

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

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on October 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 was 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.

Voting in favor of the closed Executive Session were the Council members who were present at the beginning of that meeting.

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence was held due to the passing of Chief Sewell Fitzhugh Winterhawk, Nause Waiwash Band of Indians. Councilman Price led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- OCTOBER 7, 2014

The Council approved the minutes of October 7, 2014.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Newcomb reported total cash and investments as \$11,314,998.07.

EXECUTIVE SESSION SUMMARY

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in an Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. on October 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.

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) discussed a recommendation to revise a fiscal policy relating to employee expenses; 2) discussed a matter relating to employee use of County vehicles; 3) discussed a personnel matter relating to a solid waste proposal; 4) discussed a personnel matter relating to a County Department; and 5) discussed County Office Manager applications.

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

REGULAR SESSION

PROCLAMATION-MARYLAND COLLEGE APPLICATION CAMPAIGN

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring November 10 to November 14, 2014 as Maryland College Application Campaign Week which Dr. Henry Wagner, Superintendent of Schools, and Zulieka Jarmon-Horsey, Coordinator for Guidance Services, accepted.

USDA WILDLIFE SERVICES/DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PRESENTATION-BEAVERS

Councilman Newcomb stated at its September 2, 2014 meeting, after a presentation by Libby Nagel, resident, about concerns about a rise in the beaver population in the County, the Council agreed to invite representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services and Maryland Department of Natural Resources to a meeting to provide information regarding beavers and beaver management.

Peter Jayne, Associate Director, Game Management, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), said he and Kevin Sullivan, State Director, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services are present.

Mr. Jayne referenced correspondence the Council sent to Senator Barbara Mikulski, Senator Benjamin Cardin and Congressman Harris seeking the redirection of funding designated for nutria eradication and/or the allocation of additional Federal funding to address the growing beaver population in the County. He explained that the program was

established to eradicate nutria, exotic non-native animals, because they cause irreversible damage to wildlife habitat, native species and ultimately to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. He said beavers, which are a native species, create nuisance problems for landowners, and are beneficial to wildlife species and the environment. Mr. Jayne noted that nutria produce large litters several times a year whereas beavers produce one to four young every two years.

Mr. Jayne advised that DNR and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) staff combine their efforts to assist landowners in beaver management. He said property owners have the following options: 1) hiring a fur trapper to hunt during beaver trapping season, which runs from mid-summer to mid-March; 2) obtaining a free permit to trap in and out of season or to shoot the animals out of season to control the problem on their property; 3) hiring a licensed damage control officer, of which there are 27 licensed in Dorchester County; 4) or seeking assistance from APHIS, which charges for services rendered. Mr. Jayne said there is no Department within DNR with the resources to remove beavers from private land and it is not feasible to transfer nutria eradication funding to control the beaver population.

Ms. Nagel questioned how a landowner can obtain relief if a beaver dam on a neighboring property has caused damage to their property. Mr. Jayne explained that if a neighbor is unwilling to eradicate beavers from their property the affected landowner can obtain a permit to eradicate the animals if the dam is close to their property. He said beaver dams are a good habitat for fur bears, fish and waterfowl.

In response to questions from Wendell Foxwell, resident, Mr. Jayne explained that the value of beaver fur has decreased substantially since the early 1600s and is worth about \$10. He further explained that there is only a small niche market for the animal's meat.

Councilman Price questioned whether there are any other funding resources available to control the beaver population. Mr. Jayne said that there are trappers who are willing to trap beavers at no cost. He said some local government Public Works employees in the State are licensed trappers and eradicate beavers who build dams that block culverts. He explained that these individuals are licensed by DNR and there is limited paperwork involved to obtain a license.

In response to questions posed by Mr. Foxwell, Mr. Jayne said fur trappers in Western Maryland in the 1960s and DNR staff in the late 1980s moved beavers to different locations throughout the State, noting that they originally were located in the Potomac River.

