

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2014**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on January 21, 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)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; pursuant to §10-508(A)(4) to consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; and pursuant to §10-508(A)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

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

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Price led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Council acknowledged that the following items were removed from this agenda after publication: commendations for the North Dorchester High School Cheerleading Squad for placing at the Gator Bowl Competition, which will be presented at the Council's February 4, 2014 meeting and clarification from the Soil Conservation Board regarding the erosion and sediment control fee increase which is also a future agenda item. The Council approved the following additions to the agenda: a request to advertise a Motor Equipment Operator III position in the Landfill Division; a discussion regarding the design build contract for an incubator facility; and the execution of an application of services for required employee physicals.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- JANUARY 7, 2014

The Council approved the minutes of January 7, 2014.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

FINANICAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Newcomb reported total cash and investments as \$11,206,384.69.

EXECUTIVE SESSION SUMMARY

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in an Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. on January 21, 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) discussed a personnel matter relating to the Sanitary District; 2) approved request of Sheriff to change a Probationary Patrol Deputy to a Trained Patrol Deputy in light of completion of the required probationary period and for a retroactive pay increase by a 3 to 1 vote; 3) approved request of Public Works Director to fill a Motor Equipment Operator III position in the Landfill Division by a 5 to 0 vote-agreed to consider a request to advertise the position in open session; 4) discussed a personnel item relating to the Planning and Zoning Department-requested additional information; 5) approved the request of Tourism Director to provide holiday pay to specific grant funded employees by a 5 to 0 vote; 6) discussed a proposed contract for a County economic development project-agreed to discuss in open session; 7) discussed issues relating to shared facilities pursuant to State law; 8) discussed an emergency medical services billing matter-agreed to send correspondence; 9) discussed issues regarding permitting fees-requested additional information; 10) discussed the possible execution of an application for services relating to required employee physicals-agreed to discuss in open session; and 11) discussed a matter relating to an agreement regarding the Dorchester Regional Technology Park.

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

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

INTRODUCTION

BILL NO. 2014-1 AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND DECLARING THAT A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF RED HILL ROAD AND LINKWOOD ROAD, KNOWN AS 3960 RED HILL ROAD, A/K/A 3960 LINKWOOD-RED HILL ROAD, CONTAINING 5.51 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, AND ALSO KNOWN AS THE COUNTY ASPHALT PLANT AND BEING THE LAND CONVEYED UNTO THE COUNTY BY DEED DATED JULY 29, 1963 AND RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND IN LIBER 134, FOLIO 345, IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE BY THE COUNTY AND PROVIDING FOR THE LEASE OF THE PROPERTY TO RUSSELL PAVING COMPANY, INC.

The Council introduced legislation to declare that the property known as 3960 Linkwood-Red Hill Road and also known as 3960 Red Hill Road, containing 5.51 acres of land, more or less, which was conveyed unto the County by deed dated July 29, 1963 and recorded among the Land Records of Dorchester County, in Liber 134, Folio 345, and also known as the County Asphalt Plant, is no longer needed for public use by the County and providing for the lease of the property to Russell Paving Company, Inc.

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Section 304(c) of the County Charter, Councilman Nichols introduced a bill to prohibit the Council from reimbursing property owners for excise tax paid for any County property in light of his belief that the Council should be consistent in their decisions relating to the tax. The Council acknowledged that E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, will prepare legislation.

The Council convened into regular session.

REGULAR SESSION

PROCLAMATION-MENTORING MONTH-JANUARY 2014

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring January 2014 Mentoring Month which Jessica Mimms, Eastern Shore Director of Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake, accepted.

PROPERTY CONCERNS-EDWARD MOODY

Edward Moody, a Dorchester County resident, said prior and after acquisition of a property in Dorchester County from Wendell Foxwell, resident, he spoke to County Planning and Zoning staff regarding his plans to build a new residence on the lot, including the process to obtain a building permit. He noted that despite those discussions he was not advised that the lot was subdivided illegally and was not buildable until he had a perc test conducted. He expressed dismay that he was not made aware of this prior to the purchase of the property and/or before he expended funds for the test. Mr. Moody

said it is his understanding that the documents to subdivide this property were not executed by all of the appropriate parties; therefore, it is considered an illegal lot. He explained that due to critical area buffer regulations there is no buildable space on the property.

Mr. Moody expressed his understanding that the owner of a property from the same parcel from which his property originated is able to build on their property despite not meeting critical area requirements. He said he has had six individuals who have expressed an interest in purchasing the lot; however, they decided not to proceed with acquisition once they were advised that it is an illegal lot.

