

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2016**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on March 15, 2016 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 Jeremy Goldman, County Manager; and Donna Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist.

REGULAR SESSION

CLOSED SESSION

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 and pursuant to §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

Voting in favor of the closed Closed Session were all Council members.

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Nichols led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

The Council approved the following additions to the agenda: 1) request to advertise part-time/seasonal positions for the County pool; 2) request to advertise Motor Equipment Operator positions in Public Works Department; 3) request to donate tax sale property; and 4) a tax sale property offer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- MARCH 1, 2016

The Council approved the minutes of March 1, 2016.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented with Councilman Travers abstaining for payments made to Simmons Center Market.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$5,299,139.32.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in an Closed Session at 5:30 p.m. on March 15, 2016 in a closed session at Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland, 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 and pursuant to §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

Motion made, seconded and carried to conduct a closed session pursuant to the above. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative to conduct the closed session for the purposes stated above and to discuss the topics listed below.

Action taken at the closed session: 1) discussed a request of the Public Works Director regarding Motor Equipment Operator positions-agreed to consider a request to advertise positions in open session; 2) approved the request of the Public Works Director to reclassify a County employee from a Motor Equipment Operator III to a Motor Equipment Operator IV in the Landfill Division by a 5 to 0 vote; 3) approved the request of the Warden to hire individuals to fill five vacant Probationary Correctional Officer positions by a 4 to 1 vote; 4) approved the request of the Recreation and Parks Director to increase starting lifeguard salaries by a 5 to 0 vote-agreed to consider request to advertise in open session; 5) continued discussions regarding the disposition of a County owned property acquired via tax sale-agreed to discuss in open session; 6) discussed a request to purchase two County properties acquired via tax sale-agreed to discuss in open session.

The above information is being provided to the public pursuant to and in compliance with Section §3-306(b) and (c) of Title 3 of the General Provisions Article.

REGULAR SESSION

COMMENDATIONS-MISS OUTDOORS 2016 LITTLE MISS OUTDOORS 2016, LITTLE MR. OUTDOORS 2016

The Council presented commendations to Allyson Adams, Miss Outdoors 2016; Jayden Anders, Little Miss Outdoors 2016; and Gavin Lee Fitzhugh, Little Mr. Outdoors 2016.

UPDATE ON BEHAVIOR HEALTH INTEGRATION-MID SHORE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM, INC.

Holly Ireland, Executive Director, Mid-Shore Mental Health Systems, Inc. (Mid-Shore) provided an update on Behavior Health Integration.

She explained that effective October 1, 2016, due to the passage of House Bill 1109 during the 2015 legislative session, Section 10-202 of the Health General Article of the Annotated Code, was modified and as a result definitions for core service agency and local additions authority outlined in Section 7.5-101 changed. She noted that Mid-Shore has served as the core agency for Dorchester County and four other counties for the past 22 years. She explained that the definition of a local behavioral health authority was also added and steps are being taking locally

to form that authority. She further explained that the behavioral health integration process is the merging of mental health services and substance related disorder services into behavioral services.

Mr. Ireland thanked Roger Harrell, Health Officer, for being a long term member and now President of the Mid-Shore Board of Directors and for his partnership with this organization.

She said the ultimate goal is to have a single behavioral health authority that includes mental health and substance abuse and until it is established each local health department is working in that capacity. She advised that under Mr. Harrell's leadership they are working closely with the Addictions Director of the County on integration and to that end the health department has contracted with Mid-Shore to provide monitoring services including contract monitoring, complaint investigations and problem solving of difficult consumer situations. She noted that Health Department will retain the decision making, planning and management responsibilities.

Ms. Ireland said at a May meeting she will ask the Council to authorize Mid-Shore to serve as the County's core service agency and at that time will also provide an annual report. She advised that during that meeting she will discuss the Stepping Up Initiative, which is a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails. She explained it is a collaborative partnership with the National Association of Counties, American Psychiatric Association Foundation, the Justice Center and the Council of state governments. Ms. Ireland said 242 counties nationwide have passed a resolution regarding this initiative, including the following four in Maryland: Calvert, Harford, Montgomery and Prince Georges.

Ms. Ireland stated that Mid-Shore's Forensic Workgroup, under a sub sequential mapping grant, worked with criminal justice and behavioral partners and discussed individuals contact with criminal justice from the 911 call or community police contact up until entry to determine where to divert them from criminal justice system to treatment along that process. She said they focused on mental health but also discussed substance abuse. She explained that as a result of this mapping process a workgroup has been formed. Ms. Ireland advised that during May she will ask the Council to recognize Mental Health Awareness Month. She said she would also like to bring all of the partners from the workgroup and those impacted in the County to present the Council a Stepping Up Initiative resolution for its review and consideration.

