

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2017

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on June 20 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 Travers 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 FY17 Budget Transfer Requests item was removed from the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- JUNE 6, 2017

The Council approved the minutes of June 6, 2017.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented. Councilman Bradshaw abstained for his mileage reimbursement. Councilman Price opposed the payment(s) for Phase 2 of the Hearn Building project.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$6,068,656.70.

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)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; and pursuant to §3-305(b)(4) to consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State on June 6, 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) agreed to extend annual leave for County employees in use or lose status by a 4 to 0 vote; 2) deferred the request of the Public Works Director to hire an individual to fill a vacant Administrative Specialist position by a 4 to 0 vote; 3) discussed issues relating to a personnel matter and a legal fee reimbursement request; 4) approved the request of the Emergency Services Director to hire an individual to fill a vacant 911 Dispatcher position by a 4 to 0 vote; 5) discussed with legal counsel a matter regarding an agreement for the payment of overdue taxes; and, 6) received an update regarding a proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand or remain in the State.

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

PRESENTATION-SHORE HEALTH

Ken Kozel, President, University of Maryland Shore Health, said he will provide an overview of meetings being held around the community about the future vision of health care for Dorchester County and ask for a letter of support. He noted that in the Spring and Summer 2016 Shore Regional Health (SHR) and University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) members began drafting to a vision which was then presented and conceptually approved by both the SHR and UMES boards. He advised that preliminary meetings were also conducted with key physicians and local constituents. He explained that some changes were made as a result of the feedback obtained during these meetings. He said they were also able to reiterate that they are focusing on a partnership.

Mr. Kozel said in the Winter of 2016 the vision was refined and shared with the following key physicians: Dr. Mahmood Shariff, Dr. Brendon Paltoo, Dr. Eugene Newmier, Dr. Lois Narr, Dr. Mary Ann Devlin Moore and Dr. William Bair. He stated that they received great support from these physicians.

Mr. Kozel advised that in the Spring of this year and for the last several months the vision has been shared with Shore Regional Health team members, entire physician staff, axillary's and foundation. He said after this four community sessions were held about the plan in: East New Market, Cambridge, Vienna and Madison. He thanked those on the Council who attended some of these meetings. He noted that: 1) they were very well attended; 2) at least 150 to 175 members of the public participated in those sessions; 3) time was allocated for questions and answers. He stated that there were a lot of questions posed, which ranged from ownership and disposition of the land to timing and services to be offered in the new facility. He expressed his belief that the vision was well received. He noted that they briefed elected officials throughout this process.

Mr. Kozel asked the Council for a letter of support to accompany the application for the replacement hospital at Easton that will offer the approval for that facility as well as the vision for Dorchester County. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Mr. Kozel said he is seeking a letter of support that will encompass both facilities. Mr. Kozel advised that they intend to accompany the application with the vision for Dorchester County. He said the State wanted to view both plans because they are co-mingled since inpatient beds would move to Easton.

The Council agreed to provide a letter of support. Councilman Price abstained due to his wife's employment with Shore Health.

Pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Nichols, Mr. Kozel confirmed that current services provided in Dorchester County will be retained and that more services will be brought back to the community. He stated that he cannot promise that services will be available five days a week, eight hours of the day.

Councilman Travers said the Council's biggest concern is the restoration of services that were moved to other areas. He noted that in the meetings and discussions with Shore Health, the Council members stressed their desire for medical services to be available for Dorchester County residents so they do not have to travel to the Easton facility. He expressed his hope that services will be returned to Dorchester County prior to the new facility being constructed. Mr. Kozel advised that they are working on returning services. He explained that this can be achieved by adding more providers to Shore Health's medical staff on the Easton Shore, citing recent success with this endeavor. He stated that they focus on hiring and retaining physicians to cover the region and not a specific area.

Mr. Kozel thanked the Council.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

FY18 CATEGORICAL BUDGET REQUEST-ANNUAL BUDGET CERTIFICATION STATEMENT-BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Council approved the requests of Dr. Henry Wagner, Superintendent of Schools, to: 1) approve the Board of Education's FY18 Categorical Budget totaling \$ 61,510,964 based on the County's FY18 allocation to the Board of Education of \$19,120,529 for operating expenses and \$11,899,354 for capital expense; and, 2) execute the Annual Budget Certification Statement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST-AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FUND GRANT-MALONE'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Council approved the request of LaSara Kinser, Secretary, Harrisville Malone Cemetery Maintenance Fund, for a letter of support for the application of the Malone

Methodist Episcopal Church to the Maryland Historical Trust under the African American Heritage Grant Program for \$100,000 to begin the rehabilitation of the church.

