

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2017**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on October 3, 2017 with the following members present: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; William V. Nichols; Rick M. Price and Don B. Satterfield. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney; Jeremy Goldman, County Manager; and Donna Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist.

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Price led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, announced that after publication of the agenda the following items were added: 1) Chase Vehicle Outfit Request-Emergency Services, 2) Letter of Support Request-Mace's Lane Community Center Project Steering Committee; and 3) Social Services Appointment. He said there are two additions: Tax Sale Property Offer and Offer to Purchase Tax Sale Certificate. The Council approved the amended agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

The Council approved the minutes of September 19, 2017.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers with additions. Councilman Price abstained for payments made to the Hyatt.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$6,783,502.51.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council adjourned from a Regular Session and convened in a Closed Session pursuant to Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, pursuant to §3-305(b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; pursuant to §3-305(b)(14) to before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public

discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process; and, pursuant to §3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter on October 3, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613.

Action taken at the Closed Session: 1) approved the request of Soil Conservation Manager to hire an individual to fill a vacant Soil Conservation Grant Technician position by a 5 to 0 vote; 2) approved request of Emergency Services Director to promote four individuals to Emergency Medical Services Shift Supervisors by a 5 to 0 vote; 3) confirmed personnel realignments made by State's Attorney by a 5 to 0 vote; 4) discussed a personnel matter relating to a County department; 5) discussed an offer to purchase a tax sale property-agreed to discuss in open session; 6) discussed an offer to purchase a tax sale certification-agreed to discuss in open session; 7) discussed and obtained legal advice from the County Attorney regarding a matter relating to a County agency; and, 8) discussed and obtained legal advice from the County Attorney regarding a matter relating to a landfill gas management system agreement.

The purpose of the Closed Session is also set forth in the Written Statement of Closing a Meeting Under the Open Meetings Act, which will be provided upon request. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were all of the present Council members.

REGULAR SESSION

COMMENDATION-JASON BARNES

The Council presented a Commendation to Jason Barnes for responding to an emergency situation while driving on Route 50.

COMMENDATION-WENDELL FOXWELL

The Council presented a Commendation to Wendell Foxwell for his 13 years of service to the Board of Zoning Appeals and the citizens of Dorchester County.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES RECOGNITION OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Anna Sierra, Emergency Services Director, presented information regarding the Department of Emergency Services' Recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. She also provided the Council members with shirts that were sold to obtain donations.

CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE UPDATE

Dr. Stuart Bounds, Interim President, provided the following update on the Chesapeake College presidential search: 1) his role is to serve as Interim President for less than a year to assist the Board of Trustees with the search process; 2) the Board will finish a list of expectations this Thursday; and 3) it is their hope to advertise in early October. Mr.

Bounds explained that Don Bradley, Board Member, who is present, stepped down as Board President effective July 1, 2017. Mr. Bounds explained that Mr. Bradley and the current President, Blenda Armistead, asked him to serve in an interim role and assist in the search in lieu of hiring a consultant. He noted that the Council has been provided a copy of the search schedule. Mr. Bounds said a survey was sent to over 200 individuals, noting that he provided Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, a copy of the posed questions. He stated that they engaged faculty and staff in the process and conducted an online survey. He advised that he also met with County Administrators/Managers and Superintendents of Schools of the College's support counties, leadership at Shore Regional Health and Chamber of Commerce Presidents. He said the Board will use the information obtained from the surveys and discussions to prepare expectations. He noted that their goal is to conduct interviews in January 2018 and then interview finalists in March 2018.

Mr. Bounds advised that he also spoke to Mr. Goldman and Victoria Jackson-Stanley, Mayor, City of Cambridge and Board Member, about the County's and the City's initiatives and regarding the Cambridge Center and the College's desire to play a role in them. He explained that the College representatives are looking ahead on how to grow its presence in the County. He said they are also working with Dorchester County Public Schools, and in particular, the Dorchester Career and Technology Center staff, to expand the College's program offerings at that school. Mr. Bounds stated that he also met with Dr. Diana Mitchell, Dorchester County Superintendent of Schools, who shared her vision. He expressed his hope that the College representatives can work with the leadership of the City and County to ensure that their needs are met. He said they are also focused on growing service to students and being more proactive in bringing students in and providing them support.

ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION MEETING TOPIC DISCUSSION

Councilman Travers said in anticipation of the November 7, 2017 Annual Transportation meeting with Maryland Department of Transportation officials some topics for discussion have been provided for Council's review.

Mr. Goldman advised the Council that he will be meeting with Jay Meredith, District #1 Engineer, State Highway Administration on October 24, 2017 at 1 p.m. to view the Hoopers Island Causeway. He said discussions have been held with State representatives about the County being given consideration regarding surplus equipment. He advised that there has been some progress in obtaining such consideration, but it may be for snow plows only. Mr. Goldman said, pursuant to the Council's request for a traffic study, the State Highway Administration has begun its study of the Mace's Lane and Washington Street intersection, for which some media interest has been shown.

The Council agreed that the following topics will be discussed: 1) seeking assistance for the Hoopers Island causeway and jetty; 2) concern about the placement of roundabouts in

the County; 3) bringing rail back to the County; 4) asking for consideration regarding surplus equipment, and, in particular, snow plows; and 5) continuing efforts to coordinate actions involving bridge and lane shutdowns with local government so Emergency Services can adjust needs accordingly. The Council acknowledged that staff will send an e-mail on October 23, 2017 to them seeking any additional topics, before sending correspondence to Jay Meredith, District #1 Engineer, on October 30, 2017.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Roger Harrell, Health Officer, said he will provide an overview regarding the Opioid Intervention Team and Donald Hall, Program Director, Dorchester County Addictions Program, will speak about specific programs. He referred to the May Board of Health meeting at which they talked briefly about the Governor's Declaration of Emergency regarding the heroin epidemic. He said a kick-off meeting was held on May 23, 2017 with the executive group that was established as the command center. He advised that the decision was made to use several existing groups, including the Criminal Justice Network that serves as the Drug and Alcohol Advisory Group. He noted that they have also formed a regional task force to work with Shore Health System for which he and Anna Sierra, Emergency Services Director, are co-chairs.

Mr. Harrell stated that \$74,000 in grant funds has been obtained and will be used for on-call peer recovery support and a prescription monitoring program. He noted that a key component of the program is education which will be handled by Health Department staff. He said the County's Health Department in conjunction with Caroline County will hire a data analyst. He said they are working with Joseph Hughes, Director of Corrections, regarding utilizing a pre-release coordinator at the Detention Center who will coordinate with Health Department staff when an inmate is released. He advised that Corey Pack, Field Supervisor, Division of Parole and Probation, is in favor of using a pre-release coordinator. Mr. Harrell said they are also working with Director Hughes to implement a vivitrol and suboxone treatment program. He said the Youth Action Council at the Health Department has funds available to expand that treatment and for education and training.

He noted that Sheriff James Phillips and his representatives were present at the kick-off meeting. He said they are currently working with the public school system, who has an education responsibility pursuant to the Governor's Declaration. He commended the Sheriff and the new heroin coordinator in the County. He stated that the Declaration references the Health Officer as the incident commander and he is willing to do so in joint leadership with Emergency Services.

Mr. Hall provided the following information about the on-call peer support program: 1) of the five peers two have been certified with Dorchester General Hospital and the others are working towards this certification; 2) the peers are in recovery from a substance abuse disorder; 3) the on-call system will be for the off hours; 4) the Dry Dock Recovery and Wellness Center is open roughly 10 hours a day and since most overdoses are in the

evening the peers will be on-call for those remaining hours; 5) hospitals, urgent care facilities, law enforcement or Emergency Medical Services can contact the peers; and, 6) the peer would arrive to the hospital within an hour; 7) if an individual survives an overdose a peer will provide information regarding treatment and the recovery center; 8) if they are unwilling to go to treatment the peer will provide them the name of someone they can speak with. Mr. Hall advised that the goal of the program is to reduce the individuals cycling through hospital rooms or urgent care facilities and those the police are assisting. He said a purchase order has been issued for the telephone and he suspects the peer support services will be available before the end of the month. He explained that: 1) they will collect and review data every 30 days; and, 2) they will compare the amount of those referred to those who sought treatment and analyze the data to determine program effectiveness.

