

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2018

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on October 16, 2018 with the following members present: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; 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 Travers 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 2, 2018

The Council approved the minutes of October 2, 2018.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented with Councilman Price abstaining for payments made to Hyatt.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$10,998,417.34.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into Regular Session on October 16, 2018 at 5:45 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613 and motioned to adjourn into 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. Present were: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; 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. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were all of the present Council Members.

The Council convened into a Closed Session on October 16, 2018 at 5:46 p.m. to discuss the following items: 1) approved the request of the Director of the Department of Corrections to promote an employee to Sergeant/Shift Supervisor and an employee to a Corporal/Assistant Shift Supervisor by a 4 to 0 vote; 2) approved the request of the Public Works Director to hire three individuals to fill Motor Equipment Operator II positions and two individuals to fill Motor Equipment Operator I positions by a 4 to 0 vote; 3) approved the request of the Director of the Department of Corrections to hire four individuals as Probationary Correctional Officers to fill vacancies by a 4 to 0 vote. Present were: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; 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. 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

CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE UPDATE/HIGHLIGHTS- CAMBRIDGE CENTER

Dr. Cliff Coppersmith, President, Chesapeake College, said he is present with Victoria Jackson-Stanley, Member, Board of Trustees, and Ms. Amber McGinnis, the new Interim Director of the Cambridge Center. Dr. Coppersmith advised that he has office hours on Thursdays at the Center and has enjoyed working with the community.

Ms. McGinnis provided an update on improvements being made to the Cambridge Center including installation of new computers and phones, updates to first aid equipment and future security enhancements. She advised that: 1) a workgroup has been established to discuss the development of a strategic plan and vision for the Center; 2) the plan and vision will align with the College's which will also be done this year; and, 3) Ms. Jackson-Stanley will be her co-chair. She explained that she is working with the continuing education Department to develop a command Spanish course with a focus on providing emergency responders conversational Spanish and potentially educators and law enforcement. She said computer and art classes for adults will be held at the Center in the Spring and they are also in the process of developing courses to serve the needs of the hospitality industry.

Councilman Satterfield questioned the status of the relationship between the College and the public school systems' Technology Center. Ms. McGinnis advised that currently Certified Nursing Assistant classes are being held through a Memorandum of Understanding with the school system. She noted that a welding class was also offered at that facility. She and Mr. Coppersmith said they are willing to continue to foster and expand that relationship.

Ms. Jackson-Stanley referred to the expiration of Don Bradley's term on the Board of Trustees as Dorchester County's representative. Pursuant to her query, Councilman Travers explained that the individual who expressed to him their interest on serving on the Board has since withdrawn his name. Based on a motion made by Councilman Price, the Council agreed to nominate Mary Dennard Turner as the Dorchester County representative on this Board.

HURST CREEK PROJECT UPDATE

Cindy Smith, Assistant Finance Director, introduced Dave Wilson, Executive Director, Delmarva Resource Conservation and Development. She said he is present to provide an update on the Hurst Creek project. She noted that there is a community outreach meeting on October 25, 2018 at the Elks. She noted that an \$80,000 grant has been obtained from the Department of Natural Resources for the projects preliminary design work and permitting. Mr. Wilson said he has been working on Hurst Creek since 2004. He noted that it has been dredged several times. He advised that grant funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) of \$700,000 was garnered in 2017; however, the project was pulled by this entity. He stated that that originally, the split for the cost of construction was 65% for the Army Corps and 35% for RC&D, as the local sponsor. He said that formula has since been changed and as a result RC&D was responsible for 50% for construction and \$50,000 in future costs. Mr. Wilson explained that funding was finally obtained through the Governor's Coastal Resiliency Program for Hurst Creek.

Mr. Wilson advised that \$1.5 million has been allocated for the project, of which \$800,000 has been earmarked for design. He said the accepted design bid cost is \$44,000. He noted that they have met with landowners on both sides of the project and that after the October 25th meeting, the plan may be slightly tweaked based on community input. He showed the Council the proposed plans which includes six phases. Mr. Wilson expressed his belief that the remainder of the design funding can be used towards construction costs which is about \$1.1 to \$1.2 million. Ms. Smith concurred with this statement. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Mr. Wilson advised that the dimensions will be 50 feet wide 5 foot deep. In response to a query from Councilman Bradshaw about the mucky material in the area at the mouth of the Creek towards Route 50. Mr. Wilson said the grant funding cannot be used to remove the material, noting that a spoil site also must be identified. He explained that periodic maintenance will be performed for six years and they are hopeful to address this matter during this work.