REQUEST TO USE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING PARKING LOT-COURT HOUSE GROUNDS-DORCHESTER SHOWCASE-DCA

The Council approved the written request of Brittany Andrew, Education and Program Coordinator, Dorchester Center for the Arts, to use the County Office Building parking lot, Courthouse grounds and electrical outlets for the Dorchester Showcase on Sunday, September 24, 2017 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with the understanding that the parking lot must remain a public lot.

REQUEST TO EXPEND UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE-CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE

The Council approved the request of Don Bradley, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Chesapeake College, to use up to \$800,000 in unrestricted Fund Balance to address one-time Information Technology upgrades and enhancements and fund one-time costs associated with the College's presidential transition. In response to a question from Councilman Nichols, Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, said the other support counties approved this request. Pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Price, Mr. Goldman explained that this does not affect the FY18 budget, noting that the funds are from prior budgets, specifically 2015, 2016 and 2017.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE AMBULANCE-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Anna Sierra, Emergency Services Director, to sole source and expend FY18 Capital Budget funds to purchase an ambulance through RedStorm Fire & Rescue Apparatus, Inc. at the cost of \$199,956. Pursuant to inquiries from Councilman Travers, Ms. Sierra said: 1) this unit includes the same warranty as prior ambulances; 2) cost for maintenance overall has substantially decreased; and, 3) with this purchase the County will own five Demers ambulances.

MARYLAND AVIATION ADMINISTRATION GRANT-PHASE II AVIGATION EASEMENT ACQUISITION-OBSTACLE REMOVAL-AIRPORT

Meighan "Chis" Chisholm, Airport Manager, presented the Council his request for approval to submit a State Special Bridge Grant application to the Maryland Aviation Administration for \$83,776 (95% of the funds) for Phase II of the Avigation Easement Acquisition project. He explained that Phase I, which included obtaining a survey and appraisals, has been completed. He said Phase II will consist of making offers to property owners and securing purchase agreements. He noted that the Maryland Aviation Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration concur with the request. The Council approved his requests to submit the grant application and for him to sign Delta Airport Consultants Work Order #5R to authorize the work. The Council acknowledged

that the County will be responsible for the remaining 5% (\$4,410) and the total project cost \$88,185.

PUBLIC HEARING-COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRESS REPORT-GRANT MONITOR

Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, said pursuant to Community Development Block Grant requirements a public hearing must be held to report the performance of a grant. She said the project funded by the grant is the renovation of group homes and a transitional home in Hurlock and Cambridge by Delmarva Community Services (DCS). She stated that this project meets the mission of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) which is community development as well as meeting the needs of low to moderate income members of the community. She explained that funding was obtained to upgrade six group homes managed by DCS, five of which house developmentally disabled persons and one that is a transition home for homeless men. She said DCS has been successful in assisting those at the transition home to locate jobs and assuming responsibility for themselves. She advised that the scope of work consisted of: 1) roof replacements; 2), bathroom improvements which included ADA accessible fixtures where possible; 3) replacement of ramps; 4) improvements to critical living areas, windows, doors and flooring; and, 5) some kitchen replacements. She stated that three homes were located in the Town of Hurlock and three in the City of Cambridge. She advised that the grant amount was \$286,585 and the project cost was \$367,785 of which DCS contributed \$81,200 with in-kind and cash matches. Ms. Smith said Jim Michael, who managed the construction of the project, is present.

Santo Grande, President/CEO, DCS, spoke while Ms. Smith showed before and after pictures. He said the transition home on Shepherd Avenue in Cambridge serves only males and some tenants have extreme health issues while others are able to work. He advised that they had a great turnout of males who have moved into the community. He explained that all of the other homes owned by DCS are for disabled persons. He said they receive monies from the State Developmental Disabilities Administration to assist these individuals. He noted that the first home purchased by DCS was on Church Street in about 1979 and has been in continuous use since then. He stated that some of the homes DCS has owned for 20 years and others for 30 years and beyond.

