

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2017**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on May 16, 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 Nichols led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- MAY 2 2017, MAY 9, 2017

The Council approved the minutes of May 2, 2017 and May 9, 2017.

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 \$2,547,600.30.

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 and pursuant to §3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. on May 16, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613.

Action taken at the Closed Session: 1) discussed personnel matters relating to a County department; 2) received an update on personnel issues relating to a County department;

and, 3) discussed with legal counsel an agreement relating to the payment of overdue taxes.

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

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PUBLIC HEARING

BILL NO. 2017-5 AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING: 2017-2018 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said a public hearing is being held on Bill No. 2017-5, the 2017-2018 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. He referenced the two prior public hearings, held on May 2, 2017 and May 9, 2017. There was no public comment. The roll call on the enactment of Bill No. 2017-5 was as follows: Bradshaw-aye; Price-aye; Travers-aye; Satterfield-aye; Nichols-aye.

PUBLIC HEARING-SCHEDULE OF FEES

Mr. Merryweather said a public hearing is being held on the County's Schedule of Fees. He noted that there is only one proposed change, an increase in the landfill tipping fee from \$60 per ton to \$62 per ton, effective July 1, 2017.

In response to a query from Councilman Bradshaw, Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, advised that the increase will result in Dorchester County being within the medium range of surrounding counties. Mr. Goldman noted that the Council had discussed using the additional funding to establish a strategic demolition fund which will be utilized to offset the cost of providing a full or partial discount to a municipality to demolish blighted properties. He said these requests will be considered on a case by case basis.

There was no public comment. The Council adopted a resolution to amend the Schedule of Fees and adjourned the public hearing.

REGULAR SESSION

The Council convened into Regular Session.

PUBLIC HEARING-BONNIE BROOK SANITARY DISTRICT-WATER FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Merryweather said this is a joint public hearing between the County Council and the Dorchester County Sanitary District, Inc. for the Bonnie Brook Sanitary District recreation and water facility improvements. He advised that this district was created in 1963. He noted that upgrades are needed and the proposed resolution will recreate the district.

Tom Moore, Vice Chairman, Sanitary Commission, acknowledged that Jason Loar, Engineer, Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc.; Kim Newcomb, Chair and K.D. Applegarth, Office Manager, Dorchester County Sanitary District, were present. He advised that: 1) some improvements will be made to the water system; 2) 114 homes are served by the district; 3) the system was built in the mid to late 1960s; 4) the majority of the proposed project is to make improvements to the water storage system and the treatment and water meters; and, 5) only the lines associated with these improvements will be replaced. He advised that based on the Engineer's Report and Recommendations and estimated project cost of \$660,000, the Sanitary District is seeking funding from the United States Department of Agriculture in the form of a \$336,000 loan and a \$325,000 grant. Mr. Moore said the rates will be changed based on the actual cost. Mr. Merryweather noted that USDA grant and loan funding was used for the Madison and Woolford District project.

In response to a question from Mr. Merryweather, Mr. Moore confirmed that the grant and loan will reduce the impact on consumer rates. Pursuant to another question from Mr. Merryweather, Mr. Loar said: 1) the planning stage was just completed; 2) the project is in the engineering design phase; 3) the next phase is engineering design; and, 4) the best case scenario would be one year to eighteen months before it is operational.

Mr. Merryweather recognized that no one signed the Public Hearing Sign Up sheet. He asked if anyone present wanted to speak.

Richard Hinkel, Bonnie Brook resident, said he is favor of the improvements which are needed. He questioned whether the proposed project is economically feasible to homeowners. Ms. Applegarth said preliminary information shows that there will be approximately a \$10 per month increase in consumer rates which will be utilized to reimburse USDA for the loan. She explained that the existing meters are aging and failing so the installation of new more accurate meters may result in an increase in water rates. Pursuant to a question from Ryan Schaake, resident, Mr. Loar said it is a 40 year loan. Ms. Applegarth confirmed for Mr. Schaake that the approximate amount she quoted will be paid for the length of the loan.