Mr. Hall advised that a vivitrol and suboxone treatment program will be instituted at the Detention Center. He noted that as little as three days of non-use can lower the tolerance of an individual who is vulnerable to overdose. He explained that the goal is to reduce criminal judicial system and Correction costs. He advised that studies show that the use of vivitrol has resulted in a 55% reduction in individuals cycling back through the system. He said as a result of a partnership with the Alkermes Company, the first dose of vivitrol will be free and the medical department at the Detention Center will administer the medication before the inmate is released. He noted that the initial doses have already arrived at the facility. He explained that the Drug and Alcohol Random Testing (DART) Program is now operational at the Detention Center and the goal is assess inmates and place them into a treatment program. Mr. Hall said their intention is: 1) to introduce the inmate to vivitrol; 2) for them to accept vivitrol treatment; and, 3) to ensure they have an appointment. He stated that the vivitrol blocks the effects of opioids and also works with alcohol. He explained that six months does help, however, 12 or 18 months are ideal. Mr. Hall said funds are built into the project to administer and pay for the medicine. He noted that through the Substance Abuse Partnership Grant they can provide housing, if available, so individuals will not be in a dire situation and re-offend.

Mr. Hall said a pre-trial counselor will be hired for the Detention Center through the Health Department. He advised that the counselor will work with the DART program. He stated that this person will: 1) pass information between treatment and Corrections; 2) assist inmates in obtaining transportation, housing and substance abuse treatment; 3) ensure they know about Parole and Probation; and 4) will provide naloxone treatment. He advised that naloxone treatment will also be provided by the on-call peers to survivors and family members.

He advised that Clay Stamp, Executive Director, Opioid Operations Center, will visit Dry Dock. He said the tentative date is October 24, 2017 at 10 a.m. He noted that September was Recovery month; there was a Saturday recovery event at Dry Dock at which attendance was in the low 80s. He stressed that they are continuing to spread the word and provide support for treatment and recovery. The Council thanked Mr. Harrell and Mr. Hall.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PRE-APPLICATION PUBLIC HEARING-HOMELESS INITIATIVE

Cindy Smith, Grant Administrator, said a public hearing is being held to obtain the views of citizens on the needs of the homeless population to be considered for the submission of an application to the Maryland Community Development Block Grant under the Homeless Initiative. She explained that the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) is focused on ending homelessness in the country and there is \$2 million available for the at-risk and the homeless. She said this is an opportunity for organizations in the community to expand services. She stated that HUD's focus is on providing housing and not just on emergency shelters which usually have restrictions such as banning individuals if they have a criminal background.

Ms. Smith advised that: 1) she has received one proposal from Delmarva Community Services for the creation of transitional housing in the community for homeless women and children; 2) the Cold Weather Organization may submit a proposal however its emergency shelter may not be eligible for funding; 3) although Salvation Army representatives attended the grant training they are not ready to move forward at this time; 4) there is a November 15, 2017 grant submission deadline; and, 5) anyone interested in applying for grant funds can contact her and she will assist them with the process.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council convened into Legislative Session.

The Council introduced Bill No. 2017-18. AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND PURSUANT TO SECTION 10-202 AND SECTION 10-323 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, TO REPEAL AND REENACT CHAPTER 37 ENTITLED "RECREATION AND PARKS" OF THE CODE OF PUBLIC LOCAL LAWS OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND BEING ARTICLE 10 OF THE CODE OF PUBLIC LOCAL LAWS OF MARYLAND, TO PROVIDE FOR THE RE-CREATION OF THE BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS FOR DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND (THE "BOARD"), TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP, ORGANIZATION AND RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE BOARD, TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS OF A DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD.

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said the legislation to be introduced is to repeal and re-enact Chapter 37 entitled "Recreation and Parks" of the Code of Public Local Laws of Dorchester County, Maryland, to re-create of the Board of Recreation and Parks for Dorchester County, Maryland and provide for: 1) the membership, organization and rules of procedure for the board; 2) the appointment and qualifications of a director of recreation and parks; and 3) the functions of the Board.

