

**County Council of Dorchester County**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**April 21, 2015**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on April 21, 2015 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, Acting County Manager; 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 Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, pursuant to §3-305(b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; pursuant to §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; pursuant to §3-305(b)(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 agreed to add the following items to the agenda: the appointment of an Acting Airport Manager; a discussion regarding the Airport Expansion Apron project; and a commitment letter for a Maryland Technology Development Corporation loan for the incubator facility.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES- APRIL 7, 2015**

The Council approved the minutes of April 7, 2015.

**APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS**

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

## FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$6,737,011.60.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION SUMMARY

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in an Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. on April 21, 2015 in a closed session at Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland, pursuant to Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code pursuant to §3-305(b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; pursuant to §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; pursuant to §3-305(b)(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 below.

Action taken at the closed session: 1) approved request of the Public Works Director to reclassify and transfer an employee from the Highway Division to the Landfill Division by a 4 to 0 vote with 1 vote via written proxy; 2) approved the request of the Public Works Director to change a vacant Motor Equipment Operator IV position in the Landfill Division to a MEO III by a 5 to 0 vote and to hire an individual to fill that position by a 4 to 1 vote; 3) approved the request of the Public Works Director to approve a job description for an Airport Manager with an amendment by a 5 to 0 vote; 4) approved the request of the Warden to restructure a position and reclassify an employee by a 5 to 0 vote; 5) discussed legal requirements regarding the Airport Manager position –agreed to discuss in open session; 6) agreed to hire individuals as temporary employees for the Planning and Zoning Department and Airport by a 5 to 0 vote; 7) discussed a request to acquire a County property obtained via tax sale; 8) discussed with legal counsel a matter relating to a County owned property; 9) discussed with legal counsel a matter regarding the incubator facility; 10) discussed with legal counsel an item relating to the possible assumption of a property; and 11) discussed with legal counsel an item regarding a proposed Airport project-agreed to discuss in open session.

The above information is being provided to the public pursuant to and in compliance with Section §3-306(b) and (c) of Title 3 of the General Provisions Article.

## **REGULAR SESSION**

### **COMMENDATION-NORTH DORCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL PLAY PARTICIPANTS**

The Council presented a Commendation to cast and crew of the North Dorchester High School Play entitled "Mary Poppins."

### **COMMENDATION- EMILY MADDOX-TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

The Council presented a Commendation to Emily Maddox for being named Dorchester County's Teacher of the Year 2015-2016.

### **PROCLAMATION-COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH**

Councilman Price read a proclamation declaring April 2015 as County Government Month.

## **LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

### **AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING: 2015-2016 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF DORCHESTER COUNTY**

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said this legislation is to adopt the County budget consisting of an Operating Budget, the Capital Budget and the Grant Budget, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 and appropriating funds for all expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016. Councilman Travers said the proposed FY16 budget does not include an increase in real property taxes.

The Council agreed to proceed with publication of a public hearing on this matter. The Council acknowledged that public hearings on the budget will be held on May 5, 2015 and May 12, 2015 and a legislative public hearing will be held on May 19, 2015, after which the Council will consider the adoption of the budget.

**AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND TO REPEAL THE DWELLING UNIT FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS EXEMPTION PROVIDED FOR IN CHAPTER 65, ENTITLED BUILDING CODE ARTICLE IV, INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE SECTION 65-6(Y) IN THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE ACT DOES NOT APPLY TO BUILDING PERMITS FOR ONE AND TWO FAMILY DWELLINGS FILED ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2015.**

Mr. Merryweather explained that this legislation will repeal the dwelling unit fire sprinkler systems exemption provided for in Chapter 65, entitled "Building Code",

Article IV, International Residential Code, Section 65-6(Y) in the Dorchester County Code and to provide that the Act does not apply to building permits for one and two family dwellings filed on or before June 30, 2015. He explained that pursuant to State law, local jurisdictions can no longer opt of the sprinkler requirement.

