

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2014

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on April 1, 2014 with the following members present: Present were Jay L. Newcomb, President; Ricky Travers; Rick Price and Tom Bradshaw. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, and Donna Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist.

REGULAR SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned from a Regular Session and convened in a closed Executive Session pursuant to 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 Bradshaw led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

The Council acknowledged that an ATM lease renewal request from the State Employees Credit Union was added to the agenda after publication. The Council agreed to add a request to advertise a Soil Conservation Grant Technician position to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- MARCH 18, 2014

The Council approved the minutes of March 18, 2014.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Newcomb reported total cash and investments as \$6,773,696.44.

EXECUTIVE SESSION SUMMARY

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in an Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. on April 1, 2014 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.

Action taken at the closed session: 1) approved request of Soil Conservation Director to fill a Grant Planner vacancy with an existing employee by a 3 to 0 vote-agreed to consider a request to advertise the resulting vacancy in open session; 2) approved request of Public Works Director to hire an individual to fill a vacant Public Works Maintenance Specialist Position by a 3 to 0 vote; 3) received an update on Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge; 4) discussed with legal counsel an emergency medical services billing issue-requested additional information; 5) held consultation with legal counsel regarding Special Legal Counsel opinion; 6) deferred discussions regarding offers to purchase two County owned properties acquired at tax sale; 7) discussed the potential sale of County owned property; and 8) considered the renewal of a lease for space at the Airport.

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 VICTIM'S RIGHTS WEEK

The Council presented a proclamation declaring April 6 through April 12, 2014 as Crime Victim's Rights Week that William Jones, State's Attorney, accepted. Brett Wilson, Circuit Court Judge, and Corey Pack, Field Supervisor I of the Maryland Division of Community Supervision, were also in attendance.

PROCLAMATION-FAIR HOUSING MONTH-APRIL 2014

The Council presented a proclamation declaring April 2014 as Fair Housing Month which Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, accepted.

PROCLAMATION-COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH

The Council presented a proclamation declaring April 2014 as County Government Month.

MEETING WITH MUNICIPALITIES-TAX DIFFERENTIAL/REBATE

Councilman Newcomb said pursuant to State law, the Council is required to meet annually with municipal representatives to discuss any tax differential or rebate to be established in the County's proposed budget prior to being adopted. He referenced the Council's March 18, 2014 request to legal counsel to prepare legislation to suspend the County's excise tax for a two year period which is scheduled for introduction on April 15, 2014 and its desire to discuss at this meeting, the possible suspension of all municipal impact fees in conjunction with that potential suspension. He encouraged the municipal representatives in attendance to provide any information or concerns they have regarding their municipalities or the County.

The following municipal representatives joined the meeting: Mayor Robert Herbert, Town of Church Creek; Susan Dukes, Council Member, Town of Secretary; Gage Thomas, Commissioner, City of Cambridge; Frank Cook, Commissioner, City of Cambridge; and Joyce Spratt, Mayor, and John Avery, Clerk/Treasurer, Town of Hurlock.

Robert Willey, Assistant Finance Director, said pursuant to Section 6-306 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland a County or City can provide a tax setoff to municipalities for the duplicative services rendered by those entities. He said that value of the tax setoff in FY15 is \$411,854. He explained that the citizens of the City of Cambridge and the Town of Hurlock will receive a tax differential while the remaining municipalities will receive rebate checks. In response to a question from Commissioner Thomas, Mr. Willey confirmed that the citizens of Cambridge and Hurlock will receive the tax differential in the form of a reduced real property tax rate.

In response to a question from Commissioner Thomas, Mr. Willey said tax savings are in the form of lower rates for Cambridge and Hurlock citizens, 93.20 cents and 92.85 cents respectively, whereas the rebates to municipalities range from \$425 to \$1,350. Commissioner Thomas noted that the City is responsible for providing the services and expressed his understanding that the Maryland Municipal League may seek an amendment during the next legislative session to change the authorizing tax differential/rebate legislation.

Mr. Willey stated that according a recent State of Maryland report three or four of the counties on the Eastern Shore do not provide a tax differential/rebate for the municipalities.