The Council agreed to proceed with publication of a public hearing on this matter. Councilman Price opposed. The Council adjourned into Regular Session.

REGULAR SESSION

MANAGERS COMMENTS

OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT-BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Council approved the request of Dr. Diana L. Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools, for an Operating Budget amendment to transfer \$55,000 from Fixed Charges-Pension Expense to Operation of Plant since State billing for teacher pensions was lower than expected. The Council acknowledged that: 1) the Board of Education approved this budget amendment at its September 21, 2017 meeting; and, 2) the monies will be used to assist in paying for abatement services for the old North Dorchester High School.

LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST-STATEWIDE PROCLAMATION-MARYLAND VOTING EQUITY REFORM DAY-HISTORICAL FREEDOM SHRINE ADVOCACY TEAM

The Council approved the request of Dr. Carl Barham for a letter of support for the Historical Freedom Shrine Advocacy Team's request to the Dorchester County Delegation and Governor Lawrence "Larry" Hogan for a statewide Proclamation on the Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day.

REQUESTS TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS-AIRPORT

The Council approved the following requests of Amber Hulsey, Airport Director, to advertise for proposals and acknowledged that each project has been funded: 1) asphalt companies to supply asphalt restoration services for areas in need of hot crack sealing, surface sealing, selected asphalt replacement and marking repainting to Federal Aviation Administration standards; 2) steel building painting professionals to paint aircraft T-Hangars; 3) licensed electrical professionals for several tasks involving circuit breaker panel replacement and relocation as well as several light fixture and outlet connections; and 4) licensed glass professionals for the replacement of four window panels in the Airport restaurant.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM 2017 RECERTIFICATION-PLANNING AND ZONING

The Council approved the request of Brian Soper, Environmental Planner, to renew the County's Community Rating System for 2017 and to execute a recertification agreement.

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT AWARD-GRANT MONITOR

The Council approved the requests of Cindy Smith, Grant Administrator, to: 1) accept an Emergency Solutions Grant award of \$117,900 which will be utilized to provide

assistance to individuals and families who are homeless or in jeopardy of homelessness as well as \$4,350 for administrative support which will cover the County's grant monitoring costs; and 2) to execute a Sub-Recipient Agreement between the Council and Delmarva Community Services (DCS) to sub grant to this non-profit organization the grant funds since this entity will provide these services. The Council acknowledged that DCS will provide the 50% match.

TIPPING FEE GRANT PROCEDURES APPROVAL-GRANT MONITOR

Mr. Goldman noted that the Council included in the FY18 budget funds for a tipping free grant for strategic demolition and other similar projects. He said Ms. Smith, on behalf of the group charged with development of procedures, has submitted a proposed Tipping Fee Grant Waiver Policy and Procedure for Council's review and consideration. Councilman Travers noted that this will assist in addressing blight in the County. Mr. Goldman explained that: 1) it includes the limitations the Council previously discussed; 2) it is now being proposed as a grant program with an application and evaluation process; 3) once the budgeted amount is exhausted no further applications will be accepted if and/or until additional funds are allocated; 4) there is no impact to the Landfill Fund. Ms. Smith said someone has already expressed an interest in applying for funds. The Council agreed to adopt the Tipping Fee Grant Waiver Policy and Procedure.

TRAINING TRAVEL REQUESTS-DORCHESTER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Council approved the request of Nancy Shockley, Director, Dorchester Community Partnership for Children & Families, to attend a Measurable Impact training from November 8 to November 10, 2017 (travel dates November 7th and 11th) in San Antonio, Texas at the cost of \$1,028 for registration, round trip flights and lodging with \$1,000 being provided by the Governor's Office for Children. The Council acknowledged that: 1) additional costs for meals, travel and parking will be covered through the Local Management Board Training budget funded through the Governor's Office for Children; and, 2) travel and parking cost to and from airport will be evenly divided between Dorchester County and Caroline County.

