

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2013

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on April 2, 2013 with the following members present: Jay L. Newcomb, President; William V. Nichols, Vice President; Ricky Travers; Rick Price and Tom Bradshaw. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney; and Cindy Smith acting as Executive Administrative Specialist.

REGULAR SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned from a Regular Session and convened in a closed Executive Session pursuant to State Government Article pursuant to §10-508(A)(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 §10-508(A)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; pursuant to §10-508(A)(4) to consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; and pursuant to 10-508(A)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

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

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Price led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

The Council acknowledged that the Request for Excise Tax Reimbursement – 701 High Street - Habitat for Humanity Choptank was removed from the agenda and approved the following additions to the agenda: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- MARCH 19, 2013

The Council approved the minutes of March 19, 2013.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved vouchers as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Newcomb reported total cash and investments as \$8,148,790.53.

EXECUTIVE SESSION SUMMARY

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in an Executive Session at 4:30 pm on April 2, 2013 in a closed session at Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland, pursuant to the State Government Article pursuant to §10-508(A)(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 §10-508(A)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; pursuant to §10-508(A)(4) to consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; and pursuant to §10-508(A)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

Motion made, seconded and carried to conduct a closed session pursuant to the above. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative to conduct the closed session for the purposes stated above and to discuss the topics listed above.

Councilman Newcomb announced that the Council convened into an Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. on April 2, 2013 to discuss the following items:

- 1- Conducted one personnel hearing;
- 2- Discussed with staff members County's Computer backup and Security Systems
- 3- Approved the request submitted by HR Director on behalf of Emergency Services to post in house and advertise for On-Call Basic Life Support Providers by a 5 to 0 vote
- 4- Approved request by Public Works Director to begin Solar Project interview process with top 3 solar firms by a 5 to 0 vote;
- 5- Discussed with legal counsel staff a matter regarding an illegal, offsite, outdoor advertisement on Route 50 in Dorchester County;
- 6- Discussed with City (Cambridge) Representatives some economic development matters.

The above information is being provided to the public pursuant to and in compliance with Section §10-509(b) and (c) of the State Government Article.

REGULAR SESSION

PROCLAMATION-CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK APRIL 21-27, 2013

Council presented the proclamation to Corey Pack, Bill Jones and Patty Dickerson.

PROCLAMATION – DONATE LIFE MONTH – APRIL 2013

Council presented the proclamation to Kerry and Dianne Kahl for Donate Life Month, for Organ and Tissue donations. April 19th is National Donate Life Blue and Green day to honor organ, eye and tissue donors.

PROCLAMATION – COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH – APRIL 2013

Council presented the proclamation to the County Council “Smart Justice Creating Safer Communities”.

MEETING WITH MUNICIPALITIES – TAX DIFFERENTIAL/REBATE

The law requires an annual meeting with municipalities and county once a year. Mike Spears, Finance Director stated: The differential tax charged to the citizens of the municipalities is an offset for the cost of duplicative services. Tax savings are in the form of lower rates for Cambridge and Hurlock, 93.5 cents and 92.85 cents respectively saving the tax payers of those cities \$323,000 and \$59,000. County rate is 97.6 cents. Remaining municipalities receive rebates checks, ENM, Secretary and Vienna \$1,350, Galestown \$700, Brookview \$450, Church Creek and Eldorado \$425. Total tax offset is \$388,383.00. Duplicative services are law enforcement and planning and zoning and the administrative support for those agencies.

Councilman Newcomb invited the following individuals to speak:

Mayor Robert Herbert, Church Creek thanked the county for the help, it allows them to have spring and fall cleanup. Asked for assistance with drainage problem from state forest– SHA won’t clean outlet ditch. Councilman Bradshaw asked State DNR representative Bruce Michael to address this with Mayor Herbert. Mayor stated that Church Creek City Treasurer asked if a property in the town limits is going to be sold in a tax sale could the town be notified? Finance staff will be asked to do so.

Mayor Victoria Stanley, Cambridge thanked the county for its assistance. She mentioned that Mr. Signor asked her to ask for assistance with funding for the fireworks display this year.

Councilman Newcomb stated that Representatives from Secretary had to leave for a meeting.