The Council agreed to the execution of the permit application based on the draft application and preliminary design which will be provided to the President for signature once finalized. Councilman Bradshaw abstained since he is a member of the RC&D Board. Pursuant to questions posed by Councilmen Travers and Bradshaw, Mr. Wilson said construction will hopefully begin mid to late next year and work can be done throughout the year except during icing events. Councilman Bradshaw questioned whether there are any restrictions relating to fish in the area that may impact the project. Mr. Wilson said efforts will be made to identify all restrictions, noting that an oyster bar is in the vicinity of the project.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council convened into Legislative Session.

PUBLIC HEARING - PUBLIC SALE AUCTION BY SEALED BID-GOOTEES NECK SCHOOL

AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND DECLARING THAT A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF SHORTERS WHARF ROAD, CONTAINING 21,780 SQUARE FEET OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, AND KNOWN AS 3186 SHORTERS WHARF ROAD AND ALSO KNOWN AS GOOTEE'S NECK SCHOOL PROPERTY, IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE BY THE COUNTY AND PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF THE PROPERTY BY PUBLIC AUCTION SALE BY SEALED BIDS.

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said a public hearing is being held on Bill 2018-6 which will authorize the County to declare 3186 Shorters Wharf Road, also known as Gootee's Neck School property, as surplus property and as authorize it to be sold by public auction sale by sealed bids. He noted that no one signed up to speak. He asked if anyone in the audience had comments. There was no response. Councilman Bradshaw said there were several articles in the Baltimore Sun in the 1950s about this and other one room schools, noting that Bounds Church used the building as a community hall years ago.

The roll call on the enactment of Bill No. 2018-6 was as follows: Nichols-absent; Satterfield-aye; Bradshaw-aye; Price-aye; Travers-aye.

PUBLIC SALE AUCTION BY SEALED BID-GOOTEES NECK SCHOOL

Mr. Merryweather said one sealed bid has been received for the sale of the old Gootees Neck School property, from Bill Heuer who has tendered a cashier's check. He said a \$160 check was provided by Mr. Heuer. The Council agreed to accept the bid. Councilman Bradshaw stressed the need to seek relief for a duplicate process relating to the sale by the County of properties acquired from the Board of Education. Mr. Goldman said the pursuit of this relief will be discussed during the next item.

The Council convened into Regular Session.

REGULAR SESSION

2019 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINAL LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION

Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, said this is the Council's last discussion regarding legislative initiatives to pursue during the 2019 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session. He noted that the Council has already agreed to seek the amendment of COMAR to remove the duplicate process Councilman Bradshaw referenced earlier relating to the disposal of property transferred to the County by the Board of Education. The Council discussed items they previously agreed to pursue as well as other potential legislative initiatives.

Anna Sierra, Emergency Services Director, advised that: 1) the NG911 Commission, on which she sits as a representative of the Eastern Shore counties, is exploring new ways to fund 9-1-1; 2)

currently there are 16 counties that do not recover more than 30% of their operational costs through the 9-1-1 fee; 3) the current 9-1-1 surcharge structure, a \$1.00 per bill, is outdated as it was passed years ago when bill bundles for cell phones and other 911 devices was not a common practice; 4) the Finance Subgroup of the Commission is exploring alternative structures to address the current funding shortfalls as well as predicted gaps for next generation 9-1-1 implementation; 5) It is expected a 9-1-1 funding bill will be introduced this upcoming session and will be discussed heavily at the upcoming MACo Winter Conference. In response to inquiries from Councilman Travers, Ms. Sierra said: 1) over a decade ago counties were allowed by the State to raise the fee from 60 cents to 75 cents so enabling legislation is necessary; 2) the State assesses an additional 25 cents; 3) one of the initiatives of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) is to pursue this legislation; and, 4) the fee structure should be determined within the next four weeks. Councilman Satterfield advised that he spoke with U.S. Senator Cheryl Kagan during a White House tour regarding plans being developed for 911. Councilman Travers noted that Senator Kagan spoke highly of Ms. Sierra during the prior winter MACo conference. Ms. Sierra said she is a great ally.