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

AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY MARYLAND PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF SECTION 10-202 AND SECTION 10-206 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 63 ENTITLED "BURIAL SITES PRESERVATION" TO THE DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND CODE TO PROVIDE FOR DORCHESTER THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF BURIAL SITES, CEMETERIES, BURIAL GROUNDS AND FUNERARY OBJECTS IN DORCHESTER COUNTY, INCLUDING TREES, SHRUBS AND, PLANTINGS LOCATED THEREAT. NOTHING IN THIS CHAPTER SHALL PRECLUDE THE ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF TREES, SHRUBS, AND PLANTINGS LOCATED AT BURIAL SITES, CEMETERIES, OR BURIAL GROUNDS.

Mr. Merryweather noted that this legislation adds a new Chapter 63, entitled "Burial Sites Preservation" to the County Code to provide for the protection and preservation of burial sites, cemeteries, burial grounds and funerary objects in Dorchester County, including trees, shrubs and plantings at those sites. He said he utilized recently adopted legislation passed in Howard County and Caroline County to prepare the draft bill.

Councilman Bradshaw explained that this legislation will allow the Council to set up a volunteer Board of at least five members, who will have the ability to record burial sites in the Land Records. He further explained that if damage occurs, it can be reported to the Board who can then address the matter. He said there are State laws regarding burial site protection and preservation and this legislations provides Dorchester County local authority.

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

The Council reconvened into Regular Session.

## **REGULAR SESSION**

### **UPDATE-EASTERN SHORE LAND CONSERVANCY**

Amy Owsley, Deputy Director, said Katie Parks, Center for Towns Director, Brian Ambrette, Coastal Resilience Specialist, and herself are present to provide the Council information regarding the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) and its programs. Ms. Parks provided the Council a packet of information on ESLC. Ms. Owsley said their vision for the Eastern Shore in 2050 is that towns are vibrant and well defined, that farms, forests and fisheries are thriving, and beautiful landscapes are maintained. She

noted that their mission is to preserve and sustain the communities of the Eastern Shore and the lands and waters that connect them.

Ms. Owsley advised that ESLC, a 503(c) non-profit organization which was established in 1990 consists of 17 staff, 32 board members, has approximately 1,200 supporters, and a budget of approximately \$1.6 million. She said the majority of its funding is garnered through grants and donations. She noted that there are currently three ESLC offices: a main office in Queenstown, an Environmental Education Center in Kennedyville and a temporary office in Easton. She explained that ESLC will be moving into a combined office in Easton in August.

Ms. Owsley stated that the main focus of ESLC is land conservation and to that end staff has assisted landowners from Cecil County to Dorchester County to protect their land and continues to seek additional funding from the federal and state government for this purpose. She said they have protected an estimated 57,000 acres of which approximately 12,000 acres are in Dorchester County. She explained they also try to influence policy, at the federal and state level and through the Regional Economic Development Council to ensure the availability of funding. Ms. Owsley further explained that in the past ESLC has worked with County staff and elected officials on planning and zoning issues including assisting with the comprehensive plan process. She noted that several years ago they also worked in conjunction with County representatives and residents to halt the Mid Atlantic Power Pathway project. She referenced the Eastern Shore Planning Conference ESLC holds every year, at which issues affecting the region are discussed. She said the focus of last years' conference, for which there were over 225 attendees, was the future of farming and how to strengthen that industry on the Eastern Shore.

Mr. Ambrette advised that the Sassafras Environmental Center in Kent County, is led by the former Congressman Wayne Gilchrest, whose goal is to integrate outdoor education and ecology into the school system. He explained that this also assists schools in meeting the State's environmental literacy standards. He stated that each year former Congressman Gilchrest exposes about 1,000 students in Kent and Queen Anne's County to natural resource based career opportunities on the Eastern Shore.

He explained that a year and a half ago, due to the level of interest in the Planning Conference entitled "The Unsinkable Eastern Shore," at which sea level rise and flooding was discussed, ESLC established the Coastal Resilience Program. Mr. Ambrette said according to a recent survey 64% of individuals on the Eastern Shore support local government action to combat flooding, coastal hazards and sea level rise. He stated that their goal is to provide local governments and communities technical assistance so they can do resilience planning. He advised that ESLC staff are working with City of Cambridge representatives on the Cambridge Creek sustainable working waterfront project. He said they are also looking for other opportunities to assist municipalities and counties in preparing for long term risks associated with flooding.

