

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2014

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on August 5, 2014 with the following members present: Present were 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 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)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; and pursuant to §10-508(A)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

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

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence was held due to the passing of Merris Hurley, a County employee. Councilman Travers then led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

The Council acknowledged that the following item was added after publication of the agenda: the request of the Dorchester County Historical Society to use the Public Works Department video message board for the third annual Great Eastern Shore Tomato Festival in Vienna.

The Council approved the following additions to the agenda: requests to advertise a Motor Equipment Operator III position in the Landfill Division, two Advanced Life Support Provider positions and on-call Advanced Life Support Provider positions, a Motor Equipment Operator IV position in the Highway Division and a Zoning Technician in the Planning and Zoning Department; to re-advertise a Motor Equipment II position in the Highway Division; a discussion regarding a FY15 budget request from Dorchester Center for the Arts; and a request to sole source and purchase roadside mowers from the Public Works Department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- JULY 15, 2014

The Council approved the minutes of July 15, 2014.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Newcomb reported total cash and investments as \$4,799,062.41.

EXECUTIVE SESSION SUMMARY

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in an Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. on August 5, 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)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; and pursuant to §10-508(A)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

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) confirmed the transfer of a sworn Deputy to Court House Security to fill a vacant position and the hiring of a new trained Deputy to fill the resulting vacancy by a 5 to 0 vote; 2) approved the request of the Emergency Services Director to hire an individual to fill an Emergency Services Administrative Assistant position by a 5 to 0 vote; 3) approved the request of the Public Works Director to promote an existing employee to a Motor Equipment Operator IV position in the Landfill Division and fill the resulting Motor Equipment Operator III vacancy by a 5 to 0 vote-agreed to consider a request to advertise that position in open session; 4) approved the request of the Public Works Director to hire an individual to fill a vacant Mechanic I position by a 5 to 0 vote; 5) approved the request of the Emergency Services Director to fill two vacant Advanced Life Support Provider positions by a 5 to 0 vote-agreed to consider a request to advertise in open session; 6) approved the request of the Public Works Director to fill a vacant Motor Equipment Operator IV position in the Highway Division-agreed to consider a request to advertise in open session; 7) approved the request of the Public Works Director to consider a request to re-advertise a vacant Motor Equipment Operator II position in the Highway Division in open session by a 5 to 0 vote; 8) approved the request of the Emergency Services Director to adjust the salary of two individuals who received certifications for Emergency Medical Technician-P (Paramedic) by a 5 to 0 vote; 9) discussed a personnel matter relating to a budget item-agreed to discuss budget item in open session; 10) discussed with legal counsel and staff the

modification of an existing contract; 11) discussed with legal counsel an issue regarding a budget appropriation; 12) discussed with legal counsel a matter relating to a grant; 13) discussed with legal counsel a matter relating to a prior lease agreement; 14) discussed with legal counsel a legal matter regarding a proposed economic development project-agreed to discuss in open session; 15) discussed with legal counsel a matter relating to the leasing of a slip at a County marine facility; 16) discussed with legal counsel a matter relating to a request for a fee waiver; 17) discussed with legal counsel legal matters relating to properties acquired by the County via tax sale; 18) agreed to send correspondence regarding sanitary services relating to the Airport by a 5 to 0 vote.

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.

OTHER

Councilman Newcomb announced that the Council has received notification from Jane Baynard, County Manager, that she will resign her position due to health reasons. He said Council accepted her resignation. The Council agreed to amend the agenda to include a request to advertise the County Manager position.

REGULAR SESSION

OVERVIEW-VIBRIO VULNIFICUS INFECTION- DORCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Roger Harrell, Health Officer, Dorchester County Health Department, provided information regarding the Vibrio Vulnificus (Vibrio) infection. He referenced a recent Star Democrat article in which it was noted that a waterman in Talbot County contracted the disease. He said although this is a reportable illness, public announcements are usually not made unless the infected individual gives permission to release information. He explained that an individual while swimming in the waters outside of Calvert Cliffs and another person in the State of Virginia were recently exposed to Vibrio.

