

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2017

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on August 15, 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

The Council approved the following additions to the agenda: 1) Hoopers Island Volunteer Fire Company Request-Letters of Support-Purchase of Equipment; 2) Tax Payment and Forbearance Agreement Modification Proposal-Reliance Mobile Home; and, 3) Sale of Tax Property.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- AUGUST 1, 2017

The Council approved the minutes of August 1, 2017.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented. Councilman Travers abstained for payments made to Simmons Center Market. Councilman Bradshaw abstained for his reimbursement.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$4,326,727.65.

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 on August 15, 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 a personnel matter relating to a County department; 2) approved the request of the Soil Conservation Manager to hire an individual to fill a Soil Conservation Grant Planner position by a 4 to 0 vote; 3) approved the request of the Emergency Services Director to hire an individual to fill a full time Paramedic position by a 4 to

0 vote; 4) received legal advice on a Tax Payment and Forbearance Agreement Modification Proposal-agreed to move this matter to open session for policy discussion; and, 5) received legal advice relating to a tax sale property-agreed to move this matter to open session for policy discussion.

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

FIRST DISCUSSION-2018 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, stated that: 1) Council will meet with legislators on November 7, 2017 regarding legislative proposals for the 2018 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session; 2) in anticipation of this meeting this discussion has been added to the agenda; and, 3) Council will have the opportunity to discuss proposed legislative initiatives at its September 19th and October 17th meetings. He advised that the following local budget impact topics were included in the 2017 legislative packet: 1) restoration of highway user revenues; 2) the cost of the shifting by the State of a portion of pensions for teachers; and, 3) maintenance of effort statewide moving average and its impacts. He said a proposal to change the reimbursement rates for school construction was announced recently and if passed there would be a 2% decrease in the prior rates.

He advised that the Board of License Commissioners will discuss the following legislative items at its August 21, 2017 meeting: 1) the request of Pizza Palace in Hurlock, with the support from the Town, to amend §19-1601 of Article 2B "Alcoholic Beverages," of the Annotated Code of Maryland, to change the distance restriction from a place of worship or school or to exempt the Town from the code like Cambridge and Secretary; and, 2) the Board of License Commissioners' intention to seek a change in the number of Beer & Wine Festivals allowed per year from one event to possibly four events.

Rebecca White, Executive Assistant, referenced legislation that was passed during the 2017 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session establishing a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for counties in which there is an abundance of State owned property. She and Mr. Goldman advised that Dorchester County and Somerset County did not meet the required eligibility criteria for this PILOT. Ms. White said the criteria was specific to acreage and property tax rate. Mr. Goldman said if the property tax rate was \$1.00 for each \$100 of assessment, instead of \$0.976, the County would have met the eligibility requirements. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Goldman, Ms. White explained that had Dorchester County been eligible it would have received \$600,000 for 46,600 acres. She advised that she has spoken to Delegate Johnny Mautz about this matter.

Ms. White said she has been pursuing a change in Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) which governs the transfer of school property from the Board of Education to the County. Mr.

Goldman noted that the Council sought legislation to amend these regulations; however, it did not pass out of committee. Pursuant to a request from Councilman Travers, Mr. Goldman explained that pursuant to COMAR the Board of Education receives approval from the the Interagency Committee on School Construction and/or the Board of Public Works to transfer a property to the County; and, 2) after transfer, in order to dispose of the property to a private party, the County must follow the same process.

He referred to a Court of Special Appeals ruling that requires the counties to obtain this approval which involved a dispute between a developer, Baltimore County, the Comptroller and the Maryland Board of Public Works. Ms. White said Baltimore County residents opposed the proposed plans to develop this property. She advised that Senator Adelaide Eckardt is working with County staff towards a resolution of this matter.

The Council acknowledged: 1) its decision to seek approval to dispose of the old Gootees Neck school property; 2) the submission of a request on February 3, 2017 for authorization to sell the property; 3) that pursuant to Maryland Department of Planning staff the request was to be placed on an agenda sometime after April 2017; and, 4) to date no correspondence or other communication has been received in response this request. Ms. White said a meeting has been scheduled after the Maryland Association of Counties Summer conference with Senator Eckardt and school board members to discuss how the resolve this matter.