Ms. Parks referenced her transition from the Maryland Department of Transportation to ESLC. She explained that the Center for Towns is a program within ESLC with a goal of

building strong towns that are well defined and vibrant. Ms. Parks said, the Town Learning Center, focuses on building local capacity through educational opportunities, information sharing, and through community design projects. She noted that these projects often include green infrastructure. She explained that ESLC concentrates on community land projects such as trails, parks, open space and gardens.

Ms. Parks referenced the portfolio the Council was provided which features projects in Dorchester County. She explained that ESLC staff, in conjunction with City of Cambridge representatives, prepared designs for Maryland Avenue to attract motorists from Route 50 into the downtown commercial district, which included green infrastructure. She said the initial work was funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and that the City of Cambridge leveraged an additional \$1 million of funds for project implementation. Ms. Parks advised that: 1) the first phase of the project is 90% complete; 2) plantings, gardens and bicycle lanes are to be completed in the Spring; and, 3) in May construction will commence on two additional blocks.

She said State, County, City and non-profit funds were utilized to acquire the 6.6 acre property known as Cannery Park in Cambridge, which will be used as an urban park. She said this is a great example of multi-level collaboration and cooperation to advance priorities within a municipality. She commended the Council for contributing funds for this purchase.

Ms. Parks noted that another featured project is the Friendship Park in the Town of East New Market. She said ESLC personnel worked with Town representatives to develop a community vision process, which included public outreach and provided assistance in obtaining municipal financing to acquire the property and buildings. She stated that one of the items identified by residents was their interest in having a park in the core of the Town. She explained that the Town's plans for the park include: 1) creating a community garden, dog park, children's play area and walking trails; 2) using small plots of land for farming; and, 3) holding a farmers market on the property.

Ms. Parks stated that one of the goals of the Center for Towns is to focus on using underutilized buildings. She said a \$7.6 million project to renovate a warehouse in the Town of Easton is currently underway, which once completed will become the ESLC Conservation Center and will house that entity as well as other partner organizations. She said she looks forward to continuing ESLC's relationship with the Council.

Ms. Owsley said she is proud of the partnership between the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy and Dorchester County and they looks forward to continue to provide resources to the Council to protect land, to bring in more jobs and hold onto the existing culture.

The Council thanked Ms. Owsley, Mr. Ambrette and Ms. Parks for providing an overview and update of the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy and its programs.

## **MANAGERS COMMENTS**

### **ACCEPTANCE OF BID FOR TAX SALE PROPERTY/RESOLUTION- MODIFICATION OF PRICE**

The Council recognized its January 20, 2015 acceptance of the offer of Lisa Marshall to purchase 3723 Ocean Gateway, Linkwood for \$950, which the County acquired at tax sale. The Council also recognized its February 3, 2015 adoption of Resolution No. 564 accepting a purchase price of \$975 for this property. The Council confirmed that the sale price for this property was \$950.

### **FORMAL ADOPTION OF NAME-INCUBATOR FACILITY-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Council approved the request of Keasha Haythe, Economic Development Director, to formally adopt the name "Eastern Shore Innovation Center" for the incubator facility to be built in the Dorchester Regional Technology Park.

### **FY16 CRITICAL AREA GRANT AGREEMENT ACCEPTANCE/EXECUTION- PLANNING AND ZONING**

The Council approved the request of Steve Dodd, Planning and Zoning Director, to accept and execute a FY16 Critical Area Grant Agreement between the County and the State of Maryland Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays for funding in the amount of \$13,000, which will cover a portion of the cost for the Environmental Planner position in the Planning and Zoning Department. The Council acknowledged that the grant will expire on June 30, 2016.

### **RENEWAL OF FARM LEASES-TRICE-PUBLIC WORKS**

The Council agreed to extend the farm leases with John Trice for the Handley Farm and the Gallagher Farm, which expire March 31, 2015, for a one year period, at \$65.63 per tillable acre. The Council acknowledged that 20 acres of the Handley Farm property which will be utilized by the County in the future has been removed from that lease.

### **REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS-ANNUAL MARINE FACILITY PORTABLE TOILET CONTRACT-PUBLIC WORKS**

The Council approved the request of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, to advertise the annual marine facility portable toilet contract. The Council acknowledged that portable toilets will be placed at the following locations: Madison, Taylors Island, Tyler Cove, Hoopersville, Kirwins Wharf, Wingate, Elliott Island, Ragged Point, West Tedious Creek, Crocheron Wharf, Golden Hill and Shorters Wharf. The Council further acknowledged that the contract is 100% reimbursable through this year's Department of Natural Resources grant.

#### REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS-ANNUAL MARINE FACILITY TRASH CONTAINERS-PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Moore said in 2013 the Department of Natural Resources stopped funding trash container services for marine facilities. He explained that last season the Council agreed to continue funding these services through the General Fund. He advised that last year's low bid of \$155 per dumpster per month and at 11 months equaled \$1,705 per month with a total of \$6,820 for the four month season.

The Council approved Mr. Moore's request to seek quotes for trash container services instead of advertising for proposals based on its understanding that there are only a limited number of companies that provide these services. Due to the continued unavailability of DNR funding for these services, the Council agreed to continue to fund the trash container services through the General Fund. The Council recognized that this fiscal year funding under the boat ramps/contractual services line item will be utilized to pay for these services.

#### BID AWARD-MURALIST-CHESAPEAKE COUNTRY SCENIC BYWAY-TOURISM

Jeremy Goldman, Acting County Manager, advised Council that Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, has submitted a written request to award the bid to paint murals along the Chesapeake Country Scenic Byway at the Community Center in the Town of Vienna and the municipal building in the Town of East New Market.

Councilman Nichols noted that other bidders submitted lower prices than the recommended vendor and questioned why one of those were not chosen. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Merryweather, Councilman Nichols said grant funding will be used for these murals. Councilman Travers opined that the recommended vendor was chosen by the building owners and the State Highway Administration staff because the vendor, who is a local artist, painted the last two murals. Councilman Nichols expressed his appreciation of this artist's work on those murals.

The Council approved the request of Mr. Fenstermaker to award the bid to Michael Rosato to paint murals along the Chesapeake Country Scenic Byway at the Community Center in the Town of Vienna and the municipal building in the Town of East New Market at the total cost of \$33,675. Councilman Price opposed. The Council acknowledged that the mural project is funded through grants from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority and Federal Highway Administration and there is no local financial responsibility.

#### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING AIRPORT MANAGER

Mr. Goldman explained that pursuant to Federal Aviation Administration, Maryland Aviation Administration and COMAR regulations an Airport Manager/Acting Airport Manager must be appointed. Mr. Goldman said the Council in process of finalizing the

job description and advertising to fill the position. The Council appointed Mr. Moore as Acting Airport Manager.

#### AIRPORT EXPANSION APRON PROJECT

The Council agreed to proceed with the Airport Expansion Apron project, which has been separated from the runway extension project and approved Mr. Moore's request to advertise for proposals. The Council acknowledged that Federal and State funds in conjunction with County funds will be utilized to complete this project.

#### COMMITMENT LETTER-TEDCO LOAN-INCUBATOR FACILITY

The Council agreed to execute a revised and updated Commitment Letter with Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), committing to terms for the reimbursement of a no interest loan of \$1 million from this entity for costs incurred for the construction of an approximately 13,500 square foot technology incubator. Councilmen Bradshaw and Price opposed.

#### BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Council reviewed a list of current and upcoming non-district and district board/committee term expirations through the month of June 2015 and the beginning of July 2015. The Council members agreed to seek persons interested in serving and/or continuing to serve on the boards and committees listed. Based on its understanding that the Board of Zoning Appeals has been unable to meet at times due to the lack of a quorum, the Council requested that a list of attendees for prior Board meetings be provided for its review.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Libby Nagel, a Dorchester County resident, questioned whether a procedure for answering telephone calls in the Planning and Zoning Department has been established. She expressed her understanding that staff in that department did not respond to an individual who left a voice mail message for four days. Councilman Travers said the Council is cognizant of public concerns relating to that department and in the process of identifying ways, through the budget process, to improve customer service.

Donald Gray, resident, expressed his belief that Council should advertise for bids for supplies. He said it is his understanding that only one vendor is being used for paper products at the Circuit Court House. At Mr. Gray's request, Councilman Nichols explained that unless \$5,000 or more in goods is purchased at one time, bids do not have to be sought. Councilman Travers noted that other County facilities, such as the Detention Center and the Cambridge Dorchester Regional Airport, use other vendors for paper products. In response to a question from Mr. Gray, Mr. Willey explained that he can submit a public information request to obtain the name of the vendors utilized by County facilities for paper and other products.