Mr. Grande advised that the home on Elm Street in Hurlock is for developmentally disabled women noting there is room for five. He said many of the individuals in the houses are now beginning to need more accessibility. Therefore, some of the grant funding has provided them the opportunity to renovate bathrooms so they are completely handicapped accessible. He thanked Cindy for her assistance during the grant process. He said additional renovations are being made to one home and once completed individuals will move back into that residence. He noted that a large majority of the homes require either 16 hour or 24 hour staffing noting that there are 90 staff members working in the Dorchester County homes.

Ms. Smith said the homes are in neighborhoods which benefited from the improvements including the Church Street residence which is in her neighborhood. She noted that no one signed up to speak. The public hearing was concluded.

She advised that there is a Department of Housing and Community Development grant opportunity in November for projects that benefit homeless persons. She said this will be a competitive process and the maximum amount of funds that can be garnered are \$800,000. She explained that these monies can be used for: 1) the acquisition and/or renovation of housing units to be used for transitional or rapid re-housing; 2) the construction or renovation of shelters; or; 3) operating costs if the applicant can demonstrate there is a quantifiable increase in the level of services.

Ms. Smith stressed the need for rapid re-housing in the County to combat homelessness. She said the group ran a cold weather shelter at the Wesleyan Church for several years and now must identify a new location. Based on an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Ms. Smith confirmed that they have to relocate due to concerns expressed by the congregation. Ms. Smith questioned whether any parties are interested in pursuing a project in the northern area of the County. She said years ago an individual expressed interest but nothing materialized. Councilman Price noted that this person was supposed to speak with Ms. Smith about the CDBG process. Ms. Smith advised that the grant opportunity will be advertised and outreach will be conducted in order to garner interest.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

INTRODUCTION

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE AND EMPOWER DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND, TO BORROW AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$31,000,000 ON ITS FULL FAITH AND CREDIT, AND ISSUE AND SELL ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN ONE OR MORE SERIES FROM TIME TO TIME IN ORDER TO FINANCE, REIMBURSE OR REFINANCE COSTS OF REPLACING NORTH DORCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL, PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO SYSTEM, AND FINANCIAL HARDWARE/SOFTWARE AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 CAPITAL BUDGET AND SUBSEQUENT CAPITAL BUDGETS AND RELATED COSTS.

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said the bill scheduled for introduction will authorize the County to borrow up to \$31,000,000 on full faith and credit and issue and sell bonds in one or more series to finance, reimburse or refinance costs of the North Dorchester High School replacement, Public Safety radio system and financial hardware/software as provided in the FY 2018 Capital Budget and subsequent Capital Budgets and related costs. In response to questions from Councilman Travers, Mr. Goldman explained that once the legislation has been enacted staff will proceed with soliciting a bond. He and Mr. Merryweather explained that an amount not to exceed

\$31,000,000 can be used for only the projects referenced in the legislation. Pursuant to a query from Councilman Travers, Mr. Goldman said the only figure that has been finalized is for the school.

The Council agreed to proceed with publication of a public hearing on this matter.

REGULAR SESSION

The Council convened into Regular Session.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT-NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION GRANT-GRANT MONITOR

Ms. Smith said in an effort to expand the impact of the Pinks Pond/Hambrooks Bay project a team of County and State members considered applying for funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant. She explained that the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) agreed to take the lead on this grant for the County and the City of Cambridge to package a proposal for several sites. She noted that the proposed City sites are Long Wharf, Great Marsh and Cambridge Creek. She said the grant funds can be used by the County to connect the Pinks Pond/Hambrooks Bay project to the Great Marsh Project across the radio station. She stated that all projects are for shoreline protection. Ms. Smith advised that this grant, if awarded, would pay 50% of the Pinks Pond/Hambrooks Bay project thereby reducing a loan from \$133,000 to \$67,000.

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith for a letter of support for the the proposal of NWF "Climate-Smart Conservation for Community Resilience in Cambridge, Maryland," to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Resilient Communities grant program for funding.

FY17 WORKING WATERFRONT GRANT OPPORTUNITY-GRANT MONITOR

Ms. Smith advised that she is seeking Council's approval to submit a grant application to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) through the Working Waterfronts Program if a project is identified. She explained that she is asking Council now since the deadline is June 30th and the next meeting is not until July 18, 2017. She noted that, on behalf of the County, an application was submitted last year for repairs to the Elliott's Island Marina. In response to a question from Councilman Satterfield, Mr. Goldman said the funds cannot be used for repairs to the Hooper's Island causeway. He explained that repairs to a transportation corridor are not eligible for grant funding under this program. Ms. Smith stated that eligible proposed projects include those relating to comprehensive plans. She advised that DNR staff have contacted her regarding the Elliott's Island Marina project. In response to a question from Councilman Bradshaw, Ms. Smith said the focus of this grant last year was on projects that would support the working waterfront by changing ordinances or planning documents. She said she will speak to

Steve Dodd, Planning and Zoning Director, to ascertain whether funding can be sought to update the County's Comprehensive plan.

Pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Satterfield, Ms. Smith advised that the Hurst Creek dredging project is not eligible since it is for residential and recreational purposes and not a working waterfront. Mr. Moore and Ms. Smith said the projects that are eligible for funding through this program are relating to planning and design not construction.

Councilman Travers queried as to whether previous grants were reviewed to garner a better understanding of what projects are eligible. Mr. Moore recollected that they were not "brick and mortar" or bulkhead projects. Ms. Smith said an example was the City of Cambridge's waterfront plan document for which they received funding under the program.

The Council approved Ms. Smith's request to submit a grant application to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources through the Working Waterfronts Program if there is an interest or a project is identified that is covered under the program.

FY17 COPS HIRING PROGRAM APPLICATION-SHERIFF'S OFFICE-GRANT MONITOR

Mr. Goldman said this next item is a request to submit a FY17 COPS Hiring Program application. He said the monies will pay for personnel and the positions must be kept for a one year period after the end of the grant. Ms. Smith explained that the grant will fund the hiring of full time, sworn, career law enforcement officers by providing 75% of the approved entry-level salaries and fringe benefits of each full-time officer, up to \$125,000 per officer position over a three year (36 month) grant period. She said it will not pay for equipment, training, uniforms, vehicles and indirect costs. In response to questions posed by Councilman Nichols, Ms. Smith stated that the funds being sought are for three officers, which will be awarded in FY18. Councilman Nichols expressed his understanding that the monies cannot be used to replace those officers who retire. Ms. Smith concurred. Councilman Price noted that after three years funding will have to be identified in the County's budget to continue to fund these positions for the required one year. Ms. Smith said the budget she provided to the Council shows the match. Based on Councilman Travers' inquiry, Mr. Goldman stated that the Council received but did not accept a grant award for this funding in the past. Ms. Smith noted that this is federal grant which garners a lot of interest.

Councilman Bradshaw made a motion to apply for funding which Councilman Satterfield seconded. Councilman Nichols reiterated that the grant monies cannot be used to replace individuals who retire and instead three additional positions must be filled.

Pursuant to a question from Councilman Travers, Ms. Smith confirmed that the grant will pay for 75% of the salaries and fringe for the three year grant period. Councilman Nichols noted that the funds for three officers for a one year period will be needed at the

same time as the County will go to bond market. Councilman Nichols expressed concern about the impact this will have on the County's budget. In response to a query from Councilman Nichols, Mr. Goldman confirmed that the FY 2021 budget will have to include funding for the entire cost for three officers.

Councilman Satterfield questioned whether it will be necessary to increase staffing at the Sheriff's Office in next four years due to current and future development. He said this grant will provide some monies to offset the County's costs. Ms. Smith said adjustment to the County's budget can be made over a three year span to cover the costs of the new positions after that period. Councilman Nichols reiterated his concerns about the negative impact the bond cost will have on the County's budget. Mr. Goldman stated that the bond cost will be approximately between \$2.25 million and \$2.3 million dollars. He said Councilman Nichols makes a valid point about the potential future impact of the bond on the budget. He noted that utilizing the grant monies is a cost effective way to expand the Sheriff's Office, if Council chooses to do so.

The Council agreed that an application can be submitted as requested with Councilmen Price and Nichols opposing. Councilman Nichols said his opposition is only based on his concerns about the impact the bond cost will have on future budgets and has no reflection on the Sheriff's Office. Councilman Price said it is a worthwhile cause; however, no grant funding is available at the end of the three year period to retain employees for one year.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING-EMERGENCY SHELTERS- EMERGENCY SERVICES

Ms. Smith explained that a Memorandum of Understanding for the use of schools in the County as emergency shelters must be executed pursuant to the grant requirements of the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Grant which funded the generator installation at the primary evacuation shelter at Cambridge South Dorchester High School (CSD). She explained that this 20 year agreement defines the responsibilities of each of the following parties who run these shelters during emergency evacuations: the Board of Education, Department of Social Services, Red Cross, Dorchester County Health Department and Dorchester County. The Council agreed to enter into the MOU.