Councilman Bradshaw cited need to seek legislation to increase funding for the control of noxious weeds, including palmer amaranth and phragmites. He advised that: 1) several times a year Public Works staff cut back phragmites that obstruct motorists' view from turns on Elliott's Island Road; 2) Delmarva RC&D has overseen a spray program for several years which started with Delmarva Power and Light on the Wicomico County side of the Nanticoke River; 3) spraying has been expanded in the last three to four years to along the entire river; 4) from the Nanticoke River Memorial Bridge natural fauna that grew back after phragmites spraying occurred can be viewed; 5) phragmites are not a food source for animals nor do they assist with erosion since their roots are not embedded into the ground; 6) Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge began a spray program recently.

The Council agreed to pursue the legislative initiatives provided to them by Memorandum, including: 1), the pursuit of legislation to amend Section 19-1604 "Additional Class A licenses" to add Class a beer, wine, and liquor licenses for off sale at restaurants and taverns based on the recommendation of the Board of License Commissioners; and, 2) supporting Soil Conservation's pursuit for increased funding for weed control to control the spread of noxious weeds and in particular, palmer amaranth.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES-FACILITY GENERATING ELECTRICITY-RICHFIELD SOLAR ENERGY, LLC

Mr. Goldman noted that at its October 2, 2018 meeting, Council agreed to defer consideration of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement between Dorchester County and Richfield Solar Energy, LLC in lieu of personal property taxes for the construction and operation of solar electric generating facilities pursuant to Section 144-4 of Chapter 144 of the County Code for the construction and operation of a 50 MW solar electric generating facility in Shiloh Camp and Osbourne Roads in Hurlock for a 35 year period to obtain clarification regarding buffers. Councilman Travers recognized that the Council received documents showing the buffers. The

Council agreed to enter into this agreement with Councilman Price opposing based on his belief that no action should be taken until after the completion of the update of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

FY19 ANNUAL PROGRAM -RECREATION AND PARKS

Frank Stout, Recreation and Parks Director, provided the Council information regarding the FY19 Annual Program for Recreation and Parks, which is required pursuant to Program Open Space (POS) requirements. He referenced the adoption of the 2017 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan, a five year plan, which obligates the County to provide an annual program each year. He explained that the five projects highlighted in the FY19 Annual program came directly from that plan which was created based on public and staff input. He listed the projects as follows: 1) Hurlock Athletic Complex Softball Field Lighting for which grant funding is being sought to reduce costs; 2) phase one of construction of a Rails to Trails for Cannery Park for which POS monies last year were used to fund the design; 3) circuit training equipment and signage for Friendship Park in East New Market; 4) a joint project with City of Cambridge for basketball court improvements at Cornish Park; and 5) pool skimmer replacement. He opined that skimmer replacement is not necessary at the current time but may be needed in the future. He expressed appreciation for the assistance Department of Natural Resources staff provided to him during preparation of the plan. He said the program can be modified. The Council approved Mr. Stout's request to approve the FY19 Annual Program.

TRAVEL REQUESTS

The Council approved the requests of Anna Sierra, Emergency Services Director:

- for her and Steve Garvin, Emergency Planner, to attend the MEMA Local Emergency Manager (LEM) Winter Retreat on November 13 to November 14, 2018 in Solomon's Island, MD with all costs incurred being covered under existing emergency management budget allocations. No additional funding is required. Estimated costs to the County is \$403.
- for herself, Kim Vickers, Brian Steveanus, Nicholas Kovach and Marshall Kjar to travel to the Motorola Flex Summit, which is the new CAD vendor's annual conference. Travel dates will be November 10 to November 15, 2018. The cost of the conference has been covered by vendor; the cost of travel will be covered out of already budgeted funds in the 911 budget. Ms. Sierra will only attend three days, November 10th to the 12th due to a scheduling conflict. The anticipated costs to the county are: \$7,871 which includes flight, hotel, food and conference.
- for Andy Robertson, EMS Chief and Hubert Meeks, EMT, to travel to the DEMURS ambulance manufacturing plant outside of Montreal, Canada from November 4, 2018 to November 6, 2018 to verify the ambulance specifications and drive the unit back to the County. Estimate costs include: 1) airfare, \$350 and food costs for two days, per diem is \$119 per person per day but it is anticipated that food costs will not exceed \$200. The

DEMURS vendor pays for the hotel cost. The other travel costs were factored into the Capital request for the purchase of the ambulance.