MEETING WITH GOVERNOR MARTIN O’MALLEY’S BAY CABINET

Bay Cabinet in attendance: MDE Secretary, Robert M. Summers, DNR Director of Resource Assessment Office, Bruce Michael, MD Dept of Ag Secretary, Earl (Buddy) Hance, MDP Secretary, Robert Hall

Secretary Summers provided an overview of the efforts to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. They noted that there has been significant progress in reducing pollution. The major problems are nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment. Maryland has been leading the way and has shown significant reduction in nitrogen levels (approx. 75%) and

phosphorous & sediment (approx. 88%). Maryland has shown leadership in the nitrogen removal enhancements at the waste water treatment plants. Farmers are implementing stream buffers and planted record acreage of cover crops in an effort to address run off issues. Storm water runoff is a major issue all over the state.

As Maryland continues to make progress it was noted that we must hold “upstream” states accountable in addressing the issues because the longer we wait the more it is going to cost to restore the Chesapeake Bay. Into The Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund the Governor allocated \$68 million dollars in matching grant funds for local government to compete for to address storm water runoff. The Cabinet is working with the Counties to implement watershed implementation plans.

Secretary Hance, Department of Agriculture noted that they had achieved 130% of their goal at the last milestone report. He acknowledged the Layton Family Farms for their recent induction into the American Agriculture Master Farmer Program.

Mr. Michael from Department of Natural Resources indicated that there have been improvements in 80% of the sites that are being monitored. In 2011 they received funds to add 4 new sites which included some on the Eastern Shore. He indicated that it would take longer to show improvement on the Eastern Shore due to the amount of runoff and nitrates.

Mr. Hall from Maryland Department of Planning stated that Smart Growth is very important. Bay Council Representatives responded to questions from Council members: Councilman Newcomb asked about why there couldn't be more oyster dredging? Mr. Michael responded by acknowledging the importance of oysters to the bay and indicated that four additional staff people have been dedicated to assisting in getting aquaculture permits approved more quickly. Additional question was raised about sanctuary bottom that didn't receive a response. Additional question about grasses? There has been a goal to restore 185 acres of grasses; to date we are nowhere near meeting that goal. Grasses took a hit in 2011 & 2012 due to storms. The Susquehanna Flats have met the criteria and the response is positive. Important thing to note is that the trend is moving in a positive direction. On the scientific side they have found that it isn't herbicides it is sediments and nutrients and those need to be dealt with at the source. Water quality is showing improving “up the bay”. Grasses will respond once clarity is restored. Councilman Bradshaw commented that must deal with the Conowingo Dam to solve the issue. Councilman Bradshaw also noted that there are best practices for each process and not a one size fits all.

The Susquehanna and Conowingo Dams provide 50% of the sediment and phosphorous. The dams are collecting sediment and phosphorous however the nitrogen passes through. Studies show that there are about 15 years of storage capacity left but some sediment is dumped during storms. Storms cause a significant problem and we must tackle it at the source to keep it from coming down the bay. A study completed in the late 1990's indicated the need to control sources into system. Cabinet representatives indicated that there is an opportunity to bring Exelon to the table. Governor O'Malley is inviting the Environmental Protection Agency and others to the table to address issues in relicensing. The State is working with Exelon on a variety of measures to trap sediment. Councilman Price had three concerns: 1. Disparity at this end of the bay, 2.

