

**County Council of Dorchester County  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 7, 2017**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on February 7, 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 Satterfield 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 a 2017 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session Discussion was added and there was one addition from closed session-Tax Sale Property Offer. The Council approved the amended agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES- JANUARY 17, 2017**

The Council approved the minutes of January 17, 2017.

**APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS**

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

**FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$7,620,016.08.

**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)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; and pursuant to §3-305(b)(7) to obtain consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter on February 7, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613.

Action taken at the Closed Session: 1) discussed a proposed policy relating to advancement in a County department; 2) approved the request of the Public Works Director to promote two employees to fill Motor Equipment Operator III positions by a 5 to 0 vote; 3) approved the request of the Public Works Director to hire two individuals to fill Motor Equipment Operator II vacancies by a 5 to 0 vote; 4) confirmed hiring of an employee by the Sheriff; 5) discussed personnel matter relating to a County department; 6) discussed an offer to purchase County owned property acquired by tax sale-agreed to consider in open session; 7) discussed with legal counsel a matter pertaining to legislation; and, 8) discussed with legal counsel a matter relating to a current lease.

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**

### **PROCLAMATIONS-NATIONAL OUTDOOR SHOW MONTH**

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring February 2017 as National Outdoor Show Month.

### **PROCLAMATION - CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH MONTH**

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring February 2017 as Children's Oral Health Month.

### **COMMENDATION RETIREMENT-PAULA KANE**

The Council presented a Commendation to Paula Kane recognizing her 30 years of service to the County through her employment with the Dorchester County Detention Center and congratulating her on her retirement.

Councilman Nichols left the meeting.

### **BUNKY LUFFMAN, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS EASTERN SHORE LIAISON-GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

Bunky Luffman, Intergovernmental Affairs, Eastern Shore Liaison, Governor's Office, said he is the liaison between local governments including 56 municipalities and 9 counties from Cecil County to Somerset County and Governor Lawrence "Larry" Hogan. He advised that he was Deputy Mayor of Delmar until November 1, 2017 when he received his appointment as the Eastern Shore Liaison. He explained that he is available to facilitate with State agencies or the Governor for any type of project or communication. He noted that he also works alongside staff for the Delegates and Senator.

Councilman Travers said it is understanding that Mr. Luffman has already spoken to Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, regarding the Council's major concerns. Mr. Luffman concurred. Councilman Travers referred to the Zero Waste Plan for Maryland Executive Order issued by

Governor Martin O'Malley. He recognized that there were timing issues that have delayed a response from the Governor regarding the Council's request for relief from this order as it relates to the expansion of existing landfills.

Mr. Goldman referred to the Council's inability to consider landfill expansion due to the restrictions the Executive Order placed on the Maryland Department of Environment. He said the Council has been provided strong wording that indicates some type of relief will be forthcoming at the end of the legislative session. Councilman Travers noted that the Council is under a strict timeline to increase landfill capacity.

Mr. Goldman recognized that Governor Hogan supports the restoration of highway revenues. He explained that the County has received a reduction in distributions because the majority of the available highway user revenues are being provided to municipalities. He said in Dorchester County municipalities have a very small percentage of the roads. He noted that this percentage is different in other counties. Mr. Goldman advised that the effect on small counties needs to be considered when setting up distributions to all counties. Mr. Luffman stated that a couple of bills for the restoration of highway user revenues have been introduced. He recognized that the Governor has went on record that it is his intention to restore these revenues.

Mr. Goldman said he realizes the Governor cannot act alone to restore revenues. He expressed dismay that the legislature continues to remove the funding the Governor places in the proposed State budget for this purpose. Mr. Luffman stated his belief that \$24 million was removed from last year's budget. Mr. Goldman said Dorchester County has lost slightly over \$ 31 million since the removal of highway user revenues which has impacted the County's ability to maintain and repair roads. Tom Moore, Public Works Director, reiterated that \$24 million was included in last year's State budget. He stated that that the original amount distributed prior to the reductions was \$500 million.

Councilman Price said prior to the loss of these revenues an entire road could be paved and now only portions. He noted that this has caused a hardship on residents including the farming community.