REQUEST TO APPLY-LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSURANCE TRUST GRANT- AMBULANCE ONLINE COURSE

Ms. Sierra spoke to her request to apply for a Local Government Insurance Trust grant for \$3,440 with no local match to purchase 90 licenses of an online ambulance training course through the National Safety Council which will allow all employees to take a base level course as well as provide an update to those that have already completed a training program. She advised that employees will take this training on their regular rotation and an in-house practical course will follow, while employees are on shift so there will be no additional cost to the County. The Council approved her request.

USE OF SPRING VALLEY REQUEST-CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The Council approved the request of Amy Craig to use the Spring Valley for a Christmas tree lighting on Saturday, November 24, 2018. The Council acknowledged that: 1) this year they are partnering with the Rescue Fire Company Train Garden Opening to allow the entertainment, the Maple Lions Band, to play at the ceremony and then march to open the train garden; and, 2) they are seeking from the City a noise ordinance variance, police assistance and the closure of the intersections of Gay and Spring and Gay in front of the old fire station. Ms. Craig thanked the Council for the repair of the fountain at the Circuit Court House. She said perhaps a rededication can be held at the same time as the lighting ceremony.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING-SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS-BOARD OF EDUCATION-SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Council agreed to execute a Memorandum of Understanding, Implementation and Administration of Programs Involving Sheriff Deputies in Schools between Dorchester County, by and through the Sheriff's Office, and the Board of Education. Dr. Diana Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools, said the Maryland Department of Education requires each County school system to have such a document on file and the agreement was vetted by attorneys for all parties.

FY19 MARYLAND SPORTS AMATEUR AND YOUTH GRANT PROGRAM AWARD- TOURISM-FINANCE

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Assistance Finance Director, on behalf of Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, to accept a FY19 Maryland Sports Amateur and Youth Grant Program Award of \$20,000 to assist in paying the Ironman Maryland licensing fee for the FY19 event.

TAX SALE PROPERTY OFFER-FINANCE

The Council approved the recommendation of Ms. Smith to sell 517 Washington Street, Cambridge, a County property acquired by tax sale, to Ivory Buck for \$1,000 which is adjacent

to Henry Funeral Home. The Council acknowledged that: 1) the City is very supportive of the funeral home acquiring the property; and, 2) their plans are to demolish the existing structure to expand their parking lot.

RENEWAL-CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND ANTI-DISPLACEMENT PLANS-FINANCE

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith to renew the County's Citizen Participation and Anti-Displacement Plans to remain compliant with the U.S. Housing and Urban Development and Department of Housing and Community Development Community Block Grant requirements.

BID AWARD-PIPE-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Ryan White, Public Works Director, to award the bid for supplying Aluminized Type 2 Metal Pipe or HDPE Drainage Pipe for the period of November 1, 2018 to October 31, 2019 to Lane Enterprises. The Council acknowledged that a request for proposals was advertised with no response so companies were contacted for quotes.

FY19 MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION GRANT AWARD ACCEPTANCE REQUEST-DELMARVA COMMUNITY SERVICES-FINANCE

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith, on behalf of Delmarva Community Services, to accept Maryland Transit Administration annual grants for FY19. The Council acknowledged that the match under the operating grant is supported in part by the County's FY18 budget appropriation to DCS with the remainder being funded by the entity.

NATIONAL HISTORIC TRUST BARTUS TREW FUND GRANT AWARDS-TOURISM- FINANCE

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith to accept the following two grant awards from the National Historic Trust Bartus Trew Fund:

- \$22,000 for the stabilization of the outbuilding behind Bayly house with matches from Preservation Maryland, \$10,000; State Highway Administration, \$10,000, Tourism budget, \$1,500; \$500 from the property owner; and an in-kind match of \$1,000 in the form of project management;
- \$2,500 for outreach education/signage at the Hicks Mansion with a request to use \$2,500 from the Operating Contingency Fund for the cash match.

STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM AWARD-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Anna Sierra, Emergency Services Director, to accept a State Homeland Security Program Award of \$77,665.41 which funds personnel and operating expenses relating to Emergency Management. Ms. Sierra said this amount is \$6,000 less than last year's award.