Many of the practices include mandates with funds and timelines that are challenging for local governments and 3. Property rights of farmers that want to pass their properties to family and noted that farmers want a say on how the property is handled. Cabinet members responded noting the importance of balancing the issues. Farmers must properly control sediments and herbicides and other problems. There are discussions going on in other states. State representatives are willing to listen to better ways. Councilman Price noted that the pace for compliance on the mandates is problematic for many jurisdictions. Bay Cabinet representative notes that there is time between now and 2025 to work on the larger issues. Cabinet hopes to work together with locals in a non adversarial way to address the issues. State is offering technical support and offering a number of webinars. There has been an allocation of \$21 million put into place to support cover crops. Councilman Bradshaw asked where Delaware is in addressing issues. The Cabinet responded that all watershed areas have the same requirements to meet that have been set forward by the federal government. Councilman Newcomb indicated that there are concerns about some of the septic systems, while many were able to tie in to the new system that was put in the Madison/Woolford District but others were not. Many that were not able to tie in have failing systems. Many of the individuals are elderly and live on fixed incomes and don't have the additional funds necessary to replace the field tiles. He asked if there is any flexibility in the approved funding for tank to also include funds for field tanks. Cabinet members spoke indicating that just replacing tank did not solve the problem because the pathogens are a big public health issues and that is addressed with the field tiles. Cabinet representatives believe that there have been some modifications made in low income situation. Mr. Forlifer of Dorchester County Health Department noted that there have been a number of changes made and that we still have the capability to address the issues in the current funding structure. Councilman Newcomb asked how is it that we can build on Kent Island but can't build on lots in Dorchester County. State noted the importance of consistency and equality in building in critical areas. They will look into some of the specifics and get back to the Council. Councilman Travers thanked the cabinet for coming and wanted to make sure that the Cabinet recognized the diversity in the Counties within the State of Maryland particularly on the Eastern Shore. The plans that are coming down from the State have had devastating effect on Dorchester County and that not one size fits all. He also noted that not all rural plans fit all situations. The tier maps that have been developed took 92% of Dorchester County out of play for development. Councilman Travers noted that there needs to be more money to make changes with septic systems. He noted that there need to be less mandates. Mandates are challenging at any time but with the current state of the economy they become even more challenging. Maryland Dept of Planning representative responded that the growth on Kent Island was probably through growth allocation. Septic Tier maps were modeled after Worchester & Kent Counties. Tier 4 maps are the most restrictive to meet requirement of Senate Bill 236. Must look at supply and frankly the demand was not critical. Councilman Nichols thanked the Bay Cabinet representatives for coming. He expressed a concern about the amount of new (mandated) legislation that is passed by State government that impacts local government (ex.: Teacher pensions and assessment offices). He was interested in knowing what if any monetary support Dorchester County would receive to assist in meeting the watershed mandate requirements. Cabinet representatives responded noting that all current watershed mandates are on the Western Shore of Maryland. There are no storm water mandates for Dorchester County at this point. Once again Bay Cabinet representatives offered to sit down with local representatives to figure out what are a real

mandate affecting Dorchester County. Councilman Travers notes that these mandates cannot be on the backs of Dorchester County taxpayers.

Councilman Newcomb thanked the Bay Cabinet members for coming and noted that Dorchester County is committed to the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay. Bay Cabinet representatives once again expressed willingness to work together to address the issues.

PRESENTATION OF RESPONSE PAGING SYSTEMS PROPOSAL – CRITICAL RESPONSE SYSTEMS, INC.

Jeremy Goldman introduced James Dabbs of Critical Response Systems, Inc.

Mr. Dabbs provided a power point presentation on a digital response system that has been proposed to replace the current voice paging system utilized by Emergency Services (copy of presentation is available for review in the Council's Office during normal business hours). The current paging system frequency will be significantly diminished in the coming months by the FCC thus a better alternative is being sought. The system that is being proposed is a text paging system and not a voice system. The main focus of the system is to minimize the number of surprises for incident commanders. This system will send both personal and group text alerts and allows for tracking of who is responding and to what location they will respond, for example they will respond to station or on location. Mr. Dabbs showed a coverage map that shows the four tower sites that are being proposed. With these 4 sites 98% of the County will have excellent coverage. There were two very small sections in the northern most part of the County that would have questionable coverage inside a specific type of building. The specific concerns would be underground or in tall buildings with lots of concrete or concrete factory type buildings, poultry buildings and school buildings should not be of any concern.

Questions:

J.B. Tieder (Taylors Island): How are calls tracked? Response: Departments would have a wallboard that displays calls and responses. Will pine trees pose a reception problem? No anticipated challenges with reception-system are being used in places similar to our location. There is a difference in the MHZ used and how the frequency scatters off of the needles. Is this proposed system in addition to or replacement for the existing voice system? The current voice system frequency will be turned down according to FCC regulations and it is anticipated that reception will be inconsistent and spotty. Is there intent to have both systems active for trial & error? There will be some overlap in systems and the decision will be up to locals regarding voice system. Mr. Tieder asked for a list of references of companies currently using the proposed system. What is the installation time? Mr. Dabbs noted that they can meet the August deadline because they utilize existing towers and infrastructure. Mr. Tieder noted that he would like to see existing system to stay in place for a period of time to see how narrow banding affects it. Councilman Newcomb noted that there will additional costs associated with maintenance of the old system.