Mr. Goldman stated that the railroad embargo is another topic of concern. Councilman Travers said Harry Romano, Office of Freight and Multimodalism, Maryland Department of Transportation, Rail Program and Policy Manager, is aware of the Council's concerns. He noted that since the rail embargo just outside of Hurlock, a business, Pep Up, requested a spur to transport propane tanks. He explained that MDOT's response was the installation of the spur and upgrade to the railroad was cost prohibitive. Councilman Travers expressed concern that the rail infrastructure was not properly maintained which resulted in its deterioration. He said Valley Protein, which is on the upside of the embargo, also expressed an interest in rail siding. He advised that the Council is going to pursue the installation of the siding and continued maintenance and operation of the rail at least to Linkwood based on these business' proposed use of the line. Councilman Travers asked for the Governor's assistance in this matter. Mr. Luffman stated that he spoke to Mr. Romano today and advised him that this was going to be on the Governor's radar. Councilman Travers said he understands that there was limited usage of the

Cambridge rail line. Councilman Travers noted that the rail in question is two miles from the railroad embargo. He said he believes this is a valid request.

Councilman Bradshaw expressed dismay that the rail was not maintained by changing out the ties. He said as a result a business has had to change its process in order to transport material. He referenced the carbon footprint of utilizing 80 plus trucks versus the existing rail. He noted that the business' costs will increase. He also expressed dismay that the rail embargo has resulted in the loss of a marketing tool for business attraction.

Councilman Travers said last week a company visited the County and was ready to purchase a property and wanted to use the rail. Councilman Bradshaw expressed concern about the years of neglect of the rail. He stressed the need to increase job opportunities in the County to build up the tax base.

Councilman Price expressed concern about: 1) the impact oyster sanctuaries are having on local waterman particularly since harvesting is down; and, 2) the potential identification of additional areas as sanctuaries. He cited the importance of the seafood industry to the local economy.

Councilman Bradshaw said it is his understanding that when the sanctuaries were established by the previous administration a five year management plan was to be developed. He noted that seven years later no plan exists. He said he is concerned about the possible loss of oysters since they perish after reaching a certain age and size.

Mr. Luffman said he will relay all of the Council's concerns to Governor Hogan, the Maryland Department of Environment and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

#### **INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING-SLAUGHTER CREEK DREDGING-PUBLIC WORKS**

Councilman Travers noted that an informational hearing is being held on the future dredging of Slaughter Creek. Mr. Moore said DNR provided the County \$50,000 last year towards this dredging project. He advised that the channel is silting in. He said that he wants citizen user input to identify problem areas, required depths and whether there should be any alignment changes. He explained that U.S. Army Corps of Engineers no longer automatically provides regular maintenance dredging funding for channels that receive less than a million tons of commerce annually. He said to make a successful bid for funding of the project the number of the commercial watermen and fisheries and commercial facilities and marinas in the area that are affected are needed. He advised that information regarding recreational fishermen, the amount of boat slips at public and private ramps also needs to be obtained. Mr. Moore noted that the commercial marina in the area has had some issues. Councilman Travers confirmed that the Slaughter Creek Marina owners and users have some concerns, noting that there were a number of boats damaged by low water depth last year. Councilman Travers queried as to the total project cost. Based on the Tyler's Cove project, Mr. Moore estimated the cost to range from \$2 million to \$4 million depending on how the project is structured. Mr. Moore said the \$50,000 can be used for engineering or planning documents. Referring again to the Tyler's Cove project, he said there will probably be different shares for portions of the project. He expressed his belief the share for the study is 50%.

In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Mr. Moore explained no additional funds, other than the \$50,000, were obtained for this project. He stated that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is not providing funding for many channels. He noted that Army Corps did provide monies for the Ocean City Inlet. He explained that the reason cited for assisting with that project was that the dredged material would be used to shore up Assateague Island.

Councilman Bradshaw said Resource, Conservation and Development was involved in the Kent Narrows project in which a portion or all of the channel was dredged. Mr. Moore said the Army Corps did not fund this project. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Councilman Bradshaw expressed his understanding that RC&D leveraged their funds to garner grant funds. Pursuant to another inquiry by Councilman Travers, Mr. Moore said it is his intention is to go to formal study after receiving citizens input.