2018 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT AWARD-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Ms. Sierra to accept a 2018 Emergency Management Performance Grant Award of \$71,393.26 which funds personnel and operating expenses relating to Emergency Management with the match consisting of 911 expenses/surcharge.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Council agreed to reappoint Charles Tinley to the Sanitary Commission. Mr. Goldman said: 1) the appointments of Lin Spicer (District 1) and Catherine McCulley (District 4), Board of Zoning Appeals, expire on December 31, 2018; 2) Mr. Spicer has advised that he does not want to commit to reappointment until after the election; and, 3) Ms. McCulley is not interested in reappointment. He advised that Patricia Simmons, the District 3 representative on the Council for Senior Citizens Services, has tendered her resignation as of September 22, 2018. The Council approved the request of Claire Spillane, Assistant Director of Services, Department of Human Resources, Dorchester County Department of Social Services, to appoint Ashley McDonald to the Dorchester County Adult Public Guardianship Review Board to replace Elizabeth Burke.

POLL CONFIRMATIONS

The Council confirmed its decisions in the interim between meetings, via poll, by a 4 to 1 vote (1 no answer) to:

- declare as surplus, an old drafting table, white table, small wood/metal desk, nine chairs and an old conference table;
- purchase a property located at 100 Lake Street, Cambridge which borders Cannery Park and is close to the County pool for \$50,000 using either remaining FY18 capital monies, FY19 Capital Contingency Fund and FY19 Operating Contingency Fund;
- authorize the pursuit of the acquisition of a 0.249 acre parcel known as the former Levi property in Cambridge, which is adjacent to the American Legion Hall, at the cost of \$12,779.

ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION MEETING-MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

James Ports, Deputy Secretary of Operations, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), advised that the following individuals are present: Chrissy Nizer, Maryland Vehicle Administration; Travis Johnson, Local Transit Support Director, Maryland Transit Administration; Greg Slater, Administrator, State Highway Administration (SHA); Jay Meredith, District #1 Engineer, SHA; Ashish Solanki, Director, Regional Aviation Assistance, Maryland Aviation Administration; Melissa Williams, Project Planning and Program Development Director, Maryland Transportation Authority; Michele Gross, Government Relations Manager, Maryland Transportation Authority; Chris Correale, Director, Harbor Development, Maryland

Port Administration; Jennifer Guthrie, Legislative Manager; Harry Romano, Rail and Policy manager, Office of Freight & Multimodalism; and Jeff Tosi, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, MDOT.

Deputy Secretary Ports presented an overview of the draft FY 2019-2024 Consolidated Transportation Programs (CTP) and provided key updates on transportation investments, the Port of Baltimore, BWI Marshall, and work completed in Dorchester County. Mr. Slater, Ms. Nizer, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Correale, Mr. Solanki and Ms. Williams also provided information on the proposed CTP and projects in the State.

Councilman Bradshaw advised that Brookview Bridge, which was built in the 1930s, is in need of major repair. He said today he traveled over the bridge in a tractor trailer and barely missed the vehicle on the other side of the road surface. Deputy Secretary advised that staff can view the bridge, noting maintenance is a priority for State owned bridges.

Councilman Price noted that the intersection Route 392, at Route 14 in East New Market has been an ongoing topic due to visibility concerns. He said during his last conversation with MDOT it was stated that there may some markings placed in that area. Mr. Meredith explained that accident statistics are very low for this intersection. He said signage and/or markings are options they are considering to improve visibility. Secretary Ports recognized Mr. Meredith for performing his job to the best of his ability and said he should be the contact for matters such as this intersection. Councilman Price advised that Town of Secretary officials have asked about the review of the speed limit on Main Street which is 35 mph based on their belief it should be dropped to 25 mph. Mr. Meredith said that location has been discussed many times and the results of several speed studies have determined that it does meet warrants to reduce the speed. He stated that they will continue to monitor the area and take action when it meets the criteria for a speed reduction.