REGULAR SESSION

MANAGERS COMMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT-NEW PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Mr. Goldman introduced Ryan White, the new Public Works Director.

RESERVE DOCKAGE REQUEST-ANNUAL CHOPTANK HERITAGE SKIPJACK RACE

The Council approved the request of Lou Hyman, Race Committee Chair, to reserve dockage along the bulkhead of the County Office Building and parking lot on Friday, September 22 and Saturday, September 23 for visiting skipjacks.

MAA AGREEMENT-AVIGATION EASEMENT PROCUREMENT BRIDGE GRANT-AIRPORT

The Council accepted a Maryland Aviation Administration Bridge Grant Award for Phase 2 of the Avigation Easement Acquisition Project and agreed to execute a Grant Agreement. The Council acknowledged that: 1) the total Phase II project cost is \$87,604 of which MAA will pay 95%, \$83,223 and County will be responsible for 5%, \$4,381; 2) once easements are purchased FAA will reimburse the County which will in turn reimburse MAA; and, 3) completion of Phase II will move forward the design and construction (tree removal) stages.

TOWN OF VIENNA ANNEXATION RESOLUTION-APPROVAL OF MUNICIPAL ZONING

Mr. Goldman advised that: 1) at its July 5, 2017 meeting the Planning Commission heard a request from the Town of Vienna, Maryland, and the adjoining landowner, to support the

proposed municipal zoning associated with their request for annexation to the Town; 2) the annexation petition consists of 2.73 acres of land and a portion of Maryland Route 331, located to the north of town and generally along the west side of Maryland Route 331, and as shown on a plat entitled "Annexation Corporate Limits Town of Vienna, Maryland 2017;" 3) the land currently assigned Dorchester County zoning for the subject property is SR, Suburban Residential, which encourages medium to high density residential development near existing towns; 4) the proposed town zoning for the subject property is B-1, General Business, which encourages a range of business, commercial and personal service uses; 5) there is no change to any of our County ordinances or plans is proposed, but the waiver is provided for in State law; 6) pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code for five years after annexation a municipality may not establish zoning for the annexed land that permits development of land uses that are substantially different than uses authorized by the current county zoning, unless the County Council expressly approves the municipal zoning; 7) the applicants are seeking Council's approval; and, 8) the Planning Commission unanimously agreed to favorably recommend the Council support and approve the municipal zoning.

The Council adopted a resolution of support.

SPECIAL EVENTS AGREEMENT-HORN POINT OPEN HOUSE- FINANCE

The Council approved the request submitted by Robert Willey, Assistant Finance Director, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to execute a Special Events Agreement between Jeff Miley, Sponsor, the Council and the Sheriff of Dorchester County to provide public safety services in the form of two vehicles and two deputies at the Horn Point Open House on October 14, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for \$700. The Council acknowledged that Sheriff's Office personnel costs were calculated at premium overtime.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOND ALLOCATION REQUEST

Mr. Goldman referred to the receipt of correspondence from Maddy Ciulu, Director, Single Family Housing, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), to transfer Dorchester County's 2017 tax-exempt housing bond allocation of \$1,099,437 to the Community Development Administration (CDA) for the CDA Maryland Mortgage Program.

Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, explained that: 1) the Internal Revenue Service sets a limit on each County to issue bonds to raise capital for mortgage loans; 2) Council can elect to establish a mortgage plan to assist residents by utilizing this bond allocation; 3) in the past Council has transferred the allocation to the DHCD to administer; 4) a couple of years ago there minimal use of the allocation by County citizens; and 5) in 2016 and 2017 citizens utilized more than the amount allocated for Dorchester County. The Council approved Ms. Ciulu's request.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT RESOLUTION REVISION- INTERSTATE CONTAINER-GRANT MONITOR

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, to adopt a revised resolution supporting the submission of an application to the Maryland Community Development Block

Grant program through DHCD for funds for the renovation of the receiving facility of Interstate Container, Inc. which increases the grant amount from \$600,000 to \$750,000.

TRAVEL REQUEST-PLANNING AND ZONING

The Council approved the request of Rodney Banks, Assistant Planning and Zoning Director, for Brian Soper, Environmental Planner, to travel to and attend the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland for training in the National Flood Insurance Program in mid-September. The Council also approved a waiver from the County's business meals policy for his meals. The Council acknowledged that there is no cost for attendance and Planning and Zoning budget funds will be utilized to cover the meal cost.