The Council approved the actions taken by the Dorchester County Sanitary District, Inc. as set forth in the resolution. The public hearing was adjourned.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PRE-APPLICATION PUBLIC HEARING

Rebecca White, Executive Assistant to County Manager, said the purpose of this public hearing is to inform citizens of the Community Development Block Grant Program funding opportunity through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (CDBG) for Federal FY2017 and State FY2018 funding. She advised that public input is being sought for input for the projects being proposed and on other needs to be considered. She stated that: 1) the amount of funding available for the program for State FY2018 is \$4,728,000.17; 2) the activities eligible for funding must meet one of the national objections set by HUD; 3) the project must benefit low to moderate income persons or prevent or eliminate slum or blight or met an urgent need; 4) the County has not received a request from nonprofit organizations within the community to sponsor a project this year. She said the County project that is being presented this evening for the Council's and public's input is to renovate the four bathrooms in the County Office Building and to add/renovate one bathroom in the Clerk of the Court's Office in the Courthouse to improve access for individuals with special needs pursuant to American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. She advised that CDBG requires that all construction contracts adhere to Davis Bacon wage rate requirements and the project will need architectural design and project management support. She asked the Council to approve the submittal of an application for \$300,000 through the adoption of a resolution. She advised that there is \$35,000 in the Public Works Capital Budget to be used as a match for this project along with in-kind grant administration and possibly some project assistance from Public Works personnel. She asked for comments and questions from the public and the Council.

There was no public comment. The Council adopted a resolution approving the submittal of the grant application.

The public hearing was concluded.

REGULAR SESSION

BOARD OF HEALTH

Pursuant to Roger Harrell, Health Officer, Dorchester County Health Department, said tonight's topic is substance abuse treatment and recovery services in the County. He referenced the Governor's State of Emergency as it relates as solving opioid and heroin overdose issues. He noted that there are three prongs to address these issues are: 1) prevention working through the Health Department, schools and other programs; 2) law enforcement agencies; and, 3) treatment and recovery. He advised that there are several

changes being made relating to substance abuse services including a “fee for service.” Mr. Harrell introduced Donald Hall, Program Director, Addictions Program. Mr. Hall advised that the Health Department is to be accredited by January 2018. He said their expectation is to submit an application for accreditation in the new few months. He expressed his understanding it may not reviewed until early Spring and if necessary they will request a waiver from the Behavioral Health Administration. Mr. Hall said at the Dorchester Addictions Treatment Program immediate admission will be given to those with an opioid abuse disorder. He noted that if necessary at the time of assessment they will facilitate a referral for a residential treatment. He advised that all patients who have an opioid addiction will be given Naloxone and be trained on how to administer that medication. He said vivitrol will also be available to addictions patients on an out-patient basis and suboxone is also being provided.

Mr. Hall explained that there are two Dry Dock Recovery and Wellness Program forensic peers who have begun outreach in the Safe Streets areas in Dorchester County and the City of Cambridge and will continue it at least three times weekly. He said when they are not in the field conducting outreach they will be at the recovery center or will provide other services for substance abuse disorder. Mr. Hall advised that there are also two peers, one male and female, who will be trained as volunteers. He explained that they will be able to offer support at the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Dorchester to those patients with non-fatal overdoses. He stated that they will also reach out to those who receive referrals from urgent care facilities. He said they are trying to expand the program to include private doctors.

He advised that as part of a faith based initiative that will begin July 1, 2017 he and the peer recovery specialist will attempt to meet with every faith based organization in the County to encourage them to start a support program within their organization. He said they will provide them support to include a list of items to provide those in recovery, training and technical assistance and will offer naloxone training. He stated that as a result it will provide access to communities in which there are no services, particularly those in the southern areas that do not have transportation. Mr. Hall advised that during a recent meeting Brian Majors, Heroin Coordinator, provided them a list of overdose statistics. He noted that Ms. Sierra was also in that meeting and they discussed possible ways to strengthen the Addictions program. Mr. Hall said through Mr. Majors they are reaching out to individuals that law enforcement comes into contact with that survive overdoses and are offering peer support.

Mr. Hall stated that the treatment program times were changed in order to make services more accessible for those on work release. He said he is meeting with Joey Hughes, Director of Corrections, next week regarding vivitrol and training inmates to administer Naloxone. He advised that walk in Naloxone training is conducted at Dry Dock every

Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Mr. Hall said they plan to expand the training program to include the local Detention Center, faith based organizations and all private health care providers in the County.

The Council thanked Mr. Harrell and Mr. Hall.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION GRANT AWARD- NALOXONE PURCHASE-SHERIFF'S OFFICE-GRANT MONITOR

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, to accept a Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention Grant Award of \$3,200 with no match for the purchase of 80 doses of Naloxone.

LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST-HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CHOPTANK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT-HOUSING REHABILITATION- GRANT MONITOR

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith, on behalf of Habitat for Humanity Choptank, to send a letter of support for its Community Development Block Grant application for funds to establish a housing rehabilitation program within the City of Cambridge.