Councilman Newcomb questioned whether Mr. Jayne was aware of the letter the Council sent to Joseph Gill, DNR Secretary, requesting that the deer season be extended for two additional weeks or for an increase in bag limits. Mr. Jayne confirmed that he saw the correspondence. He said two weeks ago he met with stakeholders regarding issues relating to deer across Maryland, which included State representatives and farmers, to discuss reasonable means by which to increase the deer harvest. He explained that a farmer from Dorchester County was invited to participate in this discussion, however, he

was unable to attend due to crops that needed to be harvested. He noted that the stakeholders' focus is on increasing the Sika deer harvest.

Councilman Bradshaw said he spoke to his son an hour ago who removed several deer carcass from a dirt road which were discarded by hunters. Councilman Bradshaw said he is a gun advocate and hunter and expressed concern that actions such as this shed a negative light on hunters.

Councilman Newcomb noted that Sika deer are nocturnal and since the full moon occurs during the hunting season for this animal it is more difficult to hunt them. He said raising the harvest limit will also result in an increase in State revenue.

Mr. Jayne said one of the options the stakeholders have discussed is the liberalization of the deer crops damage management permit to allow producers to address problems on a case by case basis. He explained that they plan to propose to a larger group increasing firearm opportunities in Dorchester County and throughout the region.

Councilman Newcomb stressed that there has been a substantial rise in the Sika deer population in the County. He expressed his belief that since there is no hunting for these animals on State or Federal government land, including at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Sika deer are seeking refuge on that property. Mr. Jayne recognized that there has been an increase in that deer population, noting that the State liberalized bag limits last season and this year. He said it is his understanding that there was a drop in the Sika deer population last year.

In response to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. Jayne stated that from year to year there has been a slow decline in hunting license sales, noting that there are more buck hunters than doe hunters. He explained that at the end of the season the harvest is approximately two antlerless deer per antler deer. Mr. Jayne said Maryland leads the country in the number of antlerless deer and white tail deer taken per square mile.

Mr. Sullivan referenced the partnership between USDA and DNR and expressed his willingness to provide technical assistance to residents, including helping them obtain permits to manage their property and referring them to nuisance control operators.

The Council thanked Mr. Jayne and Mr. Sullivan for providing information regarding beavers and beaver management.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

PUBLIC HEARING

BILL NO. 2014-12 AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-901, ET. SEQ., OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND TO AMEND CHAPTER 65, ARTICLE III, INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE,

SECTION 65-4(B) OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE BY ADDING NEW SECTION .03 PROVIDING FOR THE EXEMPTION OF FARM BUILDINGS AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEFINITION OF FARM BUILDINGS.

Councilman Newcomb stated that a public hearing is being held on Bill No. 2014-12 to amend Chapter 65, Article III, International Building Code, Section 65-4(B) of the Dorchester County Code by adding new section .03 to provide for the exemption of farm buildings from the International Building Code and to add the definition for those structures.

William Layton, resident, said he, as President, is speaking on behalf of the Dorchester County Farm Bureau members and himself in support of this legislation. He commended the Council for considering this legislation which will provide farmers relief from the extensive regulations that have been placed on them. He said they reviewed codes in the other states and their provisions relating to farm buildings are consistent with those outlined in the proposed legislation.

The roll call on the enactment of Bill No. 2014-12 was as follows: Nichols-aye; Newcomb-aye; Bradshaw-aye; Price-aye; Travers-aye.

REGULAR SESSION

The Council reconvened into Regular Session.

PRESENTATION-FY2014 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Keasha Haythe, Economic Development Director, said she will be providing the key highlights of the FY 2014 Economic Development Annual Report. She noted that Susan Banks, Business Development Manager, is handing out draft copies of the report to the Council and that there are several copies on the back table. Ms. Haythe said she anticipates that printed copies will be available next week, noting that residents can then obtain them from the Economic Development Office or the Council's Office.