Commissioner Thomas advised that the City Commissioners agreed to move forward with an amendment to the City's Ordinance to waive impact fees for five years and would like the County Council to suspend the County's excise tax for the same amount of time. Councilman Newcomb said if the legislation to suspend the County's excise tax for a two year period is introduced on April 15, 2014 a public hearing will be held for public comment. He stressed that the Council is requesting that the municipalities in the County consider suspending impact fees for the same time period. He said they can respond either verbally or through written correspondence.

Ms. Dukes said the Secretary Town Council members conceptually agreed to suspend that municipalities' \$1,500 impact feet starting and ending with a County excise tax suspension and will make an official vote this evening.

Mr. Avery explained that the only impact fee charged in the Town of Hurlock is for service hook-up which was reduced recently from \$5,000 to \$2,000 and only needs to be paid if there is no existing service.

Mayor Herbert said the Town of Church Creek does not have an impact fee or an excise tax.

Ms. Dukes explained that the Town of Secretary recently received \$315,000 in grant funds which will be used to cover preliminary engineering costs for a new wastewater plant. She said once this engineering phase has been completed and a design has been selected the Town Council members will seek additional funds for construction. She stated that they are hopeful that the new plant will be operational by the end of 2016. She advised that work is also being conducted at the Town's boat ramp, noting that the marina portion of that facility is being renovated utilizing State grant funds. She further explained that Town officials are considering seeking grant funding for dredging in that area.

In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Ms. Dukes explained that the new waste water plant will continue to serve residents in Secretary and East New Market. She said the estimated total project cost is \$8.5 million.

Pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Newcomb, Mayor Herbert said Town officials still utilize Don Bradley as a Circuit Rider, noting that the cost for his service increased this past year. He expressed his appreciation for Council's past support of the Town of Church Creek. Mayor Herbert noted that the storm drain at the intersection in the municipality is beginning to collapse again and instead of repairing that area State Highway Administration staff are placing cold patch in the holes that are forming on the road surface. In response to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Mayor Herbert said he has met with a Department of Natural Resources representative about the old dirt

logging road which was built years ago which is clogging a ditch in that area and causing water runoff from the wooded area which is owned by the State; however, they have been unable to view the site until crops are harvested and the deer and turkey hunting seasons end. He explained that they have advised the property owner of the farmland on which the ditch is located that the Town will install a floodgate if he allows the ditch to be cleaned. At the request of Councilman Newcomb, Tom Moore, Public Works Director, said he will meet with the farmer.

The Council thanked the municipal representatives for attending this meeting and providing their comments.

DISCUSSION WITH MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES REPRESENTATIVES

Michael Sanderson, Executive Director and Tom Duncan, Talbot County Council Member and current President of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo), joined the Council to discuss with Council legislation introduced during the 2014 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session and MACo's involvement during this session.

Mr. Duncan noted that MACo's membership is comprised of the 23 counties in the State and Baltimore City and that each of those jurisdictions have one representative who sits on MACo's Legislative Committee. He stressed that each county and Baltimore City have one vote. He explained that MACo's focus is on State and not local issues, and that the committee members choose four major issues annually to pursue.

Mr. Sanderson said there are several pending items before the legislature including Governor Martin O'Malley's Supplemental Budget which includes \$10 million in funding referred to as "pothole emergency funding" that will be distributed to county governments to cover costs to repair winter road damage. He said the amount to be provided to Dorchester County is \$240,000. In response to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. Sanderson expressed his understanding that the funds will be distributed in the current fiscal year. Based on another inquiry from Councilman Newcomb, he said he will inquire as to whether those funds will have to be expended by June 30, 2014. Pursuant to a question posed by Councilman Travers, Mr. Sanderson said it is his understanding that the funds are to be used in the same manner as highway user revenues with an emphasis on surface treatments. He advised Council that he believes that the legislation to restore highway user revenues will not move forward during this legislative session in light of the Governor's action to provide this emergency funding. He stressed that seeking legislation in the future to restore highway user revenues is a high priority for both MACo and the Maryland Municipal League (MML) membership.

Mr. Sanderson stated that MACo and MML staff, on behalf of the local jurisdictions, is opposed to legislation that was introduced during the current legislative session which will establish growth areas around colleges. He explained that the bill will establish a Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise (RISE) Zone Program and, as currently written, allows College and University representatives to propose a zone and its goal and

boundaries to the Department of Business and Economic Development which will have final approval. He stressed that local government officials will not be allowed to provide any input prior to the designation of a RISE zone even though counties will have to provide a property tax credit for those business entities which locate in these zones.