Marla Garris, resident, noted that she appeared before the Council two weeks ago to seek its authorization to use Egypt Road Regional Park on Friday, September 18, 2015 for the Harriet Tubman Golf Classic Weekend 10K run. She said since then she appeared before the Board of Education to seek permission to use school parking facilities for the event and was advised that she must submit paperwork to Dwayne Abt, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, who is responsible for approving those requests. She provided the Council a copy of correspondence she submitted to the Board of Education members.

In response to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Ms. Garris advised that she has not submitted the paperwork, noting that the event is five months away and she can submit it 15 days prior to the event. She stressed that she is before the Council for approval to use the park. Councilman Travers questioned whether the event was on a school day or a non-school day. Ms. Garris said it is on a Friday morning, when school is in session, and she has elected to wait until 9 a.m. to begin the event so it will not interfere with the arrival of students and teachers. In response to a question posed by Councilman Travers, Ms. Garris confirmed the receipt of an email from Mr. Abt about utilizing the school parking facilities. Councilman Travers read an email from him that noted that he will have to respectfully decline her request if the event is on a school day. Ms. Garris noted that the email was sent prior to her attendance at the Board of Education meeting. She said she made it clear at that meeting the event was on a school day, noting she obtained the paperwork from Mr. Abt afterwards. Ms. Garris advised that if necessary she will seek other possible alternatives for transporting participants/individuals to and from the park.

Councilman Nichols suggested Council consider approving Ms. Garris' use of the park with the understanding that she will be responsible for parking. He advised Ms. Garris that if any participants park illegally they will be subject to towing.

Ms. Garris said she ensure she is in compliance with all requirements. She advised Council that she has exchanged several emails with Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, regarding this event and will continue to correspond with her. She noted that she will personally let Council know if she decides not to hold this event at this park. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Ms. Garris confirmed her understanding that there is no parking allowed in the park. She said she will work with Scott Eberspacher, Recreation and Parks Director, regarding the use of the park.

The Council approved Ms. Garris' request to use Egypt Road Regional Park on September 18, 2015 for the Harriet Tubman Golf Classic Weekend 10K run with Councilmen Satterfield opposing. The Council members agreed that this approval is for the use of the park only and there is no vehicular parking allowed in the park or on the side of the road. The Council acknowledged that Ms. Garris will be responsible for: 1) for the rental of portable toilets since there are no bathroom facilities at this facility; 2) for cleaning the area after the event; and 3) for providing a certificate of liability insurance for the event, which names the County as an additional insured. The Council

recognized that Ms. Garris will continue to coordinate with Mr. Eberspacher on the use of this park for this event.

Brady Bradford, resident, questioned whether there are provisions in the County Code that address the rental of vacation homes in the County. He explained that he is experiencing problems with those renting a vacation home near his residence. Mr. Merryweather advised that the Council has not adopted local legislation that establishes regulations regarding the rental of vacation homes in the County. He told Mr. Bradford that he, as a citizen, can ask that a provision be added to the County Code to address this issue. Mr. Merryweather suggested that Mr. Bradford obtain language from another county that has adopted these regulations, such as Talbot County, and provide it to Steve Dodd, Planning and Zoning Director, if he is interested in seeking such legislation.

In response to a question from Pete Macinta, resident, Councilman Travers confirmed that the \$18.7 million allocated for the Board of Education in the proposed FY16 budget is for maintenance of effort only. He explained that there was an increase in maintenance of effort from FY15 due to increased enrollment.

Terry Wheatley, resident, expressed her support for the recommendation of Frank Cooke, Commissioner, City of Cambridge Council, to increase the tax differential for City residents. Councilman Travers said the figures and calculations Commissioner Cooke used are substantially different from those utilized by Finance staff. He said Michael Spears, Finance Director, is working with the Council on this matter.

Ms. Wheatley questioned the status of the filling of the County Manager position. Councilman Travers said it is in process.

In response to an inquiry from Ms. Wheatley, Mr. Merryweather advised that the process to change the County's Charter is outlined in the County Code.

Tracy Taylor, resident, referenced the petition in support of the selection of Jay Newcomb as County Manager she provided to the Council at its April 7, 2015 meeting and said an additional 92 signatures have been obtained. Councilman Travers asked Ms. Taylor to provide a copy for the Council. He noted that there were duplicate signatures on the last petition.