Mike McWilliams (Church Creek): Has there been testing done in Dorchester County of this system. Response: No, however confident that the system will work. How many rural

companies are using this system? There are 77 agencies ranging from city and rural areas around the great lakes.

Jay Hastings (East New Market): Noted a concern of texting while driving. How does this system fit into any new laws regarding texting and driving? Response: Mr. Goldman will check to see how this text model fits in with new driving restrictions. How old is system? This is a new system using 20 year old technology. Representative noted that it is never going to be the "I phone" however it is incredibly reliable. Who is using the system near us? City of Richmond and Johns Hopkins Medical System are currently using the system. The closest fire company using it is in New York. Will there be reimbursement to fire companies for their existing system? Councilman Newcomb noted that they should look for other companies to sell the system to. Is the Council going to consider the Fire Chiefs input? When will decision be made? Councilman Newcomb noted that Chiefs opinion would be considered but they would need feedback by April 9 because costs have to be included in the FY 2014 budget that must be introduced to the public on April 16th. Council agreed to hold a work session on April 9th with Fire Chiefs to get their feedback.

Wayne Cook (Vienna): What is the cost of the system that is proposed? Is it all inclusive? Response: The quote of \$500,000 is all inclusive. Is there turn- key testing and is there training? Response: there will be testing and training. What is the annual cost of maintaining the system? What is the life of the System? Response: Annual cost of maintaining the system is about 5% of the system cost. There are varying costs depending on the level of maintenance, example: 18K annually for level 1 and 30K annually for level 2. System life is guaranteed for 10 years but has much longer life. Where are the facts coming from? FCC has documented the reduction in frequency-Dorchester County asked for and received an extension of the date in which they would be ready with an alternative. What is the cost per unit to the local department? There are 500 units included in the proposal which is more than enough. Representative will email specifics to Mr. Goldman. Will this be bid? There are not many companies out there and there are currently two bids proposed. Mr. Cook commented on the fact that we do not have reliable cell phone service and wondering if anyone has looked at enhancement in voice services by improving cell service. Mr. Cook has suggested work group to explore. Mr. Newcomb noted the time line imposed of August 2013 to comply with FCC requirements and granted extension.

Bob Phillips (Rescue Fire Co.): Is voice included? FCC has made changes making voice challenging. Mr. Dabbs noted that they have not found anything with voice that first responders are happy with. Are you familiar with our 911 center? Yes, this system would be in line with the current operations of the 911 center.

Scott Betts (Lakes & Straits): We will have to hear every call? No, can program for different sounds or silent for each company.

Clay Pepper, citizen: Does system show names of responders? Yes.

Norman Warrell (Eldorado/Brookview): How are updates handled? All systems will be updated via USB plug automatically through computer. Are TV's included? Yes, will need internet access which is not included.

Paul Osheske (President, Fireman's Association): How visible are they in sunlight? They can very easily be read in sunlight

Calvin Secrist (East New Market): Are pagers waterproof? No, it is water resistant and designed to withstand 3 ft. drops. Is there a waterproof model? Yes, there is a waterproof model that is much more expensive and we have found that the repair rate is not high.

Mr. Goldman noted that the benefits to this system are it is completely independent with two separate controllers in separate locations. He also noted that although there had been no test of this system that the Motorola test showed very poor results. Mr. Goldman will provide Fire Chiefs with a copy of the maps and results of the test from Motorola.

Councilman Newcomb asked all technical questions go to Jeremy Goldman and council agreed to a vote to convene a work session with the volunteer fire departments on April 9, 2013 at 6 pm in Room 110 of the County Office Building.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

TRAFFIC SAFETY REFERRAL – VINCENT ROAD

Council agreed to refer this issue to the Traffic Safety Committee.

Request from Rusty Ebersbacher - Permission for farmers during harvest time to turn off Route 50 onto Vincent Rd east of Linkwood Volunteer Fire Department. Road is restricted to truck traffic normally.

REQUEST FOR LETTER FOR ADDITIONAL CDBG FUNDING FOR SALVATION ARMY SHELTER RENOVATION

Council agreed to submit the letter of support to request for additional funds.

DHCD has offered this additional \$100,000 in funding based on tour of facility. A letter of request from the county is required. It will be an Amendment to the current \$70,000 grant.