Councilman Satterfield commended Mr. Meredith for his response to calls and assistance. He also thanked Mr. Solanki for his continued support at the Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport. He highlighted the need for approval for a runway extension from the Federal Aviation Administration. He said he toured the Port less than a month and was amazed at the amount of activity. He recognized that dredging the Port is necessary, due to its economic impact to the State. He noted that small rural counties, such as Dorchester which has a large seafood industry, are also dependent on waterways; therefore, funds are also needed for dredging in those jurisdictions. In response to a question from Ms. Correale, Councilman Satterfield said the Council has discussed the County's dredging needs and continues to have open conversations with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff. Ms. Correale said for the split for deep drafting dredging the split is 90% Federal and 10 % State with 100% cost of the maintenance being the federal government's responsibility.

Mr. Goldman said most of the items the Council provided have already been addressed by County and MDOT staff. He advised that one improvement the Council would like MDOT to consider is installing sidewalks from Leonard's Lane to Maces Lane (Route 343). He noted that this high area use is near schools. Councilman Travers noted that some work was performed on

this State road but not in this particular area. Mr. Meredith advised that he has spoken to Mr. Goldman about this request.

In response to Mr. Goldman's inquiry, Mr. Slater explained that the Woods Road end pipe replacement project which is being led by the Highway Development headquarters in Baltimore is moving into the design phase. He noted that some preliminary planning has been completed. Councilman Travers asked if the size of the pipe will be increased. Mr. Slater advised that all possibilities are being considered in order to ensure all issues, including systematically, are addressed.

Mr. Goldman advised that it is the Council's understanding that the State is interested in transferring the Visitor's Center to the County. He explained that the Council has submitted a counteroffer for a trade of the property. Secretary Ports noted that Pete Rahn, Secretary, MDOT, is the one that will make that decision. He recognized that Mr. Meredith has been discussing this potential trade with the County and MDOT staff. A discussion ensued regarding setting up a meeting with Secretary Rahn which resulted in a decision to schedule it in late January 2019. Mr. Slater said they received direction from the Federal government on how to obtain approval to change ownership since federal transportation funds were used to purchase the property. He noted that as a result, if an agreement is made between MDOT and the County there will no federal hurdle.

Secretary Ports recognized that the County has been working with Mr. Romano on obtaining right-of-ways for State rails. Mr. Goldman said he speaks with him on a regular basis. He noted that there are some issues regarding the rail line from Hurlock to Preston. Secretary Ports advised that Mr. Romano spoke to him about that matter and he expressed his belief that there is a solution. Based on comments made by Secretary Ports and Mr. Goldman, Mr. Romano confirmed that they both shared with him the same suggestion on how to handle the matter. Secretary Ports said he supports the County's efforts to obtain the right-of-ways for a rails to trails project.

Senator Adelaide Eckardt noted that Mr. Meredith is very helpful and responsive to transportation issues. She expressed her support for the pursuit of right-of-ways for a rails to trails project as well as the Mid Bay Island restoration project. Secretary Ports noted that she attended earlier meetings with three other counties.

Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes, referenced the trend to move seniors from facilities into communities which increases transportation needs and costs. She emphasized the importance of transportation services for seniors and those with disabilities. She acknowledged that Delmarva Community Services (DCS) provides these services and expressed support for continued funding for this entity. Secretary Ports commended DCS for the services it provides to residents. He explained that there is a formula set by the State for transportation mobility funds. He noted that there is a partnership between the County and local governments to fund the system. Secretary Ports referred to the upturn of dialysis transportation requests. Senator Eckardt said several individuals have expressed dismay that some vehicles do not accommodate their wheelchairs due to their size or features. Jerome Stanley, Transportation Operations Manager, DCS, said while all of the company's vehicles are wheelchair accessible, due to advancements some of the

wheelchairs cannot be transported in vehicles. Secretary Ports explained that: 1) the weight limit for wheelchairs, including the person and batteries pursuant to the federal government cannot exceed 1,000 pounds; 2) there are no federal requirements to accommodate wheelchairs over a certain width; 3) buses are not equipped to handle wheelchairs over a certain weight and size; and, 4) in one instance a wheelchair was so heavy a vehicle began tilting.

Senator Eckardt questioned whether formula for local monies for para-transit include those with acute conditions. Secretary Ports said pursuant to the American Disabilities Act (ADA) an individual cannot be disqualified; however, para-transit transportation is an unfunded mandate. Mr. Johnson said in FY19 DCS will receive \$50,000 towards ADA operations. He explained that the State just released another solicitation under the 5310 program, which is specifically for those with disabilities and the elderly. He stated that it is a \$6 million program over the next two years. He noted that DCS applies each cycle for this funding. He encouraged other human services agencies to do the same. Secretary Ports noted that the funds are specifically for non-profit organizations which must be willing to provide the service.