The Council also approved Ms. Shockley's request for the County Manager, State's Attorney, Director of Corrections, Core Services (Behavioral Health Authority) and herself to attend a Better Outcomes at the Intersection of Mental Health and Criminal Justice training in Florida from December 3, to December 5, 2017 (travel days December 2nd and 6th) at the cost of \$1,690 per person for a total of \$8,450. The Council further approved her request to submit a budget modification to the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention through Safe Streets grant to utilize \$8,450 of \$10,000 in unallocated grant funds for this training.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BUDGET MODIFICATION – DORCHESTER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Council approved the request of Ms. Shockley for a modification to the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Department of Juvenile Services for the Adventure Diversion Program to incorporate performance measures for the Dorchester/Caroline Teen Court Program and to decrease the total operating budget for FY2018. The Council acknowledged that the original annual grant award for the Teen Court was \$92,744 and the new award will be \$89,078.

LETTER OF SUPPORT-ALLOCATION OF COASTAL RESILIENCE PROGRAM FUNDING-HURST CREEK SHORELINE PROJECT

Mr. Goldman said before the Council is a request for correspondence urging the State of Maryland to allocate funding to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resilience Program for the remainder of the Hurst Creek Shoreline project. He explained that delays in obtaining funding to finish projects often increase costs due to design and/or planning updates. He advised that program monies of \$80,000 have been allocated for design and permit acquisition, noting the estimated project cost is \$1.5 million. Councilman Satterfield said he was approached by members of the Bonnie Brook Association at a recent community event about sending this letter. The Council agreed to send the correspondence.

TRAVEL REQUESTS

Landfill

The Council approved the request for John Cooney, Landfill Manager, to attend the Solid Waste Association of North America's certification class from November 6 to November 9, 2017. The Council acknowledged that: 1) the class and exam fees, \$700 and three nights lodging at \$115.79 per night (347.36) will be paid in advance and be billed against "other expenses" as the Landfill does not have any funds budgeted for certification; and, 2) the Maryland Department of Environment recognizes the training and certification for which it urges landfill managers to obtain.

Emergency Services

The Council approved the request of Anna Sierra, Emergency Services Director, for her and Andy Robertson, EMS Manager, to travel to the DEMURS Ambulance manufacturing plant outside of Montreal, Canada to: 1) verify ambulance specifications are accurate; 2) have any necessary corrections completed that day; and, 3) drive the unit back to Dorchester County.

SCALE HOUSE WINDOW REPLACEMENT-LANDFILL-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council agreed to sole source and accept a bid from Wilson Brooks, the lowest bidder, for window replacement on the Scale house at the Beulah Landfill at the cost of \$4,650.

2017-2026 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Councilman Bradshaw made a motion to adopt the revised Ten-Year Solid Waste Management Plan for the planning period of January 2017 through December 2026, including proposed development of a new landfill unit at the existing Beulah Municipal Landfill site by resolution. Councilman Satterfield seconded his motion. Councilman Travers noted that: 1) a public hearing on the draft plan was held; 2) a written comment period of 30 days was provided; 3) Council reviewed the comments from the public hearing as well as the written comments; and 4) the Maryland Department of Environment has issued a Notice of Final Determination. In response to a question from Councilman Price, Mr. Goldman said the public can obtain the responses/comments. The Council agreed to adopt the Plan by resolution which Councilman Price opposed.

COUNTY NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

Mr. Goldman said: 1) at its October 1, 2013 meeting, the Council agreed to select the Dorchester Banner as the newspaper of record for Dorchester County government; 2) at that time this newspaper was being published twice a week, Wednesday and Friday; 3) the Dorchester Banner is now only published once a week on Thursdays; and 4) the deadline for this publication is Tuesday before noon. He said unfortunately, as a result, the Council's Office cannot use this publication to advertise legislative and other public hearings since, pursuant to the County Charter and the opinion of Charles MacLeod, Special Legal Counsel, these advertisements must be placed 14 days in advance of a meeting, and there must be seven consecutive days between the first ad and the second. Donna Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist, said the Council's Office can advertise in the Dorchester Banner if it is published on Wednesdays.

