In response to a question from Councilman Nichols, Mr. Goldman said it would be the same policy and there is no cost difference. Councilman Price inquired about the reason for the request. Mr. Goldman said there are concerns regarding access. He explained that a claim is filed by the County through Becky Dennis, Human Resources Director, not the vendor, and then it is provided to the adjuster.

Councilman Travers recollected the Council's decision several years ago to include funds in County budget to pay Worker's Compensation for the Association and to place it with another vendor. Mr. Goldman noted that the Council also took this action because there were lapses in the coverage due to nonpayment.

The Council agreed to continue to retain the current vendor.

POLL CONFIRMATIONS

The Council confirmed its following decisions in the interim between meetings, by means of a poll, to:

- approve the request of Sheriff James Phillips to use \$9,750.00 in insurance proceeds by a 5 to 0 vote as follows: \$8,500.00 for a replacement trained and certified k-9 and \$1,250.00 for handler training costs;
- send correspondence to the Church Creek Volunteer Fire Company noting that the County is unable to provide funding for the purchase of equipment, for which the fire company is seeking funding from the Maryland State Fireman's Association Voluntary Company Assistance Fund by a 5 to 0 vote;
- approve the submission of the FY 2018 Dorchester County Recreation and Park Program Plan by a 4 to 1 vote;
- acknowledge its June 6, 2017 approval of the request of Nancy Shockley, Local Management Board (LMB) Director, to utilize FY17 Administration and Program budget funding through the Governor's Office for Children, through an approved State contract list, to purchase two vehicles, one to be operated by LMB and another by the Dorchester County Health Department, and approved her request, due to a change in the quoted price, to expend additional LMB funding to cover the additional cost by a 5 to 0 vote;
- approve the request of Sheriff Phillips to utilize remaining funding in the Sheriff's Office Capital Budget, in addition to funding generated by insurance claims, to purchase an additional vehicle with the understanding that any excess cost will be covered with seized drug asset monies by a 3 to 2 vote;
- approve the Sheriff's request to enter into a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Town of Easton by a 3 to 2 vote;
- acknowledge its May 2, 2017 approval of the request of Meighan "Chis" Chisholm, Airport Manager, to purchase a shed from Best Value at the cost of \$6,098 to stage the Gator crew/passenger shuttle vehicle and to approve his request to utilize FY17 Airport Capital funding for this purpose by a 5 to 0 vote;
- agreed to provide a letter of support for the application of the Mace's Lane Alumni, Good Shepherd Association, and Maryland Keymakers for funding under the African American Heritage Grant Program to convert the abandoned Mace's Lane High School in Cambridge into a Community Center based on the request of Kevin Cornish by a 4 to 1 (1 no answer) vote.
- agreed to send a letter in opposition to the proposed designation of the Chesapeake Bay, Gulf Maine, New York Bight, Caroline and South Atlantic distinct population segments as critical habitat for Atlantic Sturgeon based on

concerns about the adverse impact on the commercial and recreation fishing industry in the County as well as the lack of sufficient data to support potential positive impacts by a 4 to 1 (1 no answer) vote.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT REQUEST-DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The Council approved the request of Joseph Hughes, Director of Corrections, to sole source and contract with Bay Country Security to install Video Surveillance Equipment at the Department of Corrections at the cost of \$71,875, utilizing FY18 Capital Budget funding.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alan Girard, Eastern Shore Director, noted that the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) owns property in Dorchester County on which the Karen Noonan Memorial Environmental Education Center is located. He said the property is accessed from Phillips Gunning Club Road, a dirt road. He referenced concerns expressed by Council several years ago regarding the cost to maintain dirt roads in the County. He noted that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge) partnered with the County in 2014 to make improvements to Phillips Gunning Club Road. Mr. Girard advised that it is again in need of repair. He thanked Councilmen Travers and Satterfield for responding to his emails regarding this matter. He noted that a meeting about the road was held which was attended by Councilman Satterfield, CBF representatives and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff as well as other stakeholders. He said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff expressed a willingness to contribute resources.

Mr. Goldman said he has been working with Marcia Pradines, Refuge Manager, and \$25,000 in U.S. Fish and Wildlife funding has been identified to be used for aggregate with the County providing labor and equipment for the project. He stressed that the repairs will not permanently fix the road. He explained that holes will be filled with heavy stone, the road will be graded and rip rap repairs/replacement will be made to fix the areas of the road being impinged upon. He said permanent repairs will cost several thousand dollars and will most likely not be borne by the County. Mr. Goldman explained that federal funding will be sought and if received, the road will then have to be built to federal standards, which are stricter than County standards. He said the immediate goal is to stabilize the road. Mr. Girard said the majority of the property along the road is owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which may wish to seek this funding. Mr. Goldman explained that pursuant to federal grant requirements, the County must apply in conjunction with a federal agency. Mr. Girard acknowledged that the proposed repairs are a temporary fix.

Wendell Foxwell, resident, inquired about the status of Hearn Building and the future of the adjacent property which has suffered fire damage. Councilman Bradshaw advised that he met with Mr. Keyser several months ago regarding the Hearn Building. He said: 1) all four walls are stabilized; 2) engineers and architects are in the process of

development blueprints; 3) there is a Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) easement on the property which requires the property to be built within certain specifications. He explained that once a plan is prepared to reconstruct the Hearn Building it will be submitted to MHT for approval. Councilman Bradshaw noted that Mr. Keyser was in the process of acquiring the adjacent property which will be inspected by engineers. He said Mr. Keyser advised that the building will be demolished if the engineers believe it cannot be saved. Councilman Travers said there is posting on the front of the building which may indicate that plans to rebuild the front of the building have been approved by the City of Cambridge. He advised Mr. Foxwell that staff will obtain a timeline for reconstruction from Mr. Keyser.