Mr. Harrell said Vibrio, a rare cause for disease, went unreported from 1998 to 2006, even though 900 cases were diagnosed in the Gulf Coast states during this time period. He explained that a national system to report Vibrio was established in 2007. He said this bacterium needs salt water and high temperatures to survive and is more prevalent during the months of May to October. He noted it is also a food borne illness as a result of the consumption of uncooked seafood, particularly oysters. Mr. Harrell explained that a physician diagnoses the infection through the collection of a blood sample. He further explained that it can be treated with antibiotics and that aggressive treatment of the wound site is imperative. He noted that there were 57 cases of Vibrio in 2007 and five to six cases this year. Mr. Harrell said it has a high hospitalization rate of 85% and if the infection is not treated aggressively it is fatal. He noted that in 2013 one individual in Dorchester County contracted Vibrio by eating raw oysters and clarified that antibiotics are not used for the food borne infection.

He provided the Council a copy of the Maryland Guide to Skin Wounds and Water Contact and a worksheet about Vibrio which will be placed on the Health Department's website. He said individuals should protect wounds when they go into the water and should clean them afterwards with soap, water and antiseptic. He suggested that residents and watermen use water shoes and gloves and shower after leaving the water. He explained that Health Department staff are working with the local hospital and physicians to address this issue to ensure that proper plans are put into place to combat this infection although there have not been any reports of infections relating to Vibrio in Dorchester County. He thanked the Council for providing him the opportunity to present this information to the public.

Councilman Bradshaw referenced an interview that was on the WBOC television channel about this infection last night during which concerns of watermen that the use of fossilized oysters in Harris Creek may have contributed to a watermen contracting Vibrio were discussed. Mr. Harrell said temperature rise and an increase in salinity in local waters may have increased its prevalence. Councilman Price questioned whether there are any contributing factors in the waterways. Mr. Harrell said the bacterium occurs naturally in the water. He noted that a study is being conducted by Oxford Labs to ascertain if there are other mitigating factors.

In response to a question posed by Councilmen Nichols, Mr. Harrell said the antibiotic treatment takes approximately two to three weeks and some individuals have been hospitalized for up to three weeks.

The Council thanked Mr. Harrell for providing information regarding Vibrio.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

RESERVE DOCKAGE REQUEST-COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING-ANNUAL CHOPTANK HERITAGE SKIPJACK RACE-SKIPJACK COMMITTEE

The Council approved the request of Lou Hyman, Race Committee Chair, to reserve dockage along the bulkhead of the County Office Building on Court Lane and to use the parking lot on Friday, September 26 and Saturday, September 27, 2014 for the visiting skipjacks for the 18th Choptank Heritage Skipjack Race annual race. The Council acknowledged that Mr. Hyman will work with Maintenance staff to post the signage.

REQUEST TO USE-PARKING LOT-ELECTRICAL OUTLETS-CUBMOBILE DERBY

The Council approved the request of Michael O'Connor, Cubmobile Committee Chair, to use the parking lot at the County Office Building for parking, registration and concessions on October 5, 2014 for the annual Del-Mar-Va Council Cubmobile Derby. The Council also approved Mr. O'Connor's request to use the electrical outlets on the outside of the building for the public address system and a laptop computer for scoring as well as the placement of two bleachers on the sidewalk in front of the building to be provided by the Recreation and Parks Department. The Council recognized that the event holder will be responsible for cleaning the area and that a certificate of liability

insurance for the event, which names the County as an additional insured, has been provided.

LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST-HEART OF CHESAPEAKE COUNTRY
HERITAGE AREA MANAGEMENT BOARD MINI-GRANT-DORCHESTER
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Council approved the request of Donna Towers, Volunteer, to execute a letter of support for the Dorchester Center for the Arts' application to the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area Management Board for a mini-grant in the amount of \$2,275 to be used towards the 38th Annual Dorchester Showcase. The Council acknowledged the County cannot provide funding including a local match nor serve as applicant for the grant.