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

Councilman Bradshaw said his prayers and thoughts are with the Tolley family and the family of Cassidy Stinton.

Councilman Bradshaw noted that during the 2014 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session a resolution for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge behind the Conowingo Dam passed the Senate by an overwhelming margin but failed in the House. He said this resolution was again introduced during the 2015 legislative session

with the same result. He expressed his dismay that certain legislators are not in favor of supporting the resolution which will assist in the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay.

Councilman Bradshaw said he attended the recent Delmarva Poultry Industry banquet during which two outstanding poultry producers, the Murphy Family of Belleview Farms and Roland and Janice Todd, Roland Roasters Farm, were recognized. He said the Murphys grow for Mountaire Farms and the Todds grow for Perdue Farms.

Councilman Bradshaw said a Clean Chesapeake Coalition meeting will be held this Friday. He advised that coalition members are talking with Mark Belton, the new Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary, about opening up areas that are currently in sanctuaries for watermen to harvest.

Councilman Price inquired about the status of roadside and ditch bank mowing in the County. Mr. Moore said mowing was scheduled last week, however, due to rain, was rescheduled for tomorrow. He noted that two mowers will be utilized.

Councilman Price noted that the Town of East New Market held a community clean up even on April 11, 2015. He said there will be a house tour in the town on May 9, 2015 as part of the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage.

Councilman Price stated that a recently formed group in the northern area of the County, "Veterans Helping Veterans" meets every Friday to discuss issues relating to veterans. He said he was invited to this meeting at which Bill Reddish, Community Liaison for Congressman Andy Harris, was also present. He explained that one of the topics discussed was the inability of individuals to use Veterans Affairs identification cards in facilities that provide medical treatment and health services. He said he took this opportunity to speak to Mr. Reddish about ongoing dredging issues relating to Tyler's Cove, the Tar Bay Channel, and the South Dorchester area. He noted that he emphasized how important these waterways are to watermen and the adverse impact non-navigable waters have on their livelihoods. He said he will follow-up with Congressman Harris on this matter at a later date.

Councilman Bradshaw referenced the letter the Council sent to Governor Larry Hogan seeking his assistance in obtaining the Army Corps inclusion of the Tar Bay Channel in its maintenance dredging program which also spoke about the negative impact the silting in of this channel is having on local businesses, including Gootees Marina.

Councilman Price said it was announced at this afternoon's monthly Social Services meeting that: 1) Samir Malhotra, the State of Maryland Secretary of Human Resources, will be visiting Dorchester County on May 26, 2015 to talk with providers and stakeholders; 2) the new Maryland health care open enrollment period has closed; and 3) meetings will be scheduled across the State and in Dorchester County to discuss how to address drug problems.

Councilman Satterfield advised that he recently attended a Maryland Broadband Cooperative meeting during which members discussed moving forward with plans and ideas to facilitate funds to improve communications throughout the County in those areas with little or no service. He thanked Highway Division staff for working on County road projects.

Councilmen Nichols expressed his sympathy for the Stinton family for the loss.

Councilman Travers announced that: 1) members of the Council will attend a Memorial Bench Dedication Ceremony in Memory and Honor of Crime Victims and Survivors on April 25, 2015 at 1 p.m. at Spring Valley, Dorchester County Circuit Court House; 2) the next County Council meeting will be held on May 5, 2015 at 6 p.m., during which the first public hearing will be held on the proposed FY16 budget; and 3) the Council reserves the right to meet in executive session prior to regular session.

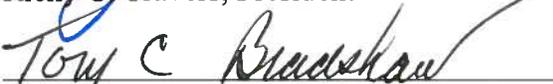
With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

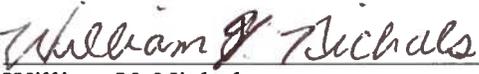
ATTEST:

  
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Jeremy Goldman  
Acting County Manager

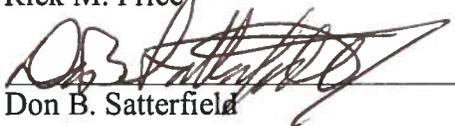
DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:

  
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Ricky C. Travers, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President

  
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William V. Nichols

  
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Rick M. Price

  
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Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2015.