CONSENT LETTER-PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES AGREEMENT-CAMBRIDGE COMMONS-FINANCE

The Council approved the request of Michael Spears, Finance Director, to execute a consent letter which states that the Payment of in Lieu of Taxes Agreement (Pilot) between the Owner, Cambridge Commons, LLLP and Dorchester County, as amended, will remain in place and will not be impacted by the transfer of partnership interests in the general partner of owner to Enterprise Homes, Inc. Councilman Price opposed based on his prior opposition to the Pilot.

MID SHORE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE REAPPOINTMENT REQUEST

The Council approved the request of Holly Ireland, Executive Director, to reappoint Jacki Crawford (Weston) to serve as a Dorchester County representative on the Mid Shore Behavioral Health's Regional Behavioral Health Advisory Committee for a second term which will expire May 31, 2020.

SPECIAL EVENTS AGREEMENT-CHURCH CREEK TIME TRIALS-BICYCLE RACES-FINANCE

The Council agreed to enter into Special Events Agreements between the Annapolis Bicycle Racing Team, the Council and the Sheriff of Dorchester County to provide public safety services in the form of four vehicles and four deputies at the Church Creek Time

Trial Bicycle Races on July 15, 2017 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on August 19, 2017 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT-IRONMAN 70.3 EAGLEMAN

The Council approved the request of Gerry Boyle, Race Director, for the following support for the Ironman 70.3 Eagleman race on Sunday, June 11, 2017: 1) Emergency Management personnel to be located at a combined command center working in conjunction with race staff and other agencies, 2) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) support (ambulances) as determined by the medical plan and coordinated with the Emergency Management Director with EMS transports being billed on an individual basis; and, 3) the use of two video messaging system boards to be deployed at key junctions prior to race day to notify the community of the event. The Council also agreed to enter into a Special Events Agreement between the World Triathlon Corporation, the Council and the Sheriff of Dorchester County to provide public safety services in the form of 15 vehicles and 15 deputies for the actual cost of these services on June 11th from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM CONTRACT EXPIRATION-MAPLE DAM ROAD PROPERTY

Mr. Goldman said correspondence has been received from the Farm Service Agency advising that the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Contract for the Maple Dam Road Property will expire on September 30, 2017. He noted that the County currently leases 26.70 tillable acres of this property to Ronald C. Edgar & Sons, LLC, t/a Riverdale Farm, which lease will expire on December 31, 2017. He explained that the County can re-enroll the contract; however, it is no longer eligible to receive annual rental payments and will still be responsible for complying with all conservation plan requirements. The Council agreed not to re-enroll the property. The Council further agreed that staff should contact the Edgars about interest in renewing the lease and adding additional acreage.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS-RECYCLING CONTAINERS-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, to advertise for bids for the purchase of recycling containers and/or dumpsters for a total quantity of 17.

REQUEST TO EXTEND STONE CONTRACT-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to extend the County's existing stone contract with Vulcan Material Company for one year to cover the period of FY17 to FY18.

MARINE FACILITY DUMPSTERS-PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Moore referenced the Council's directive to contact additional haulers to obtain quotes, since only one bid was received. He said out of several companies staff contacted

only one provided a quote, which was higher. He questioned whether the Council wants to consider continuing the practice of placing dumpsters at marine facilities. He noted that 2014 was the last year that Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement Funds were available for dumpsters. Mr. Moore stated that in order to reduce costs the number of months the containers were placed at facilities was reduced. He noted that an extra fee has to be paid if they become overloaded before the regularly scheduled pick-up date. He said they are not being used for their intended purposes, for recreational boating debris.

Pursuant to a question from Councilman Bradshaw, Mr. Moore said discussions were held regarding performing this service in-house but it is cost prohibitive. He said roll-off containers are too large and there are issues relating to removal in response to a question from Councilman Travers.

The Council agreed to continue providing dumpster service for the County's marine facilities this year and to utilize Waste Management at the cost of \$215 per month per container and \$100 for additional pickups. The Council asked that a poll be conducted of surrounding counties, to include Kent, Caroline, Talbot, Somerset and Wicomico, on whether or not/how they provide this service in their jurisdictions. The Council recognized that there may be a future opportunity to piggyback on one of their contracts.

SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION REQUEST-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to declare an RICO copier as surplus property.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO HOST EVENTS AT SAILWINDS AMPHITHEATER-TOURISM

The Council approved the request of Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, to host the below events in the Sailwinds Amphitheater and asked for the times of each of the events. The Council acknowledged that: 1) at least one food truck will be at each event; 2) food and beer sales are expected to be generated; and 3) the City of Cambridge's movie night has been rescheduled for May 19, 2017.