The Council thanked Ms. Ireland for her update.

WATER QUALITY DATA PRESENTATION-DORCHESTER CITIZENS FOR PLANNED GROWTH

Fred Pomeroy, Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth (DCPG), thanked the Council for its decision in 2014 to include funds for watershed improvement projects in the County budget. He encouraged them to continue to set aside funding for these types of projects. He said DCPG received \$5,000 from the County in 2014 towards its cooperative project with the City, County and Environmental Concern at the Visitor's Center. He explained that they are working on the first phase which includes a stormwater demonstration, small rain garden and signage crediting project partners. He advised that it will be completed this Spring and an event will be held in early May or June to showcase the project. He said he would like to partner with the County to complete the project which will include the addition of large rain gardens.

Mr. Pomeroy stated that Roman Jesien, the Chairman of DCPG's Water Quality Committee, will provide the water quality data compiled by the committee members. He explained that the members monitor waters in the County every other week and have done so for the past seven years. He noted they monitor water at the Visitor's Center because it has a public swimming beach.

Mr. Jesien presented a power point presentation which showed the results of the Committee members' water samplings this year. He explained that there are seven sampling stations which are checked every two weeks. He advised that DCPG is working with the property owners of the Chicamacomico Dam to increase water levels and provide fish passage. Councilman Bradshaw noted that Resource, Conservation and Development members are also working with those property owners. He referenced the sampling data Mr. Jesien provided on Higgins Mill Pond. He advised that the owner of the pond is working with Valley Protein to address issues relating to water quality.

Mr. Jensen thanked the Council.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

ANNUAL SERVICE ORDER RENEWAL-AIRPORT AUTOMATED WEATHER OBSERVATION SYSTEM-AIRPORT

The Council approved the request of Meighan "Chis" Chisholm, Airport Manager, to renew the Annual Service Order for the Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) at the Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport at the cost of \$4,500 which will run from February 2016 to January 2017 and authorized him to sign and submit the service order.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS-SUPPLYING CRUSHED STONE-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, to advertise for proposals for the supplying of crushed stone beginning May 1, 2016 and ending April 30, 2017.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE ROADSIDE MOWER REAR DECK-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to purchase a roadside mower rear deck from the Salisbury Atlantic Tractor dealership, which submitted the lowest quote, at the cost of \$7,250 from the FY15 Capital Budget line item for the purchase of mobile equipment lifts.

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION-DRAWBRIDGE ROAD-PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Price said on March 3, 2016 the Traffic Safety Committee members discussed the request of Calvin J. Mitchell, Sr. for lower speed limit or hidden entrance signs before the blind curve on Drawbridge Road in front of the entrance to the public boat ramp. He explained that after visiting the site and reviewing aerial pictures, the members believe the site distance issue could be attributed to vegetation along that curve.

The Council approved the members' recommendation that Brian Chester, Highway Division Manager, work with Greg LeBlanc, Engineer, to ensure that the County has cut back around that bend to the limits of the County's right-of-way and to communicate with the property owner regarding the possible removal of trees and/or brush to improve visibility leaving his lane.

CONTRACT RECOMMENDATION-BRIDGE GUARDRAIL PROJECT-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the recommendation submitted by Greg LeBlanc, Engineer, to disregard the two bids received for the Bridge Guardrail Repair and Replacement project and instead utilize the services of Guardrails, Etc. by piggybacking on an existing contract held by Cecil County. The Council recognized that: 1) the unit prices for the work are more detailed and lower than the two bids; 2) funds under the bridge repair budget line item will cover this cost; and 3) piggy backing on another contract is the preferred option in the County's Purchasing Policies and Procedures.

FY17 CIRCUIT COURT SECURITY GRANT APPLICATION REQUEST-GRANT MONITOR

The Council approved the request Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, submitted on behalf of Brett Wilson, Circuit Court Judge, for authorization to request grant support from the Maryland Judiciary Administrative Office of the Courts under a Request for Scope of Work for Courthouse Security Equipment issued to Circuit Courts to replace the video surveillance and access control systems at the Court House. Mr. Goldman explained that the grant amount and matches are unknown at this time and that if the County is awarded a grant, the Council has the option to approve or deny that award. Ms. Smith noted that this is considered a preliminary request. Councilman Travers said the Council has been made aware during FY17 budget discussions about the proposed replacement of this equipment due to its age.

DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT GRANT APPLICATION-COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE-GRANT MONITOR

Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, explained that Ms. Smith worked with Steve Dodd, Planning and Zoning Director, and submitted an application for a Department of Natural Resources CoastSmart Track A grant for funds in the amount of \$75,000 for an update of the County's Comprehensive Plan for which it is estimated there will be \$100,000 contractual cost. He explained that there is a County cash match of \$25,000 which is included in the Planning and Zoning FY17 budget request and an in-kind match consisting of County employee salaries and fringe benefits. The Council agreed to posthumously approve the submission of the request.

RETROACTIVE MARYLAND SPORTS GRANT REQUEST-2015 IRONMAN MARYLAND RACE-TOURISM

The Council approved the request of Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, to submit a retroactive grant request to the Maryland Office of Tourism Development for funds of \$20,000 to support the licensing fee for the 2015 IRONMAN Maryland race to close the gap for this event.

TRAVEL REQUEST-EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT-PLANNING AND ZONING

The Council approved the request of Steve Garvin, Emergency Planner, and Mr. Dodd for Brian Soper, Environmental Planner, to attend the Eastern Regional Climate Preparedness Conference on April 4 and April 15, 2016 in Baltimore Maryland. The Council acknowledged that: 1) the cost for the conference registration and hotel for up to two nights will be reimbursed by Antioch University through a Town Creek Foundation grant of \$750; 2) funds up to \$750 from the FY2014 Homeland Security Grant program can also be utilized to cover any monies over that amount. The Council also agreed to reimburse Mr. Soper for meals pursuant to the limits in the County's business meals policy.

LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST- CHESAPEAKE & ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS TRUST FUND GRANT-CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE

The Council approved the request of Timothy Jones, Vice President for Administrative Services, Chesapeake College, to send a letter of support for the Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy's application titled "Chesapeake College Restoration Projects & BMPs" for a Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Grant for funds to support improvements at the College to enhance removal of non-point source suspended particles and their associated nutrients and pollutants. The Council acknowledged that: 1) the keystone project, designed with grant funds from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, is a Regenerative Step Pool Storm Conveyance downstream of the lower settlement pond at the campus which will provide energy dissipation and flood conveyance and/or attenuation functions, as well as water quality treatment; and 2) other proposed campus projects include a wetland restoration, bio retentions, swales and buffers.

DELMARVA REGIONAL HEALTHCARE MUTUAL AID GROUP PASS THROUGH GRANT EXPENDITURE REQUEST-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request submitted by Mr. Garvin to expend Delmarva Regional Healthcare Mutual Aid Group (DRHMAG) pass through grant funds in the amount of \$64,269 to purchase five BabyPods, to hire a vendor to perform maintenance of the Regional Medical Station, a 20 bed mobile hospital which is housed in Queen Anne's County in a trailer and to create a BabyPod CONOPS and Pediatric Annex to Med Surge Plan within the Region. The Council recognized that: 1) grant funds have been transferred from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to the County's Emergency Services Department; 2) County funds will not be utilized to offset any expenditures; and 3) the County's role is fiduciary only.

FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT AND PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION COMPETITIVE GRANT AWARDS-EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Council approved the request submitted by Mr. Garvin to accept the following grant awards for funding to review/update the County's current Flood and All-Hazard Mitigation Plans: 1) a Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant award of \$32,000 with an \$8,000 County match; and, 2) a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant Program award of \$21,000 with a \$7,000 County share. The Council acknowledged that the County's share for both grants will be in-kind services consisting of County staff hours.

SPECIAL EVENTS AGREEMENT-RACE2ERASE-FINANCE

The Council approved the request submitted by Robert Willey, Assistant Finance Director, to enter into a Special Events Agreement between Jenny Whitten, the County Council and the Sheriff of Dorchester County, for public safety services the Sheriff's Office will provide during the Race2Erase 10 mile race to be held on May 1, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the form of three vehicles and three Deputies at the cost of \$600. The Council acknowledged that: 1) the personnel component has been priced at premium overtime rates; and, 2) the cost is 50% higher than for the same event last year due to higher FY16 costs, the additional of another hour and rounding to an even \$100.

DISCUSSION-RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING LANDFILL TIPPING FEE CREDIT FOR MUNICIPALITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Mr. Goldman noted at its March 1, 2016 meeting Council approved the request of Don Bradley, Town Manager, on behalf of the Church Creek Town Commissioners, for an increase in the annual landfill tipping fee credit Dorchester County provides to municipalities from \$500 to \$750. He explained that a resolution must be adopted by the Council to formalize this change and clarification is needed on whether Council also wishes to increase the "not to exceed \$500 per request" credit to communities in the County which are not located within incorporated municipalities, on a case-by-case basis, by the same amount. The Council agreed to increase the community credit to not exceed \$750 per request.