USDA RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT AWARDS-EASTERN SHORE INNOVATION CENTER-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council approved the requests of Steve Dolbow, Incubator Manager, Eastern Shore Innovation Center (ESIC), to accept the following United States Department of Agriculture Rural Business Development Grant awards: 1) \$17,804 with no cash or in-kind match to be used for the installation of an alternate route, redundant fiber communications capability for licensees to ensure 24 hours/seven days a week communications availability in ESIC; and, 2) \$50,000 to be used for building a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility in ESIC with no local match.

FY18 WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANT AWARD-PUBLIC WORKS

Tom Moore, Public Works Director, said notification has been received from the Governor's Office that the County has been awarded two FY18 Waterway Improvement Fund grants. He said the first is for \$50,000 towards the construction of the remaining portion of the Elliott's Island Marina Jetty, which is currently estimated at \$450,000. He explained that the request submitted for this project was for the entire cost. He advised that Ms. Smith is searching for additional grant funding sources.

Mr. Moore said the second grant award is \$250,000 which will serve as the County's 50% match to the feasibility study for the dredging of Tar Bay/Tyler's Cove area. He noted that this amount for the study was established several years ago. He advised that today a United States Army Corps of Engineers staff member estimated that the feasibility study will now cost \$800,000 to \$1 million. Pursuant to inquiries from Councilman Travers and Mr. Goldman, Mr. Moore confirmed that this cost does not include the design or the dredging. Councilman Bradshaw expressed his understanding that the proposed project calls for dredging several feet more than normal. He stressed the need to identify a more permanent solution. Mr. Moore noted that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers no longer automatically provide regular maintenance dredging. Councilman Travers emphasized the need for this dredging to be reinstated.

Mr. Moore advised that pursuant to the 2010 study: 1) regular dredging will last four years; 2) the project with overdredging will last eight years; and, 3) with jetty construction it will last an estimated ten years.

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to accept the FY18 Waterway Improvement Fund grant awards. Mr. Moore said: 1) the County's share of construction is 20%; 2) the feasibility study will take approximately 18 months; and, 3) the design phase will take an estimated 24 months.

REQUEST TO SOLE SOURCE-PURCHASE-REPLACEMENT COMPACTOR DUMPSTER-GOLDEN HILL TRANSFER STATION-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to sole source and purchase from Mid-Atlantic Waste Systems a compactor container at the cost of \$8,630 utilizing funding from the FY15 budget. Mr. Moore stated that the container was specifically built for and is compatible with the compactor acquired from Mid-Atlantic Waste.

REQUEST TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING-SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to schedule a public hearing on the draft 2017-2026 Solid Waste Management Plan. Pursuant to a question from Councilman Price, Mr. Moore expressed his understanding that the plan will be available for public review.

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Goldman advised that the Traffic Safety Committee met on May 19, 2017 to discuss two requests. The Council approved the following recommendations of the Traffic Safety Committee: 1) to re-install 40 MPH signs on Shiloh Camp Road so more residences are included in that area; and, 2) to take traffic counts for the subdivision that consists of Suburban, Poplar, Cedar, River, Spring Drives and Center Street to determine areas with the greatest amount of speeds to optimize the placement of speed limit signs. The Council acknowledged that the Committee also suggests enforcement of speed limits in this subdivision by the Sheriff's Office.

FARM LEASE EXTENSION-MAPLE DAM

Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, stated that: 1) the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract for 21.88 acres on the Maple Dam Road property expires in September 2017; 2) the Council agreed to not re-enroll in the program; 2) Council asked staff to inquire as to whether current lessee Ronald C. Edgar & Sons, LLC, t/a Riverdale Farms, is interested in farming this acreage; 3) the Lessee is willing to renew its current lease, that expires on December 31, 2017 for 26.70 tillable acres and to add the 21.88 acres; 4) since certain actions must be taken to modify the PH level to ensure the additional acreage is sufficient for farming, Lessee is seeking a ten year lease; and 4) the current lease is for five years.

Mr. Goldman recommended a five year lease with five one-year extensions and the inclusion of the standard farm lease termination clause. E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, inquired as to whether the rent will remain the same. The Council discussed potential lease options.

Mr. Moore expressed his understanding that there have been past discussions about the public being provided access to the Blackwater River for canoeing and kayaking. Mr. Goldman said today staff discussed the possible use of this property for this purpose. The Council deferred this item so that staff can have the opportunity to discuss this further.