Delegate Johnny Mautz expressed appreciation for the assistant Mr. Meredith provides him, noting that he is very responsive. He underscored the need for funding for dredging in the County since its local economy relies on the water. He highlighted the use of the City of Cambridge's Port by the John W. Brown Liberty Ship which was toured by many individuals.

Councilman Travers asked if Patrick Comiskey, City Manager, had any comments or concerns regarding City transportation needs. He said at the present time he does not have any and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak.

Michael Henry, Mayor, Town of Hurlock, explained that Neelson Street, a truck route between Route 307 and 392, is designated as such to avoid traveling into the center of the Town. He stated that there is a major processing plant on this road and several trucking companies within a 1.5 to 2 mile radius that use this route. He said several years ago this road was used as a detour for bridge work performed in Federalsburg and at that time the roadway was repaired by MDOT. He advised that the road is in need of repair and since the Town has limited available funding and resources, the Town officials are interested in the State assuming ownership of that road. He said he will speak to Mr. Meredith about this matter.

Mayor Henry said another issue of concern of local citizens is the traffic light in the Town. He said there are roads leading into the intersection that are posted as 30 mph and the one through the center of Town is 25 mph until 300 feet before the traffic light. He said the speed then increases to 30 mph. He expressed his belief that the speed limit should not be raised by the traffic light so motorists are not increasing speed through the intersection. Delegate Sample-Hughes said additional information, including the last action taken, can be obtained from the survey that was conducted of this intersection by SHA. Mr. Meredith advised that one option he provided to the Town officials was a roundabout which was rejected. Mayor Henry said he will discuss that option with Mr. Meredith. Mr. Meredith stated that he will resolve the speed limit discrepancy issue tomorrow.

Mr. Stanley thanked Deputy Ports and Mr. Travis and the County Council for providing support and assistance to Delmarva Community Services.

Ms. Sierra said one of the things that is a major focus in the County is coastal resilience since changes in the environment affect citizens daily. She asked about MDOT's strategic plans relating to resiliency, particularly with State owned infrastructure located in Dorchester County. Mr. Slater explained that they are working on different toolsets and programmatic solutions including the development of a vulnerability index model with Salisbury University. He said the State and local roads that may be fully or partially impacted by storm surge or tidal shift were identified and the following was determined: 1) if there is a detour route; 2) the amount of traffic that utilizes the road; and, 3) if it is classified as an evacuation route. He stated that the vulnerability index model is online and it will be shared with the County. In response to an inquiry from Ms. Sierra, Mr. Slater advised that they are focused on State roads first, noting that there are a couple of roads of the lower shore over which the tide flows daily. Ms. Sierra noted that the same situation is occurring on some of the County roads. Mr. Slater said connectivity and citizen access are two items of focus.

Councilman Satterfield noted that the majority, if not all of the roads in District 1, are impacted by a normal tide. Mr. Slater said under the new program they are viewing the whole system, both State and local infrastructure. Councilman Satterfield thanked those individuals from the MDOT and SHA who viewed the Hoopers Island Causeway and provided the Council with their expertise on how to address issues relating to that infrastructure. Councilman Travers said the County is seeking grant funding for repairs. Councilman Satterfield stated that the cost for repairs is about \$16 million, noting that unless they are made about 80 families will lose their homes and nine or 10 businesses will close. He advised that tons of cement have been used for the causeway. Mr. Slater said several local federal programs have funding available. Councilman Travers explained that the approach, the causeway, is the problem and not the bridge. Councilman Satterfield advised that pursuant to an aerial photograph taken several years ago there was land in the causeway. He said there is no land in that area now and water damage on the sides has undermined it from underneath. Secretary Ports noted that MDOT is prohibited from spending funding on local projects. Mr. Slater expressed his belief that there are targeted grants available for rural transportation needs. Councilman Satterfield noted that during a White House tour he attended a meeting with the Secretary of Commerce, the Undersecretary of Transportation and other U.S. Departments. He stated that he has shared the information he received from this tour with Mr. Goldman and the County. He said he learned that there are federal programs for transportation and expressed hope that with MDOT's input the County may be able to obtain funding to make repairs to the causeway. Mr. Slater said he will contact an individual at the White House to inquire as to whether there is an available program. Councilman Travers expressed appreciation for any efforts he and other MDOT staff can make to assist the County. He explained that he also toured the White House and the Port which was impressive.