Mr. Sanderson said MACo staff are seeking the passage of Senate Bill 973 which requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to create a new system to ensure early release for low risk individuals. He stated that this new system is necessary in light of the Maryland Court's ruling that defendants are entitled to representation by attorneys at their preliminary bail hearings before District Court Commissioners. He explained that this requirement places a financial burden on the Office of the Public Defender and State's Attorney's Offices who do not have sufficient funds to hire additional staff to attend bail hearings immediately upon notification of the detention of an individual. He said they are working with local Wardens who have expressed their concerns about their lack of structure and capacity to handle non-violent and no-risk defendants. He noted that a Senate bill passed which will require a District Court Commissioner to use an automated score card system instead of holding a hearing or judgment process; however, the House version varies from that bill and is still pending.

Mr. Sanderson said the Senate passed a budget proposal to limit funding for Program Open Space and other transfer tax funded programs, including agriculture land preservation; however, he believes it will not pass in light of the House Representatives' opposition.

He advised that one of MACo's 2014 legislative initiatives was the pursuit of legislation to expand the use of Bay Restoration Fund monies for the extension of public sewer to failing septic systems, which passed. He explained that other initiative was the pursuit of legislation to create a governance board for the Maryland FIRST statewide radio communication system which local jurisdictions can choose to participate in. He stated that this legislation also passed.

Mr. Sanderson said the State budget has not been adopted and that legislation to change the minimum wage has not yet passed. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Mr. Sanders expressed his belief that legislation to change the minimum wage to \$10.10 may pass, noting that the House passed a version which will raise it incrementally within a three year period while the Senate version proposed a four to five year phase-in process. Pursuant to additional inquires from Councilman Travers, Mr. Sanderson said there has been no decision to include a consumer price index increase and expressed his belief that this legislation may pass during the last legislative day which is Monday, April 7, 2014.

Councilman Bradshaw expressed concern about the decision to eliminate the Maryland State Police's participation in local drug task forces particularly since heroin abuse is rising in Dorchester County. He said it places a strain on local government and the local Sheriff's Office. Mr. Duncan expressed his understanding that this action is on hold until

December 31, 2014. Councilman Bradshaw stressed his understanding that drug trafficking is a problem in Dorchester County.

Mr. Sanderson advised Council that MACo representatives are working with elected officials in some of the local jurisdictions to establish a trust for post employee benefit obligations relating to health insurance which all member counties will be able to utilize.

Pursuant to a question posed by Councilman Price, Mr. Sanderson said there is legislation being considered during this legislative session which will slightly alter Maintenance of Effort calculations for local boards of education. He expressed his belief that MACo may pursue additional legislation to further change these requirements during the 2015 legislative session.

In response to inquiry from Councilman Price, Ms. Sanderson said it is his understanding that legislation to require that a study be conducted regarding the management and reduction of phosphorus pollution from agricultural sources in the State as well as an economic analysis of the costs and benefits of the use of a Phosphorus Management tool will not pass. He said instead funds have been allocated to the Department of Agriculture to conduct this study, which entity will have to perform in order to obtain full funding. Councilman Bradshaw noted that residents and farmers have expressed their opinion that the Department of Business and Economic Development staff should conduct the survey.

Mr. Duncan thanked Councilman Price for his participation on the MACo legislative committee as a Dorchester County's representative and the Council for its support of the organization.

The Council thanked Mr. Sanderson and Mr. Duncan for their assistance to Dorchester County.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

INTRODUCTION

AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND TO REPEAL AND REENACT SECTION 10-2(C) OF ARTICLE 10 OF THE CODE OF PUBLIC LAWS OF MARYLAND TO PROVIDE THAT COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN REELECTED AT THE PRIMARY ELECTION OF AN ELECTION YEAR MAY NOT CONTINUE TO INCUR EXPENSES AS A MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL AFTER SEPTEMBER 1ST OF SUCH ELECTION YEAR WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE DORCHESTER COUNTY MANAGER AND TO PROVIDE THAT A COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER WHO IS NOT REELECTED AT A NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION MAY NOT BE REIMBURSED BY THE COUNTY FOR EXPENSES INCURRED DURING THE TIME IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE GENERAL

ELECTION AND BEFORE THE NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY COUNCIL TAKES ITS OATH OF OFFICE WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE DORCHESTER COUNTY MANAGER.