CONFIRMATORY GRANT INSTRUMENT-WRIGHTS CREEK ESTATES
SUBDIVISION-CEDAR GROVE ROAD

The Council approved the written request of Edwin G. Carson, Attorney, Stark and Keenan, to execute a Confirmatory Grant instrument, to correct the name of the property owner for the Wrights Creek Estates Subdivision from Cedar Grove Properties, LLC to the company's correct name, Cedar Grove Road Properties, LLC and to confirm the obligations outlined in the following documents which were recorded in the Dorchester County Land Records: 1) Roadside Right-of-Way Easement to the County Council of Dorchester County, Maryland, dated May 21, 2010, recorded at Liber DLP, No. 984, folio 371; 2) Public Road Construction Agreement between the County Council of Dorchester County, Maryland and Owner dated August 2, 2010 recorded at Liber AJC No. 1047, folio 183; 3) Storm Water Management Facilities and Sediment Control Construction Inspections and Maintenance Agreement and Declaration of Easement to the County Council of Dorchester County, Maryland dated January 17, 2012 and recorded at Liber AJC No. 1069, folio 445; and 4) Amendment to Public Road Construction Agreement with the County Council of Dorchester County, Maryland dated September 3, 2013 recorded at Liber AJC, No. 1169, folio 49.

FY15 GOVERNORS OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION GRANT
AWARDS-GRANT MONITOR

Protective Order Entry/Service Program-Sheriff's Office

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Grantor Monitor, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to accept a FY15 Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention grant award under the Domestic Violence Unit Program Fund titled "Protective Order Entry/Service" in the amount of \$1,683 to be used to support overtime for the entry of ex parte/protective orders into the METERS/NCIC database and the service of those orders. The Council acknowledged that there is no cash or in-kind match and the grant period is September 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

Council agreed that the hours spent by deputies specific to this grant are exempt from the 171 hour over a 28 day period overtime threshold until the grant period ends or grant funds have been depleted. Council also reserved the right to review any future renewals to determine the policy regarding hourly pay for the provision of services in regard to overtime policies.

School Bus Safety Enforcement Program-Sheriff's Office

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to accept a FY15 Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention School Bus Safety Enforcement Program grant award, titled "Overtime Patrols," in the amount of \$24,000, with no cash or in kind match, to pay for overtime for deputies to enforce school bus safety laws for the period of August 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

Council agreed that the hours spent by deputies specific to this grant are exempt from the 171 hour over a 28 day period overtime threshold until the grant period ends or grant funds have been depleted. Council also reserved the right to review any future renewals to determine the policy regarding hourly pay for the provision of services in regard to overtime policies.

Safe Streets Program-Local Management Board

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith, on behalf of the Local Management Board, to accept a 2015 Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention Maryland Safe Streets Program grant award, titled "Safe Streets," in the amount of \$148,920, with no local match, to be used for salary support, overtime, contractual services and equipment to reduce violent crime in the County. The Council acknowledged that the grant period is July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

Council agreed that the hours spent by deputies specific to this grant are exempt from the 171 hour over a 28 day period overtime threshold until the grant period ends or grant funds have been depleted. Council reserved the right to review any future renewals to determine the policy regarding hourly pay for the provision of services in regard to overtime policies when providing an overtime threshold exemption.

CONFIRMATION-SUBMISSION OF REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION-US DEPT OF AGRICULTURE GRANT APPLICATION-VEHICLES-SHERIFF'S OFFICE-GRANT MONITOR

The Council confirmed the submission of a request via written correspondence executed by Ms. Smith as Grant Monitor to modify a FY13 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant application to reduce the amount of funding requested for the purchase of Sheriff's Office vehicle(s) to \$46,000. The Council acknowledged that USDA only awards grants for \$50,000 or less. The Council further acknowledged that

Council President approved the submission of this amendment prior to this meeting due to timing constraints

MARYLAND SPAY NEUTER FUND GRANT APPLICATION REQUEST-GRANT MONITOR

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith to submit a Maryland Department of Agriculture Spay and Neuter Grants Program application for funds in the amount of \$31,000 for two programs. The Council acknowledged that one program will cover costs for low income citizens to spay and neuter 60 pit bull and pit mix dogs using local veterinarians and another will cover costs to spay and neuter 100 cats (feral and for low income citizens) using Snip Tuck. The Council further acknowledged that additional funding is being sought for advertising, outreach and to purchase cat traps. Additionally, the Council recognized that although there are no match requirements, County staff will provide administrative support to run the programs.

In response to a question from Councilman Price, Ms. Smith explained that each spay/neuter will be covered 100% and that vouchers will be provided directly to veterinarians. Ms. Smith clarified that she is not a member of the Snip Tuck Board.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AWARD-RECOVERY GRANT-GENERATOR-GRANT MONITOR

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith to accept a Community Development Block Grant award under the Disaster Recovery Grant Program for funds in the amount of \$880,000 to purchase and install a generator for the emergency evacuation shelter at the Cambridge South Dorchester High School. The Council acknowledged that the in-kind match in the grant budget for infrastructure is covered by the Board of Education owned infrastructure already in place and that administrative time for project management, using budgeted funds, will be covered by Ms. Smith; Jeremy Goldman, Emergency Services Director; Steve Garvin, Emergency Planner; and Chris Hauge, School Facilities Engineer.