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, advised that no individuals signed up to speak during this public hearing. Based on Mr. Moore's recommendation, the Council agreed that Public Works can hold a public meeting near Slaughter Creek, perhaps at the fire hall, to obtain public comments on this dredging project.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING-COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS-GRANT MONITOR**

Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, said pursuant to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) requirements a public hearing is being conducted to report the progress of the County Office Building ramps installation and the Infrastructure and Architectural Design phase of the Chesapeake Grove Intergenerational Center.

She explained that CDBG funding was utilized to install a ramp at the front entrance and to update another at the back entrance of the County Office Building to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. She said the parking areas are graded to the sidewalk next to the handicapped parking spaces.

Ms. Smith introduced Santo Grande, President/CEO, Delmarva Community Services (DCS). Mr. Grande thanked the Council for assisting DCS in obtaining a CDBG grant for the infrastructure and architectural design phase of the Chesapeake Grove Intergenerational Center. He said the property on which the Center will be built consists of 10 acres with a 13 to 14 acre catchment area. He explained that the infrastructure phase included clearing, filling, seeding, making corrections to ditches throughout the property, the installation of sidewalks and the completion of two entrances. Mr. Grande explained that the CDBG funding assisted in the completion of this work.

Mr. Grande said he is hopeful construction will begin this spring and once comments on the plan have been received from various agencies a request for bids will be advertised. Pursuant to an inquiry from Ms. Smith, Mr. Grande stated that the entire development will create approximately 40 full time and 20 part time jobs. He also confirmed that the project will be conducted in phases. He explained that the project includes two small assisted living units and three sets of 29 unit senior apartment complexes. Mr. Grande advised that all housing and residential areas will

be dedicated to seniors and the Center will serve adults and children. He said there will be classrooms, a fitness and wellness center, and a child care center at the Center. Ms. Smith stressed the need for affordable child care in this community.

Mr. Santo thanked the Council and Ms. Smith for working with him and his staff on this project.

## **LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

## **INTRODUCTION**

**BILL NO. 2017-2 AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY MARYLAND, ACTING PURSUANT TO THE LAND USE ARTICLE OF THE MARYLAND ANNOTATED CODE, WHICH ENTRUSTS LOCAL JURISDICTIONS WITH LAND USE PLANNING AUTHORITY TO GUIDE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, TITLE 27, SUBTITLE 01, OF THE CODE OF MARYLAND REGULATIONS (COMAR), AND NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE 8-1808 FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY CRITICAL AREA, TO REPEAL CHAPTER 100, GRADING, EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL, ARTICLE I, PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY, SECTION 100-13, CRITICAL AREA PROTECTION AND SECTION 100-13.1, CIVIL PENALTIES IN CRITICAL AREA; ADMINISTRATIVE ABATEMENT ORDERS, TO REPEAL CHAPTER 134, STORM WATER MANAGEMENT, ARTICLE XV, ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 134-31, CRITICAL AREA PROTECTION, TO REPEAL CHAPTER 140, SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS, ARTICLE XII, CRITICAL AREA PROTECTION, SECTIONS 140-49 THROUGH 140-55.1, TO REPEAL CHAPTER 155, ZONING, ARTICLE VII, DISTRICT REGULATIONS, SECTION 155-38, CA CRITICAL AREA PROTECTION DISTRICT AND TO REPEAL CERTAIN TERMS IN ARTICLE II, DEFINITIONS, SECTION 155-13, TERMS DEFINED, TO REPEAL IN IT'S ENTIRETY CHAPTER 62, ENTITLED, AGRICULTURAL USE, TO REPEAL IN IT'S ENTIRETY CHAPTER 97, ENTITLED, FORESTRY, AND TO ENACT IN IT'S ENTIRETY CHAPTER 156, ENTITLED, CHESAPEAKE BAY CRITICAL AREA.**

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said Bill No. 2017-2 to consolidate all of the Critical Area rules and regulations into one code location, which will be new Chapter Chapter 156 "Chesapeake Bay Critical Area," that was prepared by Planning and Zoning is scheduled for introduction. Based on the recommendation of Mr. Merryweather, the Council agreed to hold this legislation for study so that he may ensure that the technical language in the preamble is correct. In response to a question from Councilman Price, Mr. Merryweather explained that the proposed legislation places all of the regulations into one Chapter.