CIRCUIT COURT FLOORING PROPOSAL

Council agreed to accept letter. Councilman Newcomb stated that legal council accepted the letter. Legal counsel stated it is perfect. The letter is for the installation of carpet tiles over defective tile flooring at no cost by Mr. Peters of B&B flooring.

REQUEST TO BID- MAPLE DAM CULVERT REPLACEMENT

Council agreed to the request from Tom Moore, Director of DPW to go to bid for the replacement of twin 60" culvert pipes. County to supply pipe, supply and haul fill dirt, haul and dispose. Contractor will supply stone bedding, install pipe, backfill and final repairs to roadway and shoulders. Mr. Moore stated it looks like we will be getting the FEMA funding for it. Replacement is the same as was done in Linkwood.

RFP'S- WETLAND MITIGATION SITE MONITORING & COMPLIANCE

Council agreed to waive bids and accept Director Moore's sole source recommendation from KCE Engineering for \$18,072.56 for a monitoring and maintenance plan of the County Mitigation Bank.

Bank is 4.5 acres of tidal wetlands and 7.6 acres of non-tidal wetlands. The State decided it is not compliant and are requiring a monitoring and maintenance plan for restoration of bank be provided as a condition for future use of the bank. Two current permits we have; one in Hoopersville and one in down in Hoopers Island. They want us to use that wetland bank or pay into the mitigation fund which would be \$39,000. Need contractor to survey the area soon or will have to wait until next year. Have 2 prices so far, KCE who is doing the design work for capping of landfill and other is MES who is lead engineer on capping the landfill. We have not gone out and gotten bids. We could do that or agree to amend the current contracts. Councilman Travers asked if Mr. Moore believed that the low bid is reasonable. Mr. Moore stated we started at \$50,000 originally then MES changed some things and got it down to \$25,000 and now we have the quote for KCE for \$18,000.

It is budgeted in 2013-14 but cost will be higher if not done in spring. The work is beyond County staff capabilities it is survey and wetland delineation work. The work would start before mid-May. Per Mr. Moore some capital funding is available in the DPW budget. But Mr. Moore would like to keep that for trailer. Mr. Moore stated we need to move forward either with more bids or to accept the low bid. Mr. Moore is to work with Mike Spears to identify savings on other budget items and then a line item budget transfer will have to be done at year end.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE RFP TO REPLACE REZNOR HEATER UNIT AT DETENTION CENTER

Council agreed to the request from Warden Steve Mills to advertise an RFP to replace heater is in one of the inmate housing units.

REQUEST TO SOLE SOURCE- PROFESSIONAL EVALUATION SERVICES FOR HEALTH ENTERPRISE ZONE PROJECT

Council agreed to the request from Roger Harrell, Director of DCHD to sole source the Evaluator position to Linda Walls of Just Cause Consulting. Ms. Walls participated in the grant application process and has an excellent track record with a solid knowledge base of our local conditions.

Councilman Price questioned why Federalsburg was included in the grant proposal. Mr. Harrell stated Federalsburg was included in data had from State health department health disparity zip codes and they fit right up in Hurlock and carried into Caroline County. Stated that the amount that Federalsburg is getting is a very low, the HEZ grant for Dorchester County is \$1.2 million per year for 4 years. One of the Programs that the grant will fund is a mobile crisis mental health team. The data presented itself well for need by including Federalsburg. Lt Gov will be here in early May for a formal local kick off. This is real kudos for Dorchester County.

REQUEST TO USE CHRIST ROCK PARK FOR CYCLING EVENT FIRST AID STATION

Council agreed to the request from Susan Luby, Exec Director of Character Counts to use Christ Rock Park during the 6 Pillars Century ride, May 4th from 10 am to 4 pm. There will be 1 tent and some tables. According to the letter from Character Counts, Scott Eberspacher, Director Recreation and Parks has been consulted and agreed as long as they stay on the parking lot and not drive on the grass.

REQUEST FOR DONATION OF PROPERTY 706 LINCOLN TERRACE FOR MUSEUM

Council approved a motion to defer this agenda item to the next meeting on April 16, 2013. Legal counsel noted we are not going to do this at our expense. Councilman Nichols expressed need for more information.