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, explained that this proposed legislation is to repeal and reenact Section 10-2(c) of Article 10 of the Code of Public Laws of Maryland to provide that County Council members who have not been reelected at the Primary Election an election year may not continue to incur expenses as a member of the County Council after September 1st of such election year without prior written approval from the Dorchester County Manager and to provide that a County Council member who is not reelected at a November General election may not be reimbursed by the County for expenses incurred during the time immediately following the General Election and before the newly elected County Council takes its oath of office without prior written approval from the Dorchester County Manager.

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

INTRODUCTION

AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND TO REPEAL AND REENACT SECTION 10-8.3 OF ARTICLE 10 OF THE CODE OF PUBLIC LAWS OF MARYLAND TO PROVIDE THAT COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN REELECTED AT THE PRIMARY ELECTION OF AN ELECTION YEAR MAY NOT MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO COUNTY BOARDS AND/OR COMMITTEES AFTER SEPTEMBER 1ST OF SUCH ELECTION YEAR AND TO PROVIDE THAT A COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER WHO IS NOT REELECTED AT A NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION MAY NOT MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO COUNTY BOARDS AND/OR COMMITTEES DURING THE TIME IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE GENERAL ELECTION AND BEFORE THE NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY COUNCIL TAKES ITS OATH OF OFFICE.

Mr. Merryweather said this proposed legislation is to repeal and reenact Section 10-8.3 of Article 10 of the Code of Public Laws of Maryland to provide that County Council members who have not been reelected at the Primary Election in an election year may not make appointments to county boards and/or committees after September 1st of such election year and to provide that a County Council member who is not reelected at a November General Election may not make appointments to County boards and/or committees during the time immediately following the general election and before the newly elected County Council takes its oath of office.

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

The Council adjourned into Regular Session.

REGULAR SESSION

MANAGERS COMMENTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AMENDMENT- PROJECT COMPLETION DATE EXTENSION-SALVATION ARMY-GRANT MONITOR

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, on behalf of the Salvation Army, to amend the Community Development Block Grant, No. MD-13-CD-5, provided to this entity for the renovation of its existing homeless shelter facility by extending the project completion date to December 4, 2014 to provide the local Salvation Army staff ample time to follow corporate procedural requirements. In response to questions from Councilman Newcomb, Ms. Smith said the bid opening was conducted today and that the bids submitted were within the budgeted amount of the project.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION GRANT APPLICATION-SCHOOL BUS SAFETY ENFORCEMENT-SHERIFF'S OFFICE-GRANT MONITOR

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to submit a Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention Grant application under the School Bus Safety Enforcement Program for FY15 funding in the amount of \$24,500, with no local match, which will be utilized to cover overtime pay for deputies to follow school buses and issues citations for those drivers failing to stop when a school bus is loading or unloading passengers. The Council acknowledged that the grant period is July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

MID SHORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATION REQUEST- INCUBATOR FACILITY-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-GRANT MONITOR

A motion was made to approve the request of Ms. Smith to submit a grant application to the Mid-Shore Community Foundation for funds in the amount of \$300,000 to cover costs for the construction of the proposed incubator facility with Councilmen Price and Bradshaw opposing. Councilman Price said he wants to remain consistent with his prior opposition to this project due to the current economic climate and future projected costs. Since the vote was two to two, Council agreed that a vote should be obtained by Councilman Nichols, who was unable to attend this meeting.

BID AWARD-COURT HOUSE SECURITY FENCE-CIRCUIT COURT-PUBLIC WORKS

Pursuant to the recommendation of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, the Council Council agreed to award the bid to Long Fence Company, the lowest bidder, to install a security fence around the Circuit Court House parking area at the cost of \$47,935.44 with funds from the Circuit Court budget. The Council acknowledged that this project includes the installation of 394 feet of six foot high steel ornamental fence, one automatic vehicle gate and one personnel gate and twenty button remotes (visor mounted or mini w/key ring) for the vehicle gate and installation of a Reed Security fob reader on the

locking personnel gate. The Council further acknowledged that the funding for this project includes \$26,490.18 in Administrative Office of the Courts grant funding which must be expended by June 30, 2014 and \$21,445.26 from the County's Transfer Tax Fund. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. Moore said a battery back-up system will also be installed.