Mr. Dodd advised Council that Mr. Moody came into the Planning and Zoning Office after he purchased the property and at that point he was advised of the process to make the lot legal.

Councilman Newcomb explained to Mr. Moody that if he provides the Council with the addresses of the properties he believes are illegal, but for which building permits have been issued, staff will investigate. Mr. Moody expressed his belief that an exemption has been made for a property owned by Dorchester Lumber. Mr. Dodd said no structures have been built on the properties that Mr. Foxwell inherited and sold which were illegally subdivided. He noted that only one individual contacted the Planning and Zoning Office and was told the lot was illegal. Councilman Newcomb explained that anyone can purchase a piece of property; however, they must obtain building and other permits/approvals before building on the property. Mr. Moody stated that he called Councilman Newcomb several times regarding this issue but received no response.

Mr. Moody said he is aware that the next step in the process to obtain authorization to build on his property is to obtain a variance from the Board of Appeals, noting his understanding that Mr. Foxwell sits on that Board. He again expressed dismay that he was not advised prior to purchasing the property that it was an illegal lot. Mr. Moody also opined that lines need to be painted on Crapo-Lakesville Road. Councilman Newcomb said it is a State Road and advised Mr. Moody to contact the State Highway Administration.

Mr. Moody left the meeting.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

REQUEST TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING-COUNTY WATER AND SEWER PLAN AMENDMENT-PLANNING AND ZONING

The Council approved the request of Rodney Banks, Assistant Planning and Zoning Director, to schedule a public hearing for an amendment to Dorchester County's Comprehensive Water & Sewer Plan filed by Beaver Run Mobile Home Park to add a new Sewer Service Area Map. The Council acknowledged that the new map will change the sewer designation for the park property located on the east side of Beaver Neck Village Road, consisting as three parcels, identified as Tax Map 43, Grid 9, Parcels 197, 198 and 201, from no planned service to S-1 (existing or planned within two years) and S-2 (community sewer planned to be available within a two to five year timeframe). The

Council also acknowledged that the amendment is being requesting in order to obtain Maryland Department of Environment permits to construct an advanced water treatment plant and replacement drainfields for the park.

FY15 RURAL LEGACY APPLICATION-PLANNING AND ZONING

The Council approved the request of Mr. Banks to submit applications for the Marshyhope Rural Legacy Focus Area and Nanticoke Rural Legacy Focus Area to the State for FY 2015 Maryland Rural Legacy Program grant funds with the Marshyhope area being the priority application for the year and the Nanticoke Rural Legacy Area being priority two.

REFERRAL TO PLANNING COMMISSION-FARM PRODUCE STAND TEXT AMENDMENT-PLANNING AND ZONING

The Council approved the request of Mr. Banks to refer to the Planning Commission a text amendment to the County's Zoning Ordinance to revise and clarify farm produce stand and produce market uses for its review and recommendation. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Bradshaw, Mr. Dodd explained that a new use for a produce market is being proposed, which will allow a business owner to sell produce and other items. Based on a question posed by Councilman Price, Mr. Dodd said the proposed amendment will not change the licensing process for produce stands. He said an example of a produce market is the Wright's Market which is located in Wicomico County.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE COMPUTERS -SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Council approved the request of Sheriff James Phillips to sole source and purchase from Dell 20 desktop computers at the cost of \$18,216.80 utilizing FY11 and FY12 State Homeland Grant Program funds which are allocated for law enforcement.

REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT-MARYLAND SEA GRANT-SEA LEVEL RISE-STORM SURGES-UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND HORN POINT

The Council approved the request of Elizabeth Freeland, Development Director, University of Maryland Horn Point Lab, on behalf of Dr. Ming Li, Professor, for a letter of support for his proposal to Maryland Sea Grant to assess the impacts of long-term sea-level rise and episodic storm surges on low-lying areas from New Jersey to Virginia that will include Dorchester County. The Council acknowledged that the County cannot provide funding, including a local match, nor serve as applicant for the grant.

BOARD APPOINTMENT-911 ADVISORY BOARD

Based on a nomination submitted by Jeremy Goldman, Emergency Services Director, on behalf of Robert Phillips, President, Dorchester County Volunteer Firemen's Association, the Council agreed to appoint Keith Adkins to the 911 Advisory Board as a non-core member, to replace Paul Osheske, who is unable to continue on the Board. The Council acknowledged that Mr. Adkins' term will expire on April 15, 2014.

TRAINING AND TRAVEL REQUEST-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Mr. Goldman for authorization for two employees to attend the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Training Instructor Course at the Maryland Police & Correctional Training Commission's facility in Sykesville, Maryland from April 28 through May 2, 2014 at the cost of \$1,000 from the FY14 911 Communications Center Budget under the training line item. The Council acknowledged that the cost includes lodging in the dorms of the facility, \$200 (\$20 per employee per day) and meal costs, \$800 (\$80 per employee per day) and that there is no charge to take the class. The Council further acknowledged that upon completion of this training the two employees will be certified as instructors for the NCIC and METERS systems and can then train other County employees so they may maintain their required program certifications.

CHANGE ORDER REQUEST-MOTOROLA-NARROW BANDING PROJECT-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved Mr. Goldman's request for a change order to the contract between the County and Motorola Solutions, Inc. for a pager system upgrade, to include the purchase of five APX6000 portable radios from Motorola at the cost of \$22,000, which includes a one-time loyalty discount from this entity of \$2,441.40, utilizing unused funds allocated for the upgrade. The Council acknowledged that the radios will be provided to Sheriff Deputies and programmed to include the Sheriff's Office current programming and several 700 MHz tactical channels provided by the State of Maryland at no charge so that they may use them to beta test the State 700 MHz system to determine system coverage and usability. Furthermore, the Council acknowledged that once this testing has been completed, the radios will be loaned to the Cambridge Police Department to undertake similar testing in the City of Cambridge.

Mr. Goldman advised the Council that the completed pager systems upgrade was successful, noting that system coverage has been achieved. He said Marshall Kjar, Information Technology Communications Specialist, is in the process of reprogramming existing pagers and that Motorola staff have provided the software to upgrade that equipment at no cost. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Mr. Goldman said the update will only affect the audio volume of the radios and not coverage.

REQUEST FOR GRANT DEADLINE EXTENSION-FY14 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT-CHANNEL MARKER-GRANT MONITOR

The Council approve the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, on behalf of the Channel Marker Foundation, to send correspondence to request a waiver of the 180 day expenditure deadline of the Community Development Block Grant provided to this entity for roof repairs and kitchen renovations to homes located at 503 and 505 Academy Street, Cambridge due to a delay in the permitting process and the recent holidays.

FY14 NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM GRANT APPLICATION-MURAL-TOURISM

The Council approved the request of Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, to submit a FY14 National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Grant Application for funds in the amount of \$10,000 to create a mural on the rear of the Harriet Tubman Organization building in Cambridge. The Council acknowledged that the local cash match of \$4,430 will be from the Tourism Departments' Heritage Implementation Fund.

GRANT ACCEPTANCE REQUEST-FY14 MARYLAND HERITAGE AREA AUTHORITY MANAGEMENT GRANT-TOURISM

The Council approved the request of Ms. Fenstermaker to accept a FY14 Maryland Heritage Area Authority Management Grant Award in the amount of \$100,000 to support the continued operation and management of the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area (HCCHA) under the Dorchester County Tourism Department and to execute the grant agreement for the period of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. The Council acknowledged that the cash match of \$75,000 includes \$60,000 from the FY14 Tourism Department Budget; \$5,000 from the Dorchester County Heritage Area Implementation Fund; and \$10,000 from the private sector for mini-grants. The Council also acknowledged that the \$25,000 in-kind services match will be in the form of donated time including Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area Management Board member volunteer time use of office equipment, utilities and office space.

REQUEST TO SOLE SOURCE/PURCHASE LIGHT VEHICLE LIFT- HIGHWAY/PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, to sole source with Triangle Service Equipment, Inc. and purchase a Mohawk Model T-16 light vehicle lift at the cost of \$14,100, which includes installation, utilizing funds from the line item in the FY13 Capital Budget designated for equipment, of which \$15,828.45 is available. The Council acknowledged its December 17, 2013 decision to waive the bid process and allow Mr. Moore to obtain prices for this equipment.

REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE-COLLECTION OF AGRICULTURE TIRES- LANDFILL/PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to participate in a Tire Amnesty Program for the collection of agriculture tires through March 31, 2014, which has been organized by the State Farm Bureau. The Council acknowledged that hauling and disposal will be through the County's usual contractor and those costs will be reimbursed by Maryland Environmental Services. Additionally, the Council acknowledged that there will be no restrictions on the quantity or types of tires provided they are from a farm.

ABL MANAGEMENT-FOOD SERVICES CONTRACT-REQUEST FOR CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INCREASE-DETENTION CENTER

The Council approved the request of Steve Mills, Warden, to extend the Food Service Agreement between the Council and ABL Management, Inc. to include a 1.9% Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase based on the terms of the original contract, for a renewal period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

CONMED HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT-MEDICAL SERVICES CONTRACT-REQUEST FOR CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INCREASE-DETENTION CENTER

The Council approved the request of Warden Mills to extend the agreement between the Council and ConMed Healthcare Management, the current medical services provider for the Detention Center, to include a 2.6% Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase based on the terms of the original contract for a renewal period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. The Council acknowledged that the cost for the renewal period, including the CPI increase, is \$51,462 per month (\$617,544 annually).

REPLACEMENT REQUEST/USE OF CAPITAL FUNDS-FREEZER/COMPRESSOR-DETENTION CENTER

The Council approved the request of Warden Mills to waive bids and sole source with Webster Refrigeration, the company which provided the lower of two quotes, to replace the compressor of the walk-in freezer at the Detention Center at the cost of \$2,880 utilizing FY14 Capital Budget funds designated for this department.

REQUEST TO SCHEDULE DINNER MEETING-BOARD OF EDUCATION

Councilman Newcomb advised Council that Philip L. Bramble, Jr., President, Dorchester County Board of Education, has advised that the Board members wish to hold a dinner meeting with them at the Dorchester Career and Technology Center and has asked for potential dates. Councilman Newcomb noted that students and staff will prepare the meal. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Price, Councilman Newcomb said it is his understanding that one of the topics to be discussed will be coordination between the two entities. The Council agreed to hold a dinner meeting with the Board members and selected the following dates, in order of preference: Tuesday, January 28, 2014; Wednesday, February 5, 2014; and Tuesday, February 11, 2014.

FOURTH AMENDMENT TO PUBLIC ROAD CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT-GOOSE CROSSING FARM-PLANNING AND ZONING

The Council approved the request of Steve Dodd, Planning and Zoning Director, to execute a Fourth Amendment to a Public Road Construction Agreement between the County and Goose Crossing Farm, LLC, to extend the agreement to construct a public road in the subdivision known as Lords Crossing Subdivision, Section Two, to March 1, 2019. The Council acknowledged that the owner has agreed to not sell or offer for sale any lot in the subdivision until all improvements have been completed, inspected, approved and accepted by the County.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT-DISASTER RECOVERY GRANT-PRIORITIZE PROJECTS-GRANT MONITOR

Referencing the list of proposed projects for possible submission under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery Grant Program she provided to Council, Ms. Smith explained that the funding under this program is designated for projects that mitigate damages which occurred during the four natural disasters that affected Maryland over the last several years, including Irene and Sandy. She said CDBG staff have advised that the following projects on that list are not eligible for funding: Flood Assistance Brochure, Timber Jetty Restoration in Elliott's Island and Elliott Island Marina Shore Erosion Restoration. She explained that the two restoration projects will not qualify for funding because they will not meet low to moderate income requirements. Mr. Goldman noted that extra consideration will be given to the County's request since projects were deemed ineligible, noting that only \$3 million is available for all of the counties in the State, excluding Somerset County which received \$16 million for the mitigation of damages as a result of Sandy.

Ms. Smith said the cost for the two proposed City of Cambridge projects, Sea Wall Restoration and the Long Wharf Bulkhead Restoration, are substantial; however, there are matching funds available.

Mr. Goldman noted that two of the proposed projects are the purchase and installation of generators for the Emergency Evacuation Shelters at Cambridge South Dorchester High School and North Dorchester Middle School. Ms. Smith said CDBG staff has advised that those projects are eligible for funding. Mr. Goldman noted that Board of Education staff has advised that it will cost \$10,000 to maintain the generators at each school and that they will not accept the funding for the generators if funds are not allocated to cover that cost. He explained that a series of three synched generators will be installed at each school at the cost of \$800,000 per facility and will need to be run 20 minutes a week for maintenance purposes.

In response to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. Goldman said number 2 fuel or diesel will be used to run the generator at the North Dorchester Middle School whereas natural gas, number two fuel oil or diesel oil can be used at Cambridge South Dorchester High School. Based on another inquiry from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. Goldman said propane tanks can be installed at those facilities, noting that part of the \$10,000 cost cited by the Board is for the existing tank at Cambridge South Dorchester High School. Pursuant to questions posed by Council, Mr. Goldman said these projects can be conducted in phases, with the initial hookup occurring first, noting that the 40% of the proposed cost includes engineering and wiring the generators into the existing system.

In response to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. Goldman said the existing generator at Cambridge South Dorchester High School can either be used in another part of that facility or in other County owned buildings; however, it cannot be hooked up to the new generator system.

Ms. Smith advised Council that as part of the grant application process a resolution will have to be adopted by the end of February 2014. She explained that in either March or

April 2014 counties and municipalities in the State will be able to apply for Community Development Block Grant funds of \$800,000 for each county.

In response to a question from Councilman Bradshaw, Mr. Moore said the raising of Wesley Church Road was chosen as a possible project because the County did not receive Federal Emergency Management Agency funding to repair the road. He said the raising of the road by the Elliott Island Marina can be submitted as a project.

The Council agreed to submit the following potential projects for funding, in order of preference: a generator for the emergency evacuation shelter at the Cambridge South Dorchester High School, a generator for the emergency evacuation center at the North Dorchester Middle School, and the raising of Wesley Church Road. Councilman Price opposed, citing his belief that the first priority should be a generator at the North Dorchester Middle School. The Council recognized that the application is due on January 28, 2014.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE A MOTOR EQUIPMENT OPERATOR III POSITION- LANDFILL/PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, to advertise a vacant Motor Equipment Operator III position in-house and in a local news publication(s) concurrently.

DISCUSSION REGARDING DESIGN BUILD CONTRACT FOR INCUBATOR FACILITY

The Council agreed to enter into a design build contract with Willow Construction for the construction of an incubator facility in the Dorchester Regional Technology Park with Councilmen Bradshaw and Price opposing.

EXECUTION OF AN APPLICATION OF SERVICES FOR REQUIRED EMPLOYEE PHYSICALS

The Council authorized Councilman Newcomb as President to execute an Application for Services with Shore Works, which conducts Department of Transportation (DOT) physical exams for County employees.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Councilman Newcomb asked staff for an update on the current weather event. Mr. Moore said there is approximately an inch of snow on paved surfaces and that Public Works staff are standing by. Mr. Goldman noted that weather forecasters have announced that it will continue to snow until 1 a.m. and there is a potential for five to eight inches of snow in Dorchester County.

John Kahl introduced himself, noting that he is the new President for the Dorchester Educators. He encouraged the Council to contact him if they have questions and invited them to attend Executive Board meetings. He said Dorchester Educators members are working with the Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake organization and the Board of Education to establish a mentoring program in the local public system. In

response to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. Kahl said it is his understanding that the Board of Education members may address the possible implementation of a no student suspension policy in the near future.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Price inquired as to the status of the repairs to the Elliott Island Bridge and the Bestpitch Bridge. Mr. Moore said upon completion of the first section of the Bestpitch Bridge the bridge inspector found another section that needs to be repaired. He explained that the existing contractor will replace that section and has material on site but cannot commence work under weather conditions improve. He said once that bridge has been completed repairs the contractor will begin the repairs to the Elliott Island Bridge.

Councilman Newcomb explained that because Mr. Moody came to his place of business and acted inappropriately he did not return his telephone calls.

Councilman Newcomb referenced correspondence he received that was sent by residents who live in the southern part of the County to Verizon representatives regarding their concerns that since Isabel they have had poor land line telephone service and do not have cell coverage in that area. Based on a motion made by Councilman Newcomb, the Council agreed to invite representatives from Verizon/Verizon Wireless to a future meeting to discuss the residents' concerns and how to address this issue. The Council asked Mr. Goldman to provide Council's Office staff with contact information so correspondence can be prepared to invite the representatives to meet with them.

Councilman Travers noted that the Republican Caucus will visit Dorchester County during the last week of January and the Democrat Caucus will visit in February and expressed appreciation for the efforts public safety staff had made in the past to accommodate their needs and will undertake this year.

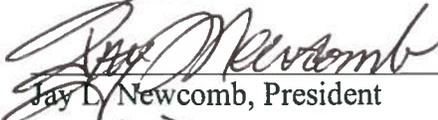
With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:


Jane Baynard, County Manager

Donna FLane
Executive Administrative Specialist

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:


Jay L. Newcomb, President

William V. Nichols, Vice President

Ricky Travers

Rick Price

Tom Bradshaw