## **REGULAR SESSION**

The Council adjourned into Regular Session.

## **MANAGERS COMMENTS**

### **REQUEST TO HOLD EVENT-WINGS AND WHEELS-B&B AVIATION AIRPORT**

The Council approved the request of Ted Bryant, owner, B&B Sport Aviation, to host the annual Wings & Wheels event at the Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport on Saturday, June 3, 2017 with a rain date of June 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **LANDFILL CONSULTANT CONTRACT AMENDMENT-NEW CELLS-BEULAH LANDFILL-PUBLIC WORKS**

Based on the recommendation of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, the Council agreed to execute a contract addendum with Geosyntec Consultants, the Landfill Consulting Engineer, for the permitting of new cells at the cost of \$11,762 which will be paid from the \$150,000 in FY16 capital funds dedicated to the design of a new cell. Councilman Price opposed, noting he would rather wait to make a decision until confirmation is received from State about potential relief from the Governor's Zero Waste Executive Order.

In response to a question from Councilman Price, Mr. Moore and Mr. Goldman said the new cells are on the 66 acre piece of property also known as the "railroad cells." Mr. Goldman noted that this will be horizontal expansion. Councilman Travers explained that the Council is moving forward as much as possible with plans for a proposed expansion with the hope that relief from the Order is forthcoming.

### **STORM WATER MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT TERMINATION REQUEST-PLANNING AND ZONING**

The Council approved the request of Steve Dodd, Planning and Zoning Director, to execute a Termination Agreement between RDC Hurlock, LLC and the County Council for Dorchester County terminating the Storm Water Management Facilities and Sediment Control Construction, Inspection, Maintenance Agreement and a Declaration of Easement (Agreement) recorded among the land records of Dorchester County in Liber 1027, folio 16, et. seq. The Council acknowledged that RDC is proposing to terminate the subdivision and that the Planning Commission has approved this termination subject to the execution of this agreement and a new plat.

### **2016 MARYLAND HERITAGE AREAS AUTHORITY GRANT EXTENSION REQUEST- HEARN BUILDING-GRANT MONITOR**

The Council discussed the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, for an amendment to the 2016 Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grant for the Hearn Building to extend the timetable for completion of debris removal and agreed to execute a letter of concurrence. Mr. Merryweather,

County Attorney, said he has no issues with the amendment with the exception that the County does not own the property. Ms. Smith noted that the grant follows the building. Based on the advice of Mr. Merryweather, the Council approved the execution of the amendment contingent upon receipt from the current owner of a written statement in concurrence of the grant extension. Councilman Price opposed citing his prior opposition to the County's involvement with the Hearn building.

#### CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT CONTRACT-HEARN BUILDING STABILIZATION PROJECT-GRANT MONITOR

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith to extend the current construction management agreement between Dorchester County, Maryland and Cambridge Preservation Works, LLC, for the Hearn Building Stabilization project from an on-site construction aspect until the grant funds are expended, at which time the owner will assume the contract. Councilman Price opposed citing his prior opposition to the grant process for the Hearn building.

Pursuant to questions posed by Councilman Price, Ms. Smith said the County's involvement is limited to two grants. She explained that the second is a Department of Housing and Community Development grant in the amount of \$250,000. She explained that Governor Hogan has made the grant award announcement but no agreement has been received.

#### GENERATOR MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT-GRANT MONITOR

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith to enter into a Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program Maintenance Plan and Agreement between the County and the Dorchester County Board of Education for the generator at the primary emergency evacuation shelter at Cambridge South Dorchester High School. The Council acknowledged that the Maintenance Plan and Agreement has been approved by BOE staff and E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney.

#### REQUEST FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ENFORCEMENT-TOWN OF ELDORADO

The Council acknowledged the receipt of Ordinance 2016-2 from the Commissioners of Eldorado adopting into the Dorchester County Property Maintenance Ordinance which states that they are seeking enforcement by Dorchester County only after they have contacted the County to act on their behalf. In response to a question from Councilman Price, Mr. Goldman said several years ago the Council denied a similar request from the Town of Secretary. The Council deferred this request in order to confirm whether or not the County has entered into such an agreement with any municipality in the past.