NORTH HANGAR LEASE RENEWALS-TUDOR FARMS-DAVID W. NICKERSON-AIRPORT-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to renew the following leases for a portion of the North Hangar at the Cambridge Dorchester Regional Airport for a five year period, until February 2019 with annual increases of approximately three percent: 1) between the County Council and Tudor Farms for 4,500 square feet of the 14,000 square feet; and 2) between the County Council and David W. Nickerson for 2,500 square feet. The Council acknowledged that the State of Maryland leases the remaining 7,000 square feet.

LAND LEASE AGREEMENT-MARYLAND SKYDIVING CENTER, INC.-AIRPORT-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to execute a land lease agreement with Maryland Skydiving Center, Inc. for the placement of an office trailer near the Old Paint Hangar for their use to operate their tandem skydiving business for a five year period, until April 2019, which includes annual increases of approximately five percent. The Council acknowledged that Maryland Skydiving Center, Inc. must obtain aviation liability and general premise liability insurance and will include Dorchester County as an additional insured party. Additionally, the Council recognized that the County, County Council and Airport Manager will be included as released parties on the waiver form that will be executed by all participants prior to skydiving.

REQUEST TO WAIVE BIDS AND PURCHASE REPLACEMENT SIDE FLAIL MOWER-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to waive bids and purchase from Rathell's Farm Equipment Co., Inc. a replacement cutter head for the Side Flail Mower (Unit No. 652) at the cost of \$7,000 and to charge this cost to the Public Works account for Stone Stabilization under the Patching line item. The Council acknowledged that the \$8,000 budgeted for this line item is still available.

DISCUSSION-ROOSTER ISLAND-PUBLIC WORKS

Based on discussions the Council had with Mr. Moore during its March 27, 2014 budget work session, the Council agreed to send correspondence to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and federal delegation requesting that the Army Corps fund the latest Rooster Island Restoration Project in its entirety as the proposed necessary reconstruction is a result of design deficiencies from the original project. Council also agreed to ask that any

additional work be placed on holding pending the Army Corps response to this request in order to limit any additional exposure.

OTHER

Councilman Newcomb noted that the Council sent a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2013, supporting the maintenance dredging of the Tar Bay Channel and have not received any response from that entity nor from the Senators Barbara Mikulski and Cardin and Congressman Harris who were copied on the correspondence. Mr. Moore stated that he recently spoke to Robert Blama, Project Manager, Army Corps, who explained that in the past funds were allocated to each district and after larger ports were dredged, the local office made the decision on how to expend the remaining funds. He further explained that currently all dredging projects nationwide, including port projects, compete for funding and that in order to be considered a port must annually move 100,000 tons of commerce. He said the Kent Island channel does not meet this criterion and that only two ports in Maryland, in Baltimore and in Salisbury, qualify under this definition. Mr. Moore said the Army Corps performed maintenance dredging of this channel in 2003 and 2009 and that a site has been identified for the placement of the spoils. He advised that Mr. Blama suggested that the Council seek assistance from the federal delegation regarding this matter. In response to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. Moore said the estimated cost to dredge the Tar Bay Channel is \$2.5 million and that there is no local share.

Councilman Newcomb noted that local watermen on Hoopers Island use the Tar Bay Channel, which is silting in and is in need of dredging, as a main thoroughfare to the Chesapeake Bay. He said without this access they will need to travel additional miles to reach the Bay via the Honga River.

The Council agreed to send correspondence to Senator Mikulski, Senator Cardin and Congressman Harris requesting their assistance in obtaining the Army Corps' concurrence to include the dredging of the Tar Bay Channel as part of its maintenance dredging program.

TRAVEL REQUEST-DETENTION CENTER

The Council approved the request of Steve Mills, Warden, for senior Staff and himself to attend the Maryland Correctional Administrator's Association Conference (MCAA) in Ocean City from June 1 through June 3, 2014 at the cost of \$750 (\$150 per person, five individuals), which will be paid from the Detention Center budget under the mileage and conference line item.