Ms. Haythe presented the following key highlights: 1) due to a decrease in the unemployment rate from 11% in 2008 to 9.7% at the end of the 2013 and an average rate to date of 8.8% Dorchester County is no longer the county in the State with the highest unemployment rate; 2) business attraction and retention efforts brought in more than a \$163 million in capital investment in FY14; 3) over 200 businesses have been contacted as part of attraction and expansion efforts; 4) 23 site visits and tours were conducted with prospects interested in moving or expanding into the County; 5) 85 jobs were created through business expansion and 800 jobs were retained due to the efforts of State and County staff; 6) Economic Development staff worked with business in the County to procure over \$235,000 in revolving loan funds from the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center; 7) an inaugural small business award was implemented and over 100 people were in attendance at that award presentation last year; 8) 96 news features were produced on existing and news business; 9) education and events were marketed in conjunction with an e-newsletter; 10) seven business were featured on an Electronic Sign on Route 50 to attract businesses and visitors; 11) Economic Development staff partnered with World

Economic Development Alliance to promote the County at three international trading shows and as a result developed over 63 top level business contacts; and 12) Economic Development staff prepared a packet of information as part of its business recruitment and retention efforts which was sent to 24 prospects.

Ms. Haythe said she continues to serve as Vice President of the Maryland Economic Development Association and has spoken to eight industry business groups including Lead Maryland, the Chesapeake Woman's Network and the Mid Shore Board of Realtors. She introduced Ms. Banks noting that she began her employment with the County in January 2014.

Ms. Banks explained that she recently worked with a company to secure 6,200 square feet of space in the old Sensata Building on Woods Road in Cambridge. She said another company is partnering with the Dorchester Career and Technology Center to create internships for students at both of the County's high schools. Ms. Banks advised that she showed a small technology business office space yesterday and learned today that owners will be moving their business and families to the County. She said she also contacted a European Airplane manufacturer regarding the possible location of a facility at the Dorchester Regional Technology Park and although Texas is its preferred location, she is hopeful that company representatives will visit Dorchester County in early spring. She explained that she also contacted a laboratory benefits management group looking to expand and estimated that expansion will create 175 jobs.

Ms. Banks announced that representatives of a Save A Lot grocery store have signed a lease and obtained permits to renovate the space previously occupied by Acme. She said they plan to open the store by February 2015. She explained that she also worked with a manufacturer in April 2014 about possibly locating to the County; however, they relocated to Alabama instead. She stressed that business attraction is competitive, noting that Dorchester County came in second as a preferred location. She explained that the City representatives in Alabama offered the company 25 acres of land at no cost.

Ms. Haythe showed a video that will be provided to prospective businesses. Ms. Haythe said Economic Development staff continue to send out information about the County to prospects and companies interested in expanding.

Ms. Haythe read a portion of an email from an individual regarding their concerns about comments made about economic development during a recent candidate forum. She thanked the Council for its support of Economic Development. Councilman Price questioned whether there is an upward or downward trend in certain industries. Ms. Haythe said manufacturing and health care opportunities are trending upward and there is sufficient workforce in the County to support those industries. She explained that Economic Development staff are targeting the manufacturing industries since there is a readily available workforce. Ms. Haythe said technology business owners are expressing interest in the proposed incubator facility, noting that one of the attractions of this facility is the County's proximity to Washington, DC, Baltimore and Columbia.

Councilman Price referenced Council's support of the establishment of Enterprise Zones in the City of Cambridge and the Town of Hurlock and inquired as to whether those

incentives are drawing businesses. Ms. Haythe opined that the proposed incubator facility, Technology Park, as well as the Enterprise Zones and incentives offered by the State of Maryland assist in this endeavor. She explained that businesses can obtain up to \$5 million from the One Maryland Program. She said prospects also factor the local school system and quality of life into their decision making.

Ms. Haythe advised Council that Donald Gray, a Dorchester County resident, spoke to her prior the meeting regarding an increase in retail companies in Talbot County. Mr. Gray expressed support for a new restaurant on Route 50 in Cambridge. She explained that business owners also consider per capita income and population when selecting a location, noting that the County's demographics need improvement. She encouraged the public to contact her if they have questions regarding economic development in the County.

Mr. Gray referenced Ms. Haythe's earlier statement that 800 jobs were retained and requested clarification. Ms. Haythe said Economic Development staff worked with Amick Farms, which employs 800 individuals, to obtain funding to expand its facility in the County. She said due to that expansion additional jobs will be created.