BID AWARD-PURCHASE OF VEHICLE-PLANNING AND ZONING

Mr. Goldman advised that monies are allocated in the FY2018 to purchase a replacement vehicle for the Planning and Zoning Department. He said three bids were obtained and the recommendation is to accept the lowest bid which is more than the budgeted amount for this vehicle. He advised that staff is requesting that the difference be paid from the Department's operational budget. The Council agreed to award the purchase to Frederick Ford, the lowest bidder, at the cost of \$18,650.00.

CORRESPONDENCE TO STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION-REQUEST FOR STUDY

Mr. Goldman said the intersection at Mace's Lane and Washington Street is currently controlled by a crossing guard only when Mace's Lane Middle School and Choptank Elementary are open. He advised that several times there have been near misses and accidents at that intersection. He said he is seeking Council's approval to send correspondence to Jay Meredith, District #1 Engineer, State Highway Administration, requesting a traffic study with the hope of a traffic control device finding. The Council agreed to send the correspondence.

HOOPERS ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY REQUEST-PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT

Mr. Goldman advised that: 1) the Hoopers Island Volunteer Fire Company is seeking a grant from the Maryland State Firemen's Association Voluntary Company Assistance Fund (Assistant Funds) to purchase a new engine/pumper at the cost of \$390,000; 2) pursuant to the Assistance Fund requirements volunteer fire companies must obtain correspondence from the local government regarding the potential availability of funding; and, 3) Rosemary Dean, Treasurer, Hoopers Island Volunteer Fire Company, has submitted a request in which she asks if there is any available local government funds or 508 Amoss funds to assist them with the cost to purchase this equipment. The Council agreed to send letters to the Hoopers Island Volunteer Fire Company advising that 508 funding nor local government funds are available for this purpose.

TAX PAYMENT AND FORBEARANCE AGREEMENT MODIFICATION PROPOSAL-RELIANCE MOBILE HOME PARK

Mr. Goldman said the owner of the Reliance Mobile Home Park is seeking a modification of the Tax Payment and Forbearance Agreement between him and the County to pay delinquent trailer court taxes. He explained that the Council has the legal authority to foreclose on this property in

lieu of a modification. The Council agreed to modify the agreement based on recommendations submitted by Robert Willey, Assistant Finance Director.

SALE OF TAX PROPERTY

Mr. Goldman advised that the Council received a request from Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, to sell 721 Hughlett Street to Sheila Camper for the taxes due plus fees and foreclosure costs. He noted that the foreclosure process will be completed soon; therefore, the transfer of this property can occur once the County has clear title.

Councilman Nichols made a motion to approve the request which was seconded by Councilman Bradshaw. E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said the foreclosure process will be finished on or about November 15, 2017. Based on clarification obtained from Ms. Smith, Councilman Nichols amended his motion to sell the property to Ms. Camper for taxes and interest in the amount of \$3,143. Councilman Bradshaw seconded that motion which Council approved.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

PUBLIC HEARING

BILL NO. 2016-7 AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-120 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND TO REPEAL AND REENACT WITH AMENDMENTS CHAPTER 78, ENTITLED "DOG CONTROL", OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM FOR THE REGULATION OF DOGS, PROVIDING DEFINITIONS FOR WORDS USED IN CHAPTER 78 OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE, PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT, PROVIDING FOR THE APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER 78, PROVIDING FOR ANIMAL CARE OF DOGS, PROVIDING FOR THE SEIZURE AND IMPOUNDMENT AND DISPOSITION OF DOGS, PROVIDING FOR THE REDEMPTION OF DOGS, PROVIDING FOR PROCEDURES CONCERNING PERSONS BITTEN OR EXPOSED TO DOGS SUSPECTED OF HAVING RABIES, PROVIDING FOR LICENSES AND VACCINATION OF DOGS AND PROVIDING ANY VIOLATION OF THIS CHAPTER SHALL BE A CIVIL INFRACTION.

Mr. Merryweather said a public hearing is being held on Bill No. 2016-7. He recognized that no one signed up to speak. He advised that Sheriff James Phillips headed a committee