Dave Cannon, Advertising Manager/Marketing Consultant, said maintaining the County's business is important to him and introduced Darel La Parde, the publisher of the Dorchester Banner. Mr. La Parde thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak. He expressed his desire to work with the Council to resolve this matter. He stressed that the goal is to ensure that readers are able to view the County's public and legal advertisements. Mr. La Parde noted that the newspaper is provided on-line seven days a week. The Council agreed to defer taking any action on this matter in order to allow an opportunity for Mr. Cannon and Mr. La Parde to meet with Mr. Goldman and Ms. Lane. Mr. Goldman advised that County Departments may have to advertise in different news publications in order to meet deadlines, including Planning and Zoning. He said the Dorchester Banner will be utilized whenever possible. In response to an inquiry from Amber Husley, Airport Director, Mr. Goldman said the 14 day requirement does not

apply to requests for proposals. Based on a query from Ms. Smith, Mr. Goldman confirmed that pursuant to the County's Purchasing Policies & Procedures a request for proposals must be advertised twice, but there is no requirement that it be placed in the same publication both times.

DISCUSSION-TRAVEL REQUEST APPROVALS

Mr. Goldman said the current process regarding travel request approvals was implemented by a memorandum from the prior County Manager in 2009 as a budget measure due to the decline of the economy, reductions in highway user revenues and layoffs. He asked the Council about continuing that process, or as allowed by the County Code, having these requests approved at the County Manager level. He explained that the requests for which either funds are already included in the budget or are being covered by grants or other agencies as well as those for the same annual events and/or conferences will be approved at that level. He said unusual travel requests, such as the request for Mr. Cooney which was addressed earlier, will be provided to the Council for its review and consideration.

Councilman Nichols expressed his desire for these requests to continue to be provided to the Council, so they are aware of who is traveling and when. Mr. Goldman noted that information can be provided to the Council. Councilman Bradshaw said he is agreeable to having the County Manager approve requests that are budgeted or annual events and/or conferences and the unusual or unfunded requests being provided to the Council.

The Council deferred this item.

OTHER

Councilman Travers presented the Boy Scouts in attendance with County pins. He noted that they are present in order to obtain a badge for which they have to write a summary about the meeting.

OBSERVANCE OF HALLOWEEN

The Council agreed that Halloween will be observed by County residents on Tuesday, October 31, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for children ages 12 and under. This policy will not supersede prescheduled times and dates set by municipalities. Residents living outside town limits should follow the County policy set forth by the County Council, unless they intend on carrying their child (ren) into a town.

POLL CONFIRMATION

The Council confirmed its decision in the interim between meetings, by means of a poll, to piggyback on this year's State of Maryland Blanket Purchase Order to purchase a 2017 ¾ ton Chevy Silverado 2500 HD pickup truck from Sport Automotive at the cost of \$29,956 by a 5 to 0 vote. The Council acknowledged that there are funds in the amount of \$39,000 in the FY18 budget for this purchase.

Chase Vehicle Outfit Request-Emergency Services

The Council approved the request of Anna Sierra, Emergency Services Director, to sole source with Redstorm Fire & Rescue Apparatus, Inc. to purchase equipment to outfit the EMS Chase Vehicle at the cost of \$10,244 using monies remaining in the budget allocation for the vehicle purchase.

Letter of Support Request-Maces Lane Community Center Project Steering Committee

Based on the request of Keith Cornish, on behalf of the Maces Lane Community Center Project Steering Committee, the Council agreed to send a letter of support for the Committee's request for a Mid Shore Foundation Grant, which funds will be used to develop the Maces Lane High School building into a public community center facility.

Social Services Appointment

The Council approved the request of Lisa Hartman, Social Services Director, to appoint Chareka Harris to serve a three year term on the Dorchester County Social Services Board commencing October 1, 2017.

TAX SALE PROPERTY OFFER

The Council accepted the offer of Wesley Hill to purchase the tax certificate for 2603 Toddville Road, Toddville, Maryland for \$5,000.

OFFER TO PURCHASE TAX SALE CERTIFICATE

The Council accepted Brenton Whipple's offer to purchase the tax certificate for 1004 Glasgow Street, Cambridge in amount of \$3,359.97.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Windsor, resident, questioned whether information at meetings can be made available to the public immediately afterwards. He cited the programs discussed earlier in the meeting, including the homeless initiative and those relating to substance abuse, as examples of items the community should be informed about. He referred to Star Democrat articles regarding personal stories relating to opioid use. He expressed concern about the publication of the Dorchester Banner once a week.