In response to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Ms. Banks said since she was hired she has seen a positive trend in economic development in the County.

Marla Garrison, business owner, said she teaches law related education to youth, primarily middle school students. She noted that she attended the November 16, 2014 Economic Development Advisory Council meeting which solidified her positive opinion of Dorchester County. She commended the Council for supporting Economic Development. Ms. Garrison advised that she spoke at the Dorchester County Board of Education meeting last week and will be meeting with a principal at one of the schools regarding her business. She said she is looking forward to viewing the incubator facility, which is a possible location for her business.

The Council thanked Ms. Haythe for presenting the highlights of the FY14 Economic Development Annual Report and Ms. Banks for providing a summary of her business attraction and expansion efforts.

2015 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION

Councilman Newcomb said Council will meet with legislators on December 2, 2014 regarding legislative proposals for the 2015 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session. He said in addition to this meeting, the Council will have the opportunity to discuss potential legislative initiatives at its November 3rd and November 18th meetings.

Councilman Newcomb said Council has received a copy of correspondence Mickey M. Love, Executive Director, Dorchester Center for the Arts (DCA), provided to the Board of License Commissioners seeking legislation authorizing DCA, a Maryland non-profit organization, to possess a Class "C" (On-Sale) Beer, Wine and Liquor license. Councilman Travers confirmed that that the Board of License Commissioners will review this request at one of their future meetings and then will provide a recommendation to the

Council regarding the possible pursuit of this legislation during the 2015 legislative session.

Council agreed to not pursue the following legislation which was introduced during the last several legislative sessions but did not pass: 1) to amend Section 16-301 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to add paragraph (f)(3) to change the capital funding structure for Chesapeake College to require a simple majority plus one vote for capital project approvals requiring long term debt service; 2) to amend Section 16-406, paragraph (a)(1) of the Education Article to allow the support counties of the college the opportunity to submit nominations for the Board of Trustees for their respective jurisdictions; and 3) to amend Section 9-401 of the Maryland Agriculture Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to add a new paragraph (b)(4) to classify reed grass (*phragmites australis*) as a noxious plant.

The Council acknowledged that the continued pursuit of the restoration of highway user revenues will be a topic of discussion during its meeting with legislators.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

2015 NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATION-CAMP ESPA-SHERIFF'S OFFICE-GRANT MONITOR

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to submit a 2015 National Rifle Association Foundation grant application for funds in the amount of \$15,000, with no County match, to send 60 at-risk youth to Camp ESPA (Eastern Shore Police Association).

REQUEST TO HOLD E-CYCLING DAY-GRANT MODIFICATION-LANDFILL-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, to hold a fall E-Cycling event at the Beulah Landfill on November 8, 2014 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. utilizing grant funds received from the Maryland Department of the Environment. The Council acknowledged that the event will be advertised in local newspaper(s) and notices will be posted at County's recycling stations, transfer stations and at Beulah Landfill. The Council also acknowledged that MDE has approved a modification of the grant to include the acceptance of printers which will allow the County's Information Technology Department to dispose of old printers, computers and monitors that were recently replaced. Additionally, the Council acknowledged that two small dumpsters will be placed in the Public Works Department yard, one labeled computers/printers and another labeled as monitors/TVs, to allow County staff to dispose of items and will be moved to Beulah Landfill the week prior to the November 8th event. The Council recognized that there an E-Cycling Day event will also be held in the spring of 2015.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS-GOLDEN HILL BULKHEAD REPLACEMENT-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to advertise for proposals for the replacement of the bulkhead at the Golden Hill boat ramp facility which includes the provision that the Council has the right to reject any or all bids. The Council acknowledged that Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement Funds received for countywide maintenance will be used for this work and since this facility is used primarily by recreational boaters, this project will be reimbursed at 100%. The Council also acknowledged that once proposals have been received Mr. Moore will provide recommendations as to whether the project should be performed in-house or by utilizing an outside contractor.