FY15 SEMI-ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT SERVICES FEE APPROVAL REQUEST- FINANCE

Based on the recommendation of Michael Spears, Finance Director, the Council agreed to retain the current semi-annual property service fee, which is added to the second semi-

annual property tax payment, at \$0.31%, based upon current market rates earned through invested funds. The Council recognized that this fee is designed to offset lost interest income which resulted when the State replaced annual payments with semi-annual tax payments.

SPECIAL EVENTS AGREEMENT-YMCA 2014 DORCHESTER COUNTY CRAB RUN/5K & HALF MARATHON-SHERIFF'S OFFICE-FINANCE

Pursuant to the request of Robert Willey, Assistant Finance Director, the Council agreed to execute a Special Events Agreement between the Dorchester County YMCA, the County Council and the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office to provide public safety services for the 2014 Dorchester County Crab Run/5K & Half Marathon to be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014 from 7 a.m. to noon. The Council acknowledged that pursuant to this agreement the public safety services to be provided by the Sheriff's Office include six Sheriff's Office vehicles and six deputies. Pursuant to clarification from Mr. Willey that the fee is calculated at an overtime rate on the average deputy salary, the Council agreed to pay deputies who volunteer for these events at an overtime rate regardless of whether a deputy reaches the 171 hour/28 day overtime threshold.

FY15 GRANT APPLICATION REQUESTS

National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network-Public Kayak Launch

The Council approved the request of Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, to submit a FY 2015 National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network grant for funds in the amount of \$100,000 to complete a public kayak launch onto the Nanticoke River in the Town of Vienna and to provide an access point to the National Park Service John Smith National Water Trail. The Council also agreed to send a letter of support for this grant application. The Council acknowledged that the cash match is comprised of a \$100,000 matching grant from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, which is pending.

Maryland Humanities Council-Documentary Video-Canneries/Packing Houses in Dorchester County-Tourism

The Council approved the request of Ms. Fenstermaker to submit a FY 2015 Maryland Humanities Council grant in the amount of \$10,000 with a \$5,000 cash match from the Tourism budget and an in-kind match of \$5,000, to hire a professional film crew to create a short documentary video regarding the canneries and packing houses in the County from oral histories and interviews with the people who worked in them. The Council also agreed to send a letter of support for this grant application.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE-VACANT GRANT TECHNICIAN POSITION-SOIL CONSERVATION

The Council approved the request of Dale Brown, District Manager, Soil Conservation, to advertise a vacant Grant Technician Position for Soil Conservation in-house and in a local news publication(s) concurrently.

ATM LEASE RENEWAL REQUEST-STATE EMPLOYMENT CREDIT UNION

The Council agreed to execute an amendment to the ATM lease agreement dated December 29, 2003 between Dorchester County and State Employees Credit Union of Maryland to extend the lease for a one year period to March 29, 2015 at same monthly rate of \$250.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Non District Appointments

The Council agreed to reappoint Valerie Brown, a Realtor, to the Economic Development Advisory Council for one year and acknowledged that her term will expire in June 2015.

District Appointments

Based on a motion made by Councilman Travers, the Council reappointed Wendell Foxwell as the District 3 representative on the Council for Senior Citizens Services for a three year term which will expire on July 1, 2017.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

In response to an inquiry from Les Simering, resident, Mr. Moore confirmed that the leases the Council renewed for the space at the Airport included a rent increase.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Price encouraged the public and local watermen to attend public hearing on the proposed oyster restoration project in the Little Choptank River on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Cambridge-South Dorchester High School, which is being held by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Maryland Department of Environment. Councilman Bradshaw also encouraged attendance at this public hearing expressing concern about the proposed use of out-of-state fossilized oyster shell in local waterways.

Councilman Newcomb announced that the last budget work session will be held on April 3, 2014 and that the next County Council meeting was scheduled for April 15, 2014.

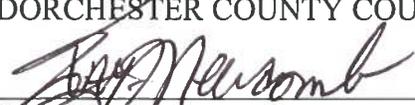
With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST



Jane Baynard, County Manager
Donna FLane
Executive Administrative Specialist

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:



Jay L. Newcomb, President

abstained

William V. Nichols, Vice President



Ricky Travers



Rick Price



Tom Bradshaw

Approved the 15th day of April, 2014.