Ms. Smith said the Local Management Board, also known as the Dorchester County Community Partnership for Children and Families, is working on a resource directory which will include available services including food bank locations and events. She stated that it will be advertised on the County website and will include telephone numbers. Mr. Windsor suggested doing radio station announcements, since there are individuals who do not want or have on-line access. Councilman Travers said staff will look into his request. He explained that there are multiple programs that are focused on outreach. Mr. Goldman said based on feedback from Department Heads at staff meetings, discussions have been undertaken regarding establishing a centralized

communications process. Mr. Goldman explained that due to a potential personnel component this may be a discussion topic during the FY19 budget process.

Michael Wheatley, a business owner and resident, expressed a desire to provide assistance for the homeless. Councilman Travers said he can speak to Ms. Smith about potential options. Mr. Wheatley thanked the Council for their service to residents.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Nichols said farewell to Lester Wiggins, his friend, and a prior Deputy Sheriff in the County.

Councilman Satterfield encouraged residents to reach out to a family member or friend that they have not spoken with or seen in a while. He referenced the recent tragedy in Nevada and suggested that the public contact law enforcement if they view anything suspicious. He applauded law enforcement and emergency responders who place their lives on the line daily.

Councilman Price advised that he attended a Maryland Association of Counties Legislative Committee interim meeting last week. He stated that there were four priorities identified for the 2018 legislative session. He noted that one priority is for a local infrastructure fast track for Maryland funding, which was previously known as highway user revenue restoration. He said the wording has been changed in an attempt to incorporate all infrastructure, including bridges, to generate more support. He stated that the other priorities are: 1) strong and smart funding for school construction; 2) public access through modern technologies; and, 3) advancing the Maryland Next Generation 911 system to identify ways to broaden public access including wireless texting and video communication.

Councilman Price referenced a recently published report about the State awarding additional grant funds. He expressed his understanding that the County will receive approximately \$207,000. He inquired as to whether those funds have been received and if projects have been identified using these monies. Ms. Smith indicated that funds from the State Highway Administration (SHA) were recently received. Ms. Lane referenced the Council's prior decision to submit a Special Great Application to SHA, noting that the amount to be awarded to the County was not known at that time. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Price, Rebecca White, Executive Assistant, confirmed that this amount is addition to the highway user revenues allocated to the County. She noted that municipalities received more than the counties. Councilman Price said the following events that will be held this weekend: Ironman Maryland race, Town of Hurlock's 26th Fall Festival, and Heritage Day in East New Market.

Councilman Bradshaw expressed his sympathy for those who suffered during the recent weather events and the mass shooting in Nevada. He said it is heartening to hear about those who helped others in need. He stressed that mental illness treatment and enforcing the gun ownership laws should be the focus instead of additional gun control measures.

He noted that the fountain at Court House has been inoperable for some time. He explained that he spoke to Steve DelSordo about the foundation, who used to work for the federal government regarding historic properties and preservation. He said Mr. DelSordo is conducting research on the foundation. He expressed his desire to consider restoring the foundation during the next budget deliberation process. He voiced his understanding that there have been discussions regarding the use of the front entrance of the Court House as ingress and egress. He said he also spoke to Mr. DelSordo about this and will share what he learned at the next meeting. He reminded everyone to be mindful of outside burning and grilling due to the current dry conditions.

Councilman Travers said the German Partnership group visited the County this past weekend. He referred to the success of the Crabtoberfest event at Sailwinds, during which a German band performed. He noted that Jeff Trice, Economic Development Director, was an integral part of that event. He encouraged residents to volunteer for the Ironman Maryland race this weekend. He said he and his wife have volunteered the last three years and this year. He suggested that citizens station themselves along the end of the route on Water Street later in the evening. He said participants include handicapped share riders with special needs bicycles. Councilman Travers announced that: 1) the next Council meeting will be held on October 17, 2017; and, 2) the Council reserves the right to meet in closed session prior to regular session.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:



Jeremy Goldman
County Manager

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL.



Ricky C. Travers, President



Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President



William V. Nichols



Rick M. Price



Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 17th day of October, 2017.