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REFERRAL-NORTH TARA ROAD

The Council agreed to refer to the Traffic Safety Committee the request of Francis and Ikey Allen, residents, for the placement of speed limit signs or speed bumps on North Tara Road since motorists are traveling at high speeds and failing to slow down for children and animals. The Council acknowledged that the following individuals also submitted requests: Matthew Gresfried; Rebecca L. Bauer; Lewis Stafford; Timothy Thompson; Joan Fooks; Marlys Romine, Wade Hopkins; Richard Bobitka and Bill Greathouse.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COVERAGE- QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY-EMERGENCY SERVICES

Based on the recommendation of Jeremy Goldman, Emergency Services Director, the Council approved the request of Queen Anne's County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff for assistance in the form of one staffed Dorchester County ambulance to ensure appropriate EMS coverage at the November 9, 2014 Bay Bridge 10K event. The Council acknowledged that the costs will be absorbed in the FY15 Budget and Dorchester County EMS will have the right to bill for the transports the ambulance provides. The Council also acknowledged that in return Queen Anne's County EMS staff have committed to providing Dorchester County EMS assistance during the triathlons to be held in the spring and fall of 2015.

TRAVEL REQUEST-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Mr. Goldman for three EMS personnel to travel to Canada to the Demers Ambulance plant the last week of October 2014 to perform a final inspection of two new ambulances and to return the vehicles to Dorchester County. The Council acknowledged that the cost for trip is \$1,650 which includes lodging, \$800; fuel, \$250; and meals, \$600, and that funding allocated for these ambulances is available in the FY15 Capital Budget to cover these costs.

SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION REQUEST

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to declare the following three pieces of equipment as surplus: Unit #637, a 84" Ingersoll Ran Roller, Serial number 5248S; Unit #200, a 1990 white GMC Volvo tractor, VIN# 4V1JDBE0LN804077, and Unit #168, 1988 Chevy 1 Ton pickup, an old fuel truck, VIN# 1GBJR34W0JJ132069.

The Council also approved Mr. Moore's request to utilize GOVDEALS.com to dispose of these units. The Council acknowledged the receipt of a check of \$937.50 for the County's share of the "annual volume discount," based on the volume of sales within Maryland, for utilizing this on-line auction site. The Council acknowledged that the vehicles listed below, which are from the Sheriff's Office, are currently stored at the Public Works Department, and agreed to declare these vehicles as surplus contingent upon confirmation from Sheriff James Phillips, that they are surplus and no longer needed: 2006 Ford Crown Victoria, Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) 2FAFP71W96X110482; VIN 2005 Ford Crown Victoria, VIN 2FAFP71W35X120911; Ford Crown Victoria, VIN 2FAFP71W55X120909; Ford Crown Victoria, VIN 2FAFP71W66X110486; Ford Expedition, VIN 1FMRU16W92LA24436; and 2006 Dodge Charger, VIN 2B3KA43H16H374475.

MARYLAND BROADBAND COOPERATIVE-APPOINTMENT OF DORCHESTER COUNTY DELEGATE

The Council agreed to appoint Don Keyes, Information Technology Director, to the Maryland Broadband Cooperative as a Delegate to represent Dorchester County.

OTHER

Councilman Price requested that the following topics be discussed during the November 3, 2014 Annual Transportation Meeting with Maryland Department of Transportation officials: replacement of snow emergency signs in the Town of Secretary that were down last winter, follow up on the storm drains on Route 14 through the Town of Secretary; ditching along Route 14 through the Town of East New Market in the area of Creamery Road to assist storm water. He said he would also like the Council to share with Maryland Department of Transportation officials the Town of Secretary officials' concerns that, although snow on the State road that runs through that municipality was removed, slush was not cleared from the sidewalks and the request of the Town of East New Market officials for a meeting with State Highway Administration representatives to discuss the possible transfer of the State owned property located on the corner of the Town Park to that municipality.