The request is from Roberta (RJ) Wongus for the county to donate the property to the museum to be used as a victory garden. Per Mike Spears, Finance Director, the county foreclosed on property after failure of property to sell at 2009 tax sale. Liens total \$6162.45 most of which is due to Cambridge for demolition. Only \$21.84 is county lien. Appraised value is \$2200. Other foreclosure costs incurred total \$1788.64. Ms. Wongus indicated a small purchase offer might be available at \$200.

REQUEST FOR FUNDING CONTRIBUTION – 2013 SUMMER NATURAL RESOURCES CAMP

Council agreed to make a donation of \$250 as requested from Dale Brown of the Soil Conservation District for The Land & Water Connection camp. Donation is needed due to the RC&D dissolution. Donation is to help offset camp expenses. Council expressed need to find the funding in the current budget.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Council agreed to appoint Wylie Gray, Jr. to the Recreation and parks board. Recreation and Parks Board – Board voted to submit the name of Wylie Gray, Jr. to replace Lindsey Agee. Mr. Gray is Dorchester resident and has been a Pop Warner coach for many years. He has expressed interest to several board members.

TELEPHONE POLL CONFIRMATIONS

In the interim between meetings Council, by means of a poll, took the following action(s):

- 1- Agreed to attend a dinner meeting with the Cambridge City Council on Wednesday April 10, 2013 at 6 pm, by a 3 to 1 vote with 1 abstention.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bruce Coulson of Taylors Island asked if county will accept digital scan as proof of purchase for the purpose of beer & wine invoices. Council will check with Mike Spears, Finance Director and will let him know.

Wayne Cook, Vienna stated he had seen on his Motorola voice pager that the paramedic from Vienna has been coming to the City of Cambridge. Asked why when there is a unit in Madison and one in Trappe? Council directed question to Jeremy Goldman, Director of Emergency Services who stated he will have to do some digging but lately there have been some equipment issues so some moves have been to replace units but not aware of movement in the way Mr. Cook was describing. No ALS coverage when we do these moves. Mr. Goldman will look into it per Councilman Newcomb.

Ray Shelly, Cambridge thanked County Commissioners for a very nice, job well done on the Checker Tournament for the American Checker Federation. 6 people from Dorchester went to Pennsylvania. Council sent over Councilman Bradshaw and he did a fantastic job. If we get tables in the parks and he will bring the chess and checker players to come to the county and they will come spend money.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Price discussed that the legislative committee meetings for MACO have pretty much concluded. He stated that the Treasurer Nancy Cobb spoke of having had some problems with investments on Capitol Hill and the trickle-down effect that has on the state. The Comptroller Peter Franchot noted that the 3 day suspension of sales tax helped in increasing sales of appliances. Possibility of being called again.

Councilman Bradshaw said he was glad to see the Bay Cabinet come tonight. It was our initiative that got them here. That the \$87 million proposed on WIP options can be whittled down greatly. It is not a one size fits all approach. The Clean Chesapeake Coalition made the Conowingo Dam something that can no longer be ignored. He hopes they keep their word to come and help and offset costs and limits on landowner rights. Potatoes are going strong, plastic is being laid for watermelons, things are hopping and the manure is smelling sweet in Reeds Grove.

Councilman Newcomb stated we just received a notice of increased fire danger for tomorrow. Mr. Goldman stated high winds and extremely low humidity.

Councilman Bradshaw stated that Governor O'Malley should listen to what Comptroller Franchot has to say regarding fiscal responsibility. He also stated he is very concerned with the gun legislation. He would like to see this Council pass a resolution stating they will not spend county dollars on federal and state law enforcement coming here to enforce laws that violate the 2nd amendment rights.


Council agreed to go schedule a work session with the volunteer fireman's association next week, April 9, 2013 at 6 pm.

Councilman Newcomb stated that when he went to the meeting at the Board of Public Works on March 20th that Comptroller Franchot was very concerned about the Board of Education not approving the Charter school and he asked that the Council relay his concerns to the Board of Education. Council agreed to send a letter to the Board of Education relaying Mr. Franchot's comments.


Councilman Newcomb noted that a budget work session will be held on, Thursday, April 4, 2013, a dinner meeting with the city council on April 10, 2013 and that the next regularly scheduled meeting is on April 16, 2013.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.


ATTEST:


Jane Baynard, County Manager
Mike Spears, Finance Director

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:


Jay E. Newcomb, President


William V. Nichols, Vice President


Ricky Travers


Rick Price


Tom Bradshaw

Approved the 16th day of April, 2013.