FY15 RENTAL ALLOWANCE PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION-AGREEMENT-DELMARVA COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith, on behalf of Delmarva Community Services (DCS), to submit and execute a FY15 Rental Assistance Program Grant application and agreement for funds in the amount of \$40,000, with no local match, to be utilized by DCS, the sub-grantee and administering agency of this program for Dorchester County, to assist families who can demonstrate financial hardship.

E-CYCLING GRANT AWARD-MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, to accept an E-Cycling grant award from the Maryland Department of Environment under the Statewide Electronics Recycling Program in the amount of \$10,000 to assist in the collection and

recycling of electronics. The Council acknowledged that grant activities are to be completed by March 31, 2015. The Council further acknowledged that it is Mr. Moore's intention to utilize these funds to hold two one-day events (one in the Fall and another in the Spring) to collect computers, monitors and televisions.

FY16 WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATION REQUEST-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to submit a FY16 Waterway Improvement Fund Grant application for the following: \$99,000 for county-wide maintenance for County marine facilities; \$18,000 for the replacement of the electrical and lighting systems at the Ragged Point Marina; \$99,000 for the Golden Hill Ramp Bulkhead replacement project; and funding between \$99,000 to \$3,000,000 for dredging projects to include Tar Bay (\$3 million), Hurst Creek and Slaughter Creek. The Council acknowledged that Mr. Moore will also be submitting the County's annual service contract grant request for placement of portable toilets and that funding has been discontinued for the placement of trash containers at County marine facilities.

REQUEST TO EXTEND MONITORING CONTRACT-COUNTY SOLID WASTE FACILITIES-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to sole source and extend the monitoring contract between the Council and GCI Environmental Services for groundwater monitoring services at all solid waste landfills in the County for a two year period (FY15 and FY16) at the cost of \$84,700 from the Landfill Division budget. The Council acknowledged that the contract includes a 30 day notice termination clause.

SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTER CONTINUATION GRANT-LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Council approved the request of Nancy Shockley, Local Management Board Director, to submit a School Based Health Center Continuation Grant application to the Maryland State Department of Education for FY2015 funding in the amount of \$410,823, with the majority of the funding being utilized by the Dorchester County Health Department to staff the school wellness programs through either merit employees or contractual positions. The Council acknowledged that the Health Department has been identified as the implementing agency for School Based Health Services in the middle and high schools in the County. The Council further acknowledged that the grant does not allow indirect costs to the County for Local Management Board.

REDUCTION-CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ADJUSTMENT-CONMED HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT-DETENTION CENTER

The Council accepted the offer of Stephen B. Goldberg, M.D., Chief Operating Officer, Conmed Healthcare Management (Conmed), for a reduction in the previously approved Consumer Price Index adjustment from 2.6% to 2.0% for medical services for the Detention Center for the period of August 1, 2014 through the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. The Council acknowledged that County staff worked with

Conmed personnel to reduce costs due to a decline in the inmate populations. Steve Williams, Conmed, recognized the company's long term relationship with the Council and expressed appreciation for their patronage. He said in early December Conmed staff will submit a proposal to the County to continue its contractual relationship to provide medical services to inmates for a fixed rate for the next three years.

REQUEST TO EXPEND FY15 CAPITAL BUDGET FUNDS-SOLE SOURCE-PURCHASE AMBULANCES-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Jeremy Goldman, Emergency Services Director, to expend FY15 Capital Funds and to sole source with Demers Ambulance, represented by RedStorm Fire & Rescue Apparatus, Inc., the current licensed dealer for this company, to purchase two ambulances at the total cost of \$390,816.

SALE OF COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY-202 MAIN STREET-LOT 6 E/S CHARLES STREET-TOWN OF HURLOCK

The Council confirmed its decision to sell 202 Main Street, and the property described as Lot 6, E/S Charles Street, to the Town of Hurlock, which are located in that municipality, for the cost of the expenses the County incurred to acquire the properties via tax sale. The Council authorized Councilman Newcomb to execute the contract of sale, the deed and other appropriate documents relating to this sale. The Council acknowledged the receipt of a \$5,000 deposit check from the Town of Hurlock.