- May 26th – Memorial Day Concert with Blackwater
- June 9th – Josh Christina Band
- July 4th – Independence Day Concert with Mid-Shore Community Band
- Aug 6th – Bird Dog and the Road Kings
- Sept 1 or 2nd – Movie Night
- October 6th – Movie Night
- October 29th – Sailwinds Kite Festival/Sunday Daytime

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Donald Gray, resident, expressed concern about maintenance and lawn care issues on some properties in Toddville and Crapo. Mr. Harrell said complaints relating to tall grass should be submitted to the Health Department. Councilman Satterfield advised that he has referred one such call to the Health Department. Mr. Gray cited his concerns about untagged vehicles in the County, particularly in Hudson next to the General Store and enforcement. Councilman Travers said staff will look into the matter.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

In response to a question from Councilman Nichols, Mr. Goldman said there is funding in this years and next year's budget for the dumpsters, noting that some line items may have to be adjusted.

Councilman Satterfield stated that he is pleased about the adopted budget, noting that the County made every effort to look out for County employees and citizens.

Councilman Price said while he supports the FY18 budget, which does not include a tax increase, he has concerns about future sustainability. He advised that the budget includes funding: 1) to begin the process of updating the County's Comprehensive Plan; 2) for fire companies; 3) to address citizens' requests relating to road repairs and infrastructure, particularly in the northern area; 4) for the replacement of the North Dorchester High School; and; 5) for a fire radio system.

Councilman Price referenced the Council's earlier approval for the purchase new recycling containers. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Price, Mr. Moore said the containers will be checked periodically. Councilman Price said it is his understanding that the cardboard containers are frequently full. Mr. Moore explained that the 20 yard containers will be purchased, noting that the existing ones are only 8 yards.

Councilman Price congratulated the upcoming high school and college graduates and wished them well in their future endeavors. He said there will be a Memorial Day event at the Long Wharf Park in Cambridge on May 29th and one at the Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery on May 30th.

Councilman Bradshaw thanked staff for their hard work and assistance during the FY18 budget process. He noted that the budget includes a step for employees which will foster employee longevity. He said last night he attended the Oyster Advisory Commission meeting at which the identification of the fourth and fifth tributaries to create oyster sanctuaries was discussed. He provided the Council a page from a Power Point that references the proposed sanctuary locations and votes. He noted that Hooper Strait received only two votes and the Nanticoke received the same amount for and against. He expressed his understanding that there are no quantified results from the sanctuaries; therefore, he believes it is a moot point to pick the additional areas, particularly since no shell is available. He advised that the Tred Avon project was suspended due to the lack

of shell. Councilman Bradshaw said a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) marine vessel is currently in Harris Creek to address the areas in which stones which will were placed at the bottom as substrate has damaged boats. He stated that voids where found where stones should have been located and instead of softball/baseball sized stone some were as large as 100 quart coolers. He noted that DNR Waterway Improvement Funds, which the County applies for each year to assist in maintaining Dorchester County facilities, are being used for these projects. Councilman Bradshaw said it is his understanding that in June the appropriate agencies will reapply for a permit to perform oyster restoration work in the Little Choptank again. He advised that: 1) he discussed this matter with Charles "Chip" MacLeod, Special legal Counsel; 2) the majority of the work has been completed for a coordination effort; and, 3) Mr. MacLeod is prepared to speak to the Council about any and all options to halt this project.

Councilman Travers thanked staff for their assistance during the budget process. He reiterated that there is no new tax increase. Pursuant to a question from Councilman Bradshaw, Mr. Goldman said there have been no tax increases in six years. Councilman Travers stated that a number of the Council's goals and objectives were met. He noted that the FY18 budget includes the following: 1) an increase the fire company appropriations; 2) an employee Step increase; 3) funds to purchase an ambulance, police vehicles and dump trucks; and, 4) a continued commitment to the replacement of North Dorchester High Street.

Councilman Travers noted that according to housing market statistics, in April units doubled from last year with there being 23 then and 47 this year. He announced that: 1) the next Council meeting will be held on June 6, 2017; and, 2) the Council reserves the right to meet in closed session prior to regular session.

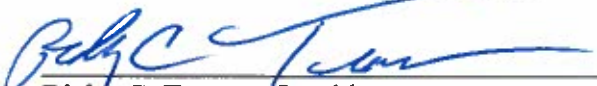
With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

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 16th day of May, 2017.