FY18 NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT-MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Council approved the written request of James P. Eichhorst, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), to execute a FY18 Noxious Weed Control Cooperative Agreement between MDA and the County with no funds being provided by the County or the Maryland Department of Agriculture for the control and eradication of specific noxious weeds for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

POLL CONFIRMATIONS

The Council confirmed its following actions in the interim between meetings, by means of a poll, to: 1) acknowledge Jerry Burroughs was interested in serving on the Planning

Commission and not the Board of Zoning Appeals as referenced at the June 6, 2017 meeting and agreed to appoint him to the Planning Commission for a five year term by a 5 to 0 vote; and, 2) send a letter of support of the application by Cambridge Main Street to the Main Street Improvement Fund, an Operating Assistance Grant offered by the Neighborhood Revitalization, for \$45,000 to support the creative development, production and placement of a year-long messaging campaign to promote the downtown Cambridge area by a 4 to 1 (no answer) vote.

LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST-MARITIME ADMINISTRATION GRANT APPLICATION-CAMBRIDGE SHIPYARD FACILITY, INC.

The Council approved the request of George Robinson for a letter of support for Cambridge Shipyards Facility Inc.'s grant application to the Maritime Administration under the Small Shipyards Grant Program for funds to assist in the purchase of a travel lift which will provide them the opportunity to lift multiple vessels into the yard at one time. The correspondence notes that the County is unable to financially participate.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Wendell Foxwell, resident, expressed an interest in continuing to serve on the Senior Citizens Council. Based on a motion made by Councilman Travers, the Council agreed to reappoint him to this board. Councilman Travers expressed his appreciation for Mr. Foxwell's service.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Nichols acknowledged the passing of Les Simering, who ran for the County Council and attended meetings. He offered his condolences to his family. Councilman Nichols said after reviewing the approved budget and in light of budget items that were addressed at this meeting, he withdraws his support for the FY18 budget. He referenced his request for the personnel worksheet before a vote on the budget. He voiced concern about future sustainability. He expressed dismay that the Board of Education did not move forward with the replacement of North Dorchester High School several years ago. He opined that going to the bond market for this and other projects will negatively impact the County's budget. He stressed that the County is the stewards of taxpayers' funds.

Councilman Satterfield echoed Councilman Nichols comments regarding Mr. Simering and also offered his condolences to his family. He said he attended the Maryland State Fireman's Association Conference today to accept a plaque in special recognition of the Council's passage of legislation to grant a local tax credit against the property tax imposed on newly construction residential properties with an automatic fire protection sprinkler system. He stated that a legislative supervisor from the Association advised that the County's legislation is being viewed on a state and national level as a model. He presented the plaque to the Council. In response to Councilman Travers' inquiry, Councilman Satterfield said a fire company was recognized for providing an offset out of its funds for citizens in their jurisdiction. Councilman Satterfield noted that no other

county was recognized. Councilman Travers recognized the Council and staff for pursuing this tax credit.

Councilman Satterfield referenced the recent loss of three military personnel from Maryland during the fight against terrorism. He opined that the County has an exceptional law enforcement community which includes the Sheriff's Office, City of Cambridge Police, State Police and other entities that pass through the County on a regular basis. He applauded law enforcement and the emergency responders in the County for providing service to citizens.

Councilman Price echoed Councilmen Nichols and Satterfield comments regarding Mr. Simering. He offered his thoughts and prayers to his family. He said individuals have asked him about how the County is trending on foreclosures and evictions. Mr. Goldman noted that the Council just received an email from the Board of Realtors and also received a monthly Dorchester Report about housing which is placed in the Information pack. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Price, Mr. Goldman said this information pertains to foreclosures only. He noted that evictions are a civil matter. Councilman Travers said the Sheriff's Office may have statistics regarding evictions. Mr. Goldman noted that evictions are a civil matter. Councilman Satterfield stated that the eviction process includes obtaining from the Court a notice of quit, noting that tenants have a certain amount of days to move after it has been issued. Councilmen Satterfield and Travers explained that the number of evictions is very fluid since a tenant has the ability to pay overdue rent to avoid having to leave.