Councilman Travers explained that the County is also interested in spoils from the State to assist with the Mid Island Project to restore Barren Island and James Island. Ms. Correale advised that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) has \$644,000 in their FY18 work plan for commencement of the design. She said State staff have worked with them on a project

management plan, a schedule and a design agreement with the expectation of putting that before the Board of Public Works in November. Councilman Travers said the Council can provide support at that meeting. Mr. Correale voiced her appreciation for the offer. She stated that she is working with federal elected officials to secure funding in the FY19 budget to continue the design for which \$2 million in federal funding is needed which represent a 65% share of the cost. She said the State's share, the remaining 35%, has already been allocated. She explained that the Army Corps is not allowed to budget for FY19 nor FY20. She expressed her belief it is good sign that money has been allocated for the project since the Army Corps typically does not set aside monies unless they intend to continue funding it. Councilman Travers said the Council was advised that once the design commenced there was a timeframe for spending the funds. Ms. Correale said the Army Corps was allowed to carry over funds from 18 to 19. She stated that Barren Island will have a 27 month design period and James Island will have a 47 month design period. She advised that pursuant to the recent passage of port legislation by Congress, which she believes will be signed by the President shortly, will extend the authorization for the Mid Bay Island project from 2021 to 2024. Councilman Travers emphasized the need to move forward with the project as soon as possible in order to save the islands. He thanked MDOT staff for working with the Council over the last four years, including Mr. Meredith.

Councilman Price noted that this is his last meet with MDOT officials. He thanked Mr. Meredith for his assistance regarding roads in the northern area of the County, noting he has been very responsive. He said he has enjoyed the updates MDOT staff provided annually.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Price thanked Mayor Henry for speaking about road issues in the Town of Hurlock. He acknowledged Town officials and the organizers of the Annual Fall Festival. He also acknowledged and commended County staff for staying on top of Hurricane Michael. He encouraged motorists to be mindful of trick or treaters.

Councilman Bradshaw referred to past and current issues relating to the removal of markers by the Coast Guard. He said: 1) during the Hooper's Island Boat Docking Competition last week a boat and its prop were damaged because a broken marker, which was poorly marked by a buoy a few yards away; 2) a marker by Harris Ferry Bridge is no longer of use and needs to be moved; 3) markers have already been or will be removed in Slaughter Creek and will not be replaced; and, 4) at the County's facility at Elliott's island there is no marker at the end of the sea wall at McCready Creek even though pursuant to 1998 charts one should be located in that area. Councilman Bradshaw made a motion to invite the Coast Guard to speak with the Council about these matters. He noted that William Reddish, Community Liaison for Congressman Andy Harris, is willing to assist in scheduling the meeting. Based on his motion, the Council agreed to extend the invitation.

Councilman Bradshaw expressed dismay that a sea level rise experiment was being conducted by the Audubon Society in the marsh of Farm without notification to the County or other interested parties. He said it was featured on a WBOC news cast. He explained that an excavator is being used, noting that this is the same type of equipment was used in the 1960s and 1970s to dig mosquito's ditches. He advised that trappers have expressed to him their concern about this action which may result in the loss of marsh as it did then. Councilman Bradshaw said the cleaning out of ditches on State highways throughout the County is desperately needed which will reduce overflow onto roadways.

Councilman Satterfield thanked emergency medical service responders and law enforcement for their storm preparedness and endeavors relating to Hurricane Michael. He advised that he has received not less than a dozen telephone calls and a letter from a group in opposition to the placement of a sludge storage tank on property between Airey's Road and near the Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport. He said is not in favor of the tank installation, noting that the current process must be followed. He noted that legal counsel has been obtained for the County.

Councilman Travers said: Halloween will be observed by County residents on Wednesday, October 31, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for children ages 12 and under; 2) this policy will not supersede prescheduled times and dates set by municipalities; and, 3) 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. He announced that: 1) the next Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 5, 2018; and, 2) members of the Dorchester County Council will attend the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting being held on Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Cambridge, Maryland.

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

absent

William V. Nichols



Rick M. Price



Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 5th day of November, 2018.