MARYLAND CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS INFORMATION USER AGREEMENT-BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

The Council authorized Councilman Newcomb as Acting County Manager, on behalf of the Board of License Commissioners, to sign a Maryland Criminal History Records Information User Agreement for the Board. The Council acknowledged that access to these records is being requested in order to ensure that liquor licenses are not issued to individuals with criminal records.

STATEMENT-DORCHESTER COUNTY ZONING REGULATIONS-COMMERCIAL WIND FARMS

Councilman Newcomb noted that at its July 15, 2014 meeting, the Council asked Steve Dodd, Planning and Zoning Director, to provide comments after a presentation regarding the proposed wind turbine project in Somerset County and wind farms in general. The Council confirmed for the record that Dorchester County's Zoning Regulations do not permit commercial wind farms in any zoning district; however, permits are issued for individual wind turbines on property for the purpose of generating electricity for on-site consumption. Councilman Bradshaw expressed his understanding that since July 15th Senator Barbara Mikulski has submitted legislation to delay the project in Somerset County based on concerns that the wind turbines may adversely affect the radar system used at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

REQUEST TO USE VIDEO MESSAGE SIGN-DORCHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Council approved the request of Ann W. Phillips, Executive Director, Dorchester County Historical Society, to use a Public Works video message board on Saturday, August 23, 2014 for the third annual Great Eastern Shore Tomato Festival in the Town of Vienna. The Council acknowledged that Tom Moore, Public Works Director, will coordinate with Ms. Phillips regarding the use of this sign.

REQUESTS TO ADVERTISE

The Council agreed to advertise the following: Motor Equipment Operator III position in the Landfill Division; two full-time Advanced Life Support Provider positions, on-call Advanced Life Support positions, Motor Equipment Operator IV position in the Highway Division, Zoning Technician in the Planning and Zoning Department and a Motor Equipment Operator II position in the Highway Division.

REQUEST TO SOLE SOURCE AND PURCHASE ROADSIDE MOWERS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to sole source and purchase two roadside mower units from Atlantic Tractor, under the State of Maryland Grounds Maintenance Equipment Contract, at the cost of \$167,005.68 minus the trade-in value of a 1997 John Deere, Unit #632, of \$11,900 and a 1985 Massey 290, Unit #1911, of \$2,000 for a total purchase price of \$153,105.68, utilizing \$140,000 from the FY15 Capital Budget and the remaining \$13,105.68 from the FY14 Capital Budget under the line item for Department of Public Works roof repairs.

FUNDING INCUBATOR FACILITY

The Council agreed to proceed with the incubator project, including the redesign of the proposed facility. Councilmen Bradshaw and Price opposed.

FY15 BUDGET REQUEST FROM DORCHESTER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Council agreed to provide funding to the Dorchester Center for the Arts in the amount of \$3,000 for FY15.

COUNTY MANAGER

The Council agreed to advertise the County Manager position.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Based on comments made by Wendell Foxwell, resident, the Council agreed to invite Jade Kenny, who was crowned Miss Maryland, to a future meeting to present her a commendation recognizing her achievement.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Harris, Councilman Newcomb explained that the Council denied his request for Recreation and Parks to assume responsibility for a property in the Town of Vienna and to maintain it as a public park because of the unfavorable recommendation of Dorchester County Recreation and Parks staff, citizens opposition to the proposal, and concerns regarding the drug history of the area pursuant to the Sheriff. Councilman Newcomb noted that Program Open Space funds are limited.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Price stressed the need to construct a new North Dorchester High School (NDHS), noting that there is an immediate need to remove mold from the building. He said he spoke to Dr. Henry Wagner regarding constituents concerns about the mold and that Dr. Wagner advised him that moisture mitigation and proactive sanitizing will be finalized prior to the beginning of the new school year. Councilman Price explained that he is in favor of constructing a new NDHS, noting that funding needs to be identified to undertake that project. He further explained that even if funds were approved immediately construction would not commence for at least a year and construction may take approximately two years. He said he was opposed to the construction of the new technology center prior to the construction of a new NDHS and believes the funding for the incubator facility should be redirected and used for this purpose.