Ms. Smith asked Councilman Price the reason individuals are seeking this information. She said one of the things she has learned from conducting research on housing is that many evictions happen quietly. Because of this, Ms. Smith noted that it would be hard to track the number of evictions that occur. She explained that some individuals move on a regular basis due to income restrictions and there is a large turnover on rentals. Councilman Price said residents who inquired about foreclosures and evictions are doing so based on their concerns about homelessness and unemployment. Ms. Smith stated that there have been discussions in the past about forming a landlord association in the community which may be a long term future possibility. Councilman Price said he will follow up with Ms. Smith on this matter.

Councilman Price wished everyone a happy and safe fourth of July weekend.

Councilman Bradshaw echoed the other Council Members sentiments and condolences to Mr. Simering's family. He said last Thursday he was officially installed as a Delmarva Fisheries Association Board Member to represent Dorchester County. He stated that the board represents watermen, restaurant owners, packing business and the seafood industry as a whole. He explained that they are making some strides in both the State and Federal legislature to assist the seafood industry. He said he has spoken with Bill Anderson, Department of Natural Resources, and there are some small changes that will be made. Councilman Bradshaw referenced House Bill 924 entitled "Natural Resources – Oyster Management – Prohibited Actions" that was passed during the 2017 Maryland General

Assembly Legislative Session which removes the authority from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) over sanctuaries created in State waters in the name of oyster restoration and provides it to legislators. He stated that he is looking forward to serving on the Delmarva Fisheries Association Board. He said if anyone has any issues or concerns he will relay them to this organization.

Councilman Bradshaw echoed Councilman Price's comments about a safe and enjoyable July 4th weekend for citizens.

Councilman Travers referenced discussions that he, Mr. Goldman and Councilman Satterfield had regarding developing a plan to repair the Hoopers Island Causeway. He asked Ms. Smith if there is any grant funding available. In response to a question posed by Councilman Travers, Mr. Moore stated that the the causeway is 30 years old. Councilman Bradshaw noted that at a past meeting Stephanie Hallowell from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore referenced a Coastal Resilience grant and interest in using some of those funds for the Anchor of Hope Cemetery. He questioned whether the grant was awarded and those monies can be used to assist in repairs to the causeway. He said it may be worthwhile to contact her. Councilman Travers reiterated the need to develop a plan to make repairs.

Ms. Smith advised that one of her long term goals is to identify projects that need grant funding by obtaining a list from each Department Head. She said she is not aware of this project.

Councilman Travers said years ago a permit did not need to be obtained for road infrastructure repairs and as a result they were performed expeditiously. He noted that due to the lengthy permitting process this is not possible today. Councilman Bradshaw stressed the need to discuss with State Secretaries concerns about the long permitting process at the 2017 Summer Maryland Association of Counties Conference. Councilman Satterfield expressed concern that access to the lower island may be limited in the future if repairs are not made. Councilman Bradshaw said the marsh road from Key Wallace Drive to Shorter's Wharf and a portion of the Elliott Island Road area also in need of major repair. Councilman Travers noted that the causeway is exposed to the Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Moore expressed concern that the preparation of studies are time consuming and often have to be updated, which is costly. He also cited his concerns that monies are not identified for the entire project at the same time which lengthens the repair process. He stressed the need for funding to address current road infrastructure needs.

Councilman Satterfield commended Public Works staff for the work they performed on the Hudson area roads in the last couple of weeks.

Donald Gray, resident, expressed concern about the safety of motorists on the State road to Hoopers Island due to small travel lanes. He questioned whether the Council can seek relief from the State to prevent motorists from running off the road and into the wide ditches. Councilman Travers noted that the Council members are aware that the road from Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge to Gootes Marine is in need of widening. He

referenced the Council's unsuccessful attempts for the construction of bicycle lanes in that area by the State. Mr. Gray opined that a guardrail may prevent accidents.

Councilman Travers announced that: 1) the next Council meeting will be held on July 18, 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:

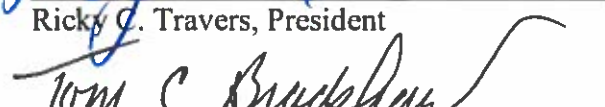


Jeremy Goldman
County Manager

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:



Ricky C. Travers, President



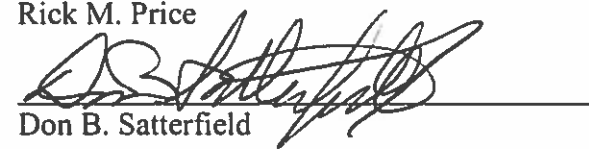
Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President



William V. Nichols



Rick M. Price



Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 18th day of July 2017.