#### REQUESTS TO WAIVE STANDBY AMBULANCE FEES-CAMBRIDGE POWER BOAT RACING ASSOCIATION

The Council approved the written requests of O. Allen Nelson, Vice Commodore, Cambridge Power Boat Racing Association, Inc. to waive standby-by fees for ambulance service on: 1) August 19 and August 20, 2017 for the Kent Narrows Racing Association event; and, 2) May 13 to May 14, 2017 for the Cambridge Classic.



### TRAVEL REQUESTS-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Anna Sierra, Emergency Services Director, for authorization for Steve Garvin to attend the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Emergency Management Institute NIMS ICS All –Hazards Logistics Section Chief Train-the Trainer course from February 26 to March 4, 2017 with the course and travel being covered by FEMA/EMI. The Council also approved the request of Ms. Sierra for Emergency Medical Services Chief Andy Robertson and herself to travel to Ocean City from February 21-22<sup>nd</sup> to attend the Eastern Shore Emergency Services Director's meeting at the approximate cost of \$300 being covered by Homeland Security Funding set aside for training. Councilman Price opposed this request since funds will be expended for lodging.

### SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION REQUEST- EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Ms. Sierra to surplus a 2002 Ford Crown Victoria, Vehicle Identification Number 2FAFP71W32X105594, with 138,426 miles, which was assigned to the 911 Division.

### PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL BOARD APPOINTMENT

The Council acknowledged that there is a vacancy on the Dorchester County Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board due to the resignation of Ronald Jones and a vacant alternate member position. The Council agreed to nominate David Witten, who submitted his expression of interest directly to the Governor's Office. The Council acknowledged that three names must be submitted for nomination for the Governor's consideration for each vacancy.

### PREFABRICATED STRUCTURE REMOVAL-AIRPORT

Mr. Goldman announced that: 1) an individual has expressed to a Council member interest in obtaining the doublewide trailer at the south end of the runway at the Airport; 2) this individual will remove the trailer and clean up the site at no charge at the County; and, 3) at its February 2, 2017 budget work session the Council reached a consensus to place this item on this agenda. The Council agreed that there will be a 72 hour period during which other members of the public can express interest in this structure. The Council further agreed that the requests will be weighed and awarded based on reasonability and speed of removal. Mr. Goldman confirmed that this structure was scheduled for demolition in response to a question from Councilman Travers.

### TAX SALE PROPERTY OFFER

The Council accepted the offer of Samuel Thompson to purchase Circle Drive, Property No. 02-029340 for \$100.

Councilman Travers inquired as to the remaining amount of tax sale properties. Ms. Smith advised that the County has sold all of the tax sale properties with the exception of several which were removed from the list and two for which staff is working with individuals to retain. Pursuant to a question from Councilman Travers, Ms. Smith said there were 117 properties for

sale at one point. Councilman Travers noted that monies had to be set aside for maintenance for these properties. Ms. Smith said Mr. Merryweather is working on foreclosing on ten properties. The Council thanked staff, particularly, Ms. Smith for developing and implementing a plan to place the properties back on the tax rolls.

#### 2017 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE SESSION DISCUSSION

The Council agreed to send a letter of support for Senate Bill 466 entitled “Public Safety 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System-Revisions (Carl Henn’s Law)” which alters the 911 fee attached to phone bills to charge per line and not per bill with amendments. The Council acknowledged that the amendments will carve out counties, municipalities, and State agencies to negate the financial impact as well as companies with call centers or extensive phone systems that would be penalized for doing business.

The Council agreed to send a letter of opposition to House Bill 863 entitled “State Agricultural and Conservation Property Interests – Solar Facilities (Right to Solar Farm)” which allows solar farms to be built on properties with agricultural land easements and the Maryland Environmental Trust to lease properties for solar facilities,

The Council agreed to send a letter of support for House Bill 402 entitled “Repeal of Maryland Open Transportation Investment Decision Act of 2016 (Road Kill Bill Repeal),” which repeals the scoring mechanism the Maryland Department of Transportation is to use to prioritize projects.