Councilman Price advised that at a recent special Maryland Association of Counties Legislative Committee Senator Thomas V. Miller, President of the Maryland Senate, clarified that there is not a vehicle mileage tax. He said he learned at that meeting that both gubernatorial candidates will be attending the Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference for a debate and that members of the Council are invited to submit questions. He noted that Senator Benjamin Cardin will also be present at the conference to address State issues on the federal level. Councilman Price explained that Special Legislative Committee members spoke about two unresolved legislative items, last year, the ball reform bill and the lack of closure of the removal of the Maryland State Police from local drug task forces.

Councilman Bradshaw referenced an August 5, 2014 Star Democrat article entitled "Sediment talks continue" which includes statements from Charles "Chip" MacLeod of Funk and Bolton, who serves as the Attorney for the Clean Chesapeake Coalition, and Beth McGee, a senior water quality scientist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. He said Ms. McGee opined that the Conowingo Dam is not as large of a contributor to pollution as reported and said she is in favor of undertaking additional studies on the dam and its affect on the waterways. Councilman Bradshaw noted that several studies of the Conowingo Dam have already been conducted and expressed his opinion that taxpayers' funds would be better spent on dredging the Dam instead.

Based on a motion made by Councilman Travers, the Council agreed to obtain information from Planning and Zoning staff regarding the potential exemption of poultry houses from the County's permitting process including whether surrounding counties exempt these structures.

Councilman Travers encouraged the public to attend the Seafood Festival this weekend.

Councilman Nichols said he will miss Ms. Baynard and commended her for her hard work and dedication to the County.

Councilman Nichols expressed concern that certain members of the public were made aware of the presence of mold at NDHS through social networks and that he as a Council member was not made aware of it until he received an email today that was also distributed to the public. He said he was aware that the 50 plus year old school is showing its age. He noted that a new school facility was slated to be built several years ago but the Board of Education, including the former Superintendent of Schools and the current Superintendent, decided to move the construction of a new technology center ahead of that project. He questioned why several Board of Education offices and the alternative school is housed at the old technology school, particularly since the reason cited to place it ahead of NDHS was that it was in major disrepair. Councilman Nichols expressed his opinion that the high school should have be built first.

Councilman Bradshaw said he was visited by Dwayne Abt, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, who inquired as to whether he was in favor of rebuilding NDHS. He explained that he advised Mr. Abt that while he supports the construction of a new high school he is concerned about identifying funds to build a new facility. He thanked Mr. Abt for asking him for this position on a new school.

In light of a recent rumor, Councilman Nichols stressed that the entire Council, and not just the President, must vote on school construction projects.

Councilman Newcomb said he received phone calls and comments from citizens regarding the mold and rebuilding the school. He noted that Dr. Wagner released a statement today that the issue will be resolved before school begins. He expressed dismay that social networks are being utilized to discredit Council.

Ms. Shockley explained that when her child was a student at the old Maces Land School, mold was a problem, and that the Board of Education was very responsive in mitigating the issue and believes they will be just as attentive in removing it from NDHS.

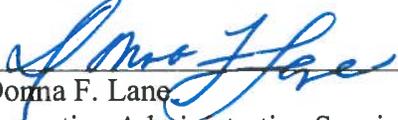
In response to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. Harrell said he has not received any calls from residents regarding mold at NDHS. He noted that he and his staff worked with Dr. Wagner to establish a mitigation plan. He explained that twelve years ago mold was discovered in the Vienna Elementary School and his staff as well as Board of Education personnel worked together to mitigate that problem.

Mr. Abt said misinformation has been released. He explained that he walked the school today with facility staff and that the mold, which is not active, is not as widespread as claimed. He said as part of the Board of Education's efforts to keep the moisture out of the building, a new roof with a two year life span, will be installed on specific parts of that facility on August 11, 2014. He stressed that the school will open as scheduled. He noted that he only received one call in reference to this issue, from a concerned grandparent. He asked the public to contact him if they have any questions.

Councilman Newcomb announced that the next County Council meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2014.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:



Donna F. Lane
Executive Administrative Specialist

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:

absent

Jay L. Newcomb, President

William V. Nichols

William V. Nichols, Vice President

Ricky Travers

Ricky Travers

Rick Price

Rick Price

Tom Bradshaw

Tom Bradshaw

Approved the 19 day of August 2014.