Mr. Gray referenced a fish kill at Pinks Pond and questioned whether the County sprayed in that area. Mr. Goldman advised that the County did not spray in that area and does not own spray equipment. Mr. Girard noted that it occurred about a month ago. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Mr. Girard and Mr. Moore stated that several entities viewed the area and could not locate the cause. Mr. Moore advised that both the Riverkeepers and the Department of Natural Resources took samples. Mr. Gray recognized that the State is spraying around guardrails in Hooper's Island. Mr. Goldman said the State sprays for noxious weeds and mosquitos. Based on a suggestion from Mr. Girard, Mr. Goldman said he will contact the Board of Education to inquire as to whether they sprayed in chemicals in that area.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Nichols said dignitaries and visitors will be in Dorchester County on Thursday, the beginning of the Reflections of Pine Street event. He commended the organizers, Dion Banks and Kisha Petticolas, of the Eastern Shore Network for Change. He noted that an event they held in the Spring was successful. He said he respects their efforts to peacefully observe history and asked the public to be respectful of their endeavor.

Councilman Satterfield echoed Councilman Nichols' comments. He encouraged residents to view this as a positive for the community. He said he has received several telephone calls over the last week regarding residents' concerns about abandoned vehicles and tall grass. He expressed a desire for a concentrated effort between Planning and Zoning and the Health Department to clean up the County. He referred to the Council's efforts to demolish blighted houses. He noted that fiber was installed at Gootee's Marine a few months ago and the south Dorchester area will be receiving it soon. He noted that this will encourage people and businesses to locate to the County.

Councilman Price echoed the Council members' prior comments about the Reflections of Pine event. He said it is important to embrace events such as this which will assist in drawing new residents and new businesses to the County. Councilman Price read a statement about his vote on the bond bill. He said he agreed to its passage because it creates a mechanism to procure funding for the replacement of North Dorchester High School. He stated that he also supports the issuance of bonds for an emergency services

radio system. He expressed his belief that: 1) the NDHS project should have preceded the new Dorchester Career and Technology Center; 2) there should have been separate bond bills and; 3) public and private partnerships should be utilized for infrastructure needs.

Councilman Price said last week he attended the interim meeting of the Maryland Association of Counties. He advised that at that meeting, Deborah Cox, Legislative Director, National Association of Counties, said they are watching the following on the federal governmental level: 1) health care, specifically the reconciliation and repeal effects on Medicaid and cost shifting to counties; 2) the budget bill; 3) tax reform proposals; 4) state and local tax reductions and their potential impacts; and, 5) infrastructure proposals.

Councilman Price referenced the upcoming Summer Maryland Association of Counties Conference and its theme "You are hired" which focuses on economic development and job creation in the State. He noted that there are 10 to 15 items MACo staff are discussing including highway user funds, school funding fairness initiatives in the 2018 session and school construction.

Councilman Bradshaw echoed Councilman Nichols comments regarding the Reflections of Pine event. He noted that the 1960s were a tumultuous time in the country and not just in the City of Cambridge and Dorchester County. He said examining the past provides individuals insight on how to move forward. He commended Mr. Banks and Ms. Petticolas for coordinating the event and wished them success.

Councilman Bradshaw referenced the Council's decision to send correspondence to Congressman Andy Harris in opposition to regulations imposed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration regarding the Atlantic Sturgeon. He noted that changes relating to that fish began in 2010 and were not revealed to important stakeholders. He said the Delmarva Fisheries Association and William Reddish, Community Liaison for Congressman Harris, were successful in obtaining letters of opposition from a number of counties. He advised that, pursuant to a recently issued press release, a 13th amendment was included in the appropriations bill restricting the use of funds for the enactment of the proposed rules. He explained that implementation of the regulations will have a significant negative impact in the Chesapeake Bay region and may even curtail the ability of the Exelon Corporation to generate electricity. He thanked the Council members for voting to send the letter.

Councilman Bradshaw said a Maryland representative attended President Donald Trump's "Made in America" event at the White House yesterday. He said Eddie and Sue Health, owners of Heath's Crab Pots and Supply Company, Inc., were recognized for their "American Made" business which supplies crab pots to individuals, including Dorchester County citizens.

Councilman Travers advised that today the President approved the issuance of a substantial amount of permits for H-2B workers. Mr. Goldman said 15,000 were approved.

Councilman Travers referenced the Council's efforts to ensure the availability of H-2B workers for local businesses. He said a multi county training event for volunteer fire companies will be held on Saturday and there will be sailboat races this Friday and Saturday at the Yacht Club. He referenced the Reflections of Pine Street event which will provide residents and visitors insight on the events that occurred 50 years ago and the lessons learned. He referenced the opening of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park which has had an excess of \$35,000 or \$45,000 visitors since then. He said the mural off of Route 50 depicting the history of the Pine Street area was dedicated on Friday. He noted that this is one of six or seven murals in the County along the Chesapeake Scenic Byway.

He announced that: 1) the next Council meeting will be held on August 1, 2017; and, 2) the Council reserves the right to meet in closed session prior to regular session.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

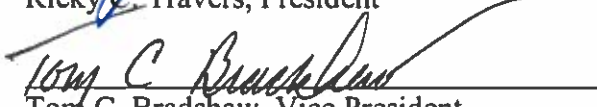


Jeremy Goldman
County Manager

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL.



Ricky C. Travers, President



Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President



William V. Nichols



Rick M. Price



Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 1st day of August, 2017.