Councilman Travers thanked staff and Councilman Price, who is the County’s representative, for attending the Maryland Association of Counties Legislative Committee meetings.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

In response to statements made by Donald Gray, resident, Mr. Goldman advised that he has contacted the individual in question and explained that the ditching has been delayed. He stressed that there is no guaranteed timeline.

Mr. Gray expressed dismay that State Department of Assessment and Taxation property assessments in the City of Cambridge have risen. He said several individuals have advised him that the increase may impact their decision to remain in the County. He advised that the value of one of his properties increased. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Mr. Gray confirmed that he filed an appeal on that assessment.

Bill Reddish, Community Liaison for Congressman Andy Harris, said he recently spoke to Councilman Bradshaw regarding issues relating to Blackwater Wildlife Refuge, including acquisitions which remove land from the County’s tax rolls. He advised the Council to send a letter to the federal legislation if they wish for Congressman Harris and/or his staff to seek clarification on Refuge purchases. Mr. Goldman advised that Marcia Pradines, Project Leader, Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex will be present at the February 21,

2017 meeting. Councilmen Bradshaw expressed concern about removal of land from the County's tax rolls as well as the potential lack of farming and timber operations at the Refuge.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Goldman, Mr. Reddish said he spoke to Meighan "Chis" Chisholm, Airport Manager, about the meeting between County representatives and the Federal Aviation Administration regarding an aerobatic waiver at the Cambridge Dorchester Regional Airport. He advised that he make sure there is representation from Congressman Harris' Office at that meeting.

### **COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Satterfield referenced the passing of a friend and encouraged the public to not pass up the opportunity to be with their family and friends.

In response to questions from Councilman Price, Mr. Moore said: 1) the landfill property adjacent to Gravel Branch Road has been mined for soil; 2) there are no plans for cells in that area; 3) the area will be seeded this spring; 4) the buffer area is to be increased. Pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Mr. Moore said there is currently no mining on that site and no plans to move soil from that area for daily operations. Mr. Moore stated that material is being moved to the roadside to increase the buffer. Councilman Price explained that residents expressed concern about veering off the road in that area at night.

Councilman Price provided the Council a brief summary of the items discussed at the recent Maryland Association of Counties Legislative Committee meeting. He thanked Mr. Luffman and Mr. Reddish for their attendance. In response to a question from Councilman Price, Mr. Reddish said he is not aware of any action from the new administration relating to changes to the Watershed Improvement Plan requirements. He advised that he will inquire about this matter.

Councilman Bradshaw said the Clean Chesapeake Coalition meeting was held last week and they are closely monitoring the actions taken by the new administration particularly their position regarding the Watershed Implementation Plan requirements and the Chesapeake Bay Agreement. He noted that President Donald Trump stated that he will roll back regulations that hurt businesses. He said they are also interested in the actions the new head of the Environmental Protection Agency will take based on his stance relating to environmental regulations.

Councilman Bradshaw advised that Mr. Chisholm recently sent him an email advising him of the discovery of some old books in the Maintenance Shop at the Airport. He said: 1) there was an 1879 and a 1880 ledger book; 2) records on the Almshouse, a farm near Decoursey Bridge that was used as some type of homeless shelter, for which the County provided funding; 3) individuals may have been paid by the County to perform road work in front of their property; 4) some of the books may have been in a fire and are in bad shape; and 5) bound books from the late 1880s to early 1900s are in good shape.

Councilman Travers announced that: 1) Members of the County Council will attend a special Second Saturday celebration on February 11, 2017 in Cambridge; 2) the County Council will sit as Board of Estimates for the purpose of conducting a Budget Worksession on February 16, 2017

at 5 p.m. with a personnel hearing being held at 6:30 p.m following this meeting.; 3) the next County Council meeting will be held on February 21, 2017; 4) the County Council reserves the right to meet in closed session prior to regular session; and, 5) Members of the County Council will attend Governor Hogan's press events on February 13, 2017 at the Murphy Family Farm in Rhodesdale and JM Clayton Seafood in Cambridge.


With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

  
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Jeremy Goldman  
County Manager

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ricky C. Travers, President

  
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Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President

*absent*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William V. Nichols

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick M. Price

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 2017.