911 ADVISORY BOARD RESOLUTION AMENDMENT

The Council approved the request of Kim Vickers, Chief, Dorchester County Department of Emergency Services, to amend Resolution No. 572 to revise the membership for the 911 Advisory Board by removing an appointee from the Maryland State Police as a CORE member and adding an appointee from the Board of Education as a CORE member.

TELEPHONE POLL CONFIRMATION

The Council confirmed its decisions in the interim between meetings, by means of a poll, to: 1) send a letter of support for House Bill 907 "Creation of a State Debt-Dorchester County-Chesapeake Grove Senior Housing and Intergenerational Center" which creates a State Debt not to exceed \$500,000 for the acquisition, planning, design, construction repair, renovation, reconstruction and capital equipping of the Chesapeake Grove Senior Housing and Intergenerational Center and the cross-filed Senate Bill at the request of Delmarva Community Services, by a 5 to 0 vote; 2) to send a letter of support for House Bill 1143 "Income Tax Credit-New Dwellings-Automatic Fire Sprinkler System" which allows a record owner of a specified new dwelling to claim a credit against the State income tax in an amount equal to \$1.25 for each square foot of the new dwelling if a specified automatic fire sprinkler system is installed, with amendments to apply this credit to those homes which are 2,000 square feet or less and in the areas that have a higher unemployment rate than the State's unemployment rate, at the request of Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes, by a 5 to 0 vote; and 3) enter into a contract with Brooks Creek Construction, LLC, trading as Kimmel Contracting, for the stabilization of the front façade of the Hearn building, by a 3 to 2 vote (with 1 no answer).

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE SEASONAL POSITIONS FOR THE COUNTY POOL- RECREATION AND PARKS

The Council agreed to advertise part-time/seasonal positions for the County pool.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR MOTOR EQUIPMENT OPERATOR POSITIONS- PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Council agreed to advertise for Motor Equipment Operator positions in the Public Works Department.

DONATION REQUEST-TAX SALE PROPERTY-TOWN OF HURLOCK

The Council approved the request of the Town of Hurlock to donate 106 Maryland Ave, Hurlock to Habitat for Humanity Choptank, on which the structure will be demolished by the Town utilizing grant funds, contingent upon approval of E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, of a Memorandum of Understanding.

TAX SALE PROPERTY OFFER

The Council accepted the offer of William E. Gore, Jr. to purchase 309 Cedar Street for \$1,800 and to purchase 307 Cedar Street for \$400. Councilman Travers abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Nichols thanked everyone, especially Council, for their best wishes through his time of turmoil.

Councilman Satterfield thanked law enforcement personnel and emergency responders for providing assistance to residents and expressed sorrow for the loss of the police officer in Prince George's County.

Councilman Price said he is hopeful the update of the County's Comprehensive Plan will begin shortly, noting that members of the farming community support an update. He echoed Councilman Satterfield's comments about the law enforcement and the loss of the officer. He commended the participants of the North Dorchester High School Senior Play "Little Mermaid."

Councilman Bradshaw noted that the Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Assessment was released which confirmed the Clean Chesapeake Coalition members' belief that the reservoirs behind the Conowingo Dam are full with nutrient laden sediment. He referenced a recent Star Democrat article regarding the Maryland Department of Agriculture's collection of soil samples across the State, which indicated that the majority of the farm fields will not be impacted by the phosphorus management tool due to lower than anticipated phosphorus levels.

Councilman Travers expressed concern about the unprovoked attack to law enforcement in Prince George's County and his prayers and thoughts for the family and friends of the officer who passed. He congratulated those students at the Cambridge South Dorchester High School Senior Play who participated in the "Bye, Bye Birdie" Senior Play.

Councilman Travers announced that: 1) members of the County Council will participate in a boat tour/discussion with Colonel Edward P. Chamberlayne, Commander, Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 regarding dredging in various areas of the County, beginning at the Tylers Cove Dock; 2) the County Council will sit as Board of Estimates for the purpose of conducting a Budget Worksession on Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 5 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room; 3) members of the County Council will attend a dinner meeting with the City of Cambridge Council and staff on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 6 p.m. at a to be determined location; 4) the next County Council meeting will be held on April 5, 2016 at 6 p.m.; and, 5) the Council reserves the right to meet in closed session prior to its regular session on these dates.

He explained that the March 23, 2016 tour showing the impact lack of dredging maintenance has had on local waterways is a duplicate of the tour Council members and staff had with State officials in October 2015. He expressed his understanding that the Army Corps is currently conducting a survey in that area.

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 5th day of April, 2016.