Councilman Newcomb clarified that the next County Council meeting is being held on Monday, November 3, 2014 since the following Tuesday is Election's Day and County offices are closed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bruce Coulson, resident, said Dave Blazer, Deputy Director of Harbor Development, Maryland Port Administration, was the guest speaker at the November 18, 2014

Shoreline Erosion Group meeting. He stated that Mr. Blazer advised the group members that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to begin the restoration of Barren Island within the next three to five years. He explained that he recently learned that if a project is authorized through a Water Resources Reform & Development Act the project must commence within seven years or becomes de-authorized. He said since the Mid Bay Island project, which includes both Barren Island and James Island, was approved the James Island project will be kept active even if only the Barren Island restoration begins.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Price said he attended the October 14, 2014 groundbreaking ceremony for the replacement of the Dover Bridge which occurred on the Talbot side of the bridge, which is estimated to take two years. He stated that Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown and other top Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) officials recognized Senator Richard Colburn and George Jackson, a Caroline County resident, for their extensive efforts in seeking the replacement of this bridge over the span of several years. He advised Council that at the ceremony Caroline County officials approached him regarding the potential replacement of the Backlanding Bridge and he explained that due to funding constraints the project is not being pursued at this time. He expressed his belief that the farming community and public safety personnel will benefit from the replacement of this bridge.

Councilman Price noted that earlier today he attended a meeting about the North Dorchester Railroad Project, hosted by Senator Colburn. He explained that MDOT officials advised that their previous statement that a government entity must sign off on a trail user agreement was incorrect and that an organization can sign instead.

Councilman Price noted that early voting begins October 23, 2014 and encouraged the public to exercise their right to vote. He expressed support for the "Lockbox" question on the 2014 Election Ballot which is a constitutional amendment to ensure that revenue going into the Transportation Trust Fund is used only for transportation purposes and only allows the Governor to use these funds after declaring a fiscal emergency and the Maryland General Assembly passes legislation approving the transfer by a three-fifths majority in the House and Senate.

Councilman Bradshaw expressed sorrow for the passing of Chief Winterhawk who encouraged the preservation and celebration of the heritage of Dorchester's native people.

Councilman Newcomb referenced Mr. Foxwell's inquiry at the October 7, 2014 meeting about a free meal program for public schools. He said the Board of Education staff advised that the school system is not currently participating in the USDA Community Eligibility-Free Meals Program, which is in its second year, due to unknown variables. He said they explained that the food service budget is a standalone budget that does not receive County funding and that the Food Services Director is researching this matter and will provide a recommendation to Dr. Wagner on whether to apply or not for the program in the 2015-2016 school year. He noted that they said all of the County schools will qualify for this program with the exception of Warwick Elementary and South Dorchester K-8. He thanked Mr. Foxwell for bringing this to the Council's attention.

Councilman Nichols expressed his belief that he represents the County as a whole and not just District 2 representative and, therefore, he visits residents in various districts. He said during one such visit an individual questioned whether or not the Sheriff sent a letter to the Attorney General's Office regarding the Council and if it is true that the Sheriff's Office is over budget. He explained that he advised Mr. Willey that: 1) the Sheriff must adhere to legislation passed by the Council that prohibits spending in excess of the amount allocated in the County budget; 2) pursuant to the County's Purchasing Policies & Procedures all purchases over \$5,000 must come before Council for approval; and 3) in eight of the last ten years the Sheriff has overspent the Sheriff's Office budget by \$1 million which could have been used for other county governmental purposes.

Councilman Newcomb again clarified that the next Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 3, 2014 since Tuesday, November 4th is an Election Day and County offices are closed.

Councilman Bradshaw advised that he will provide an update on the phosphorus management tool study at the Council's November 3rd meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

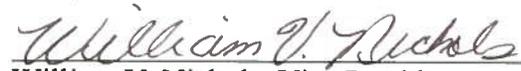


Donna F. Lane
Executive Administrative Specialist

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:



Jay D. Newcomb, President



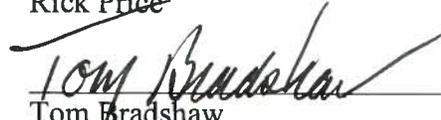
William V. Nichols, Vice President



Ricky Travers



Rick Price



Tom Bradshaw

Approved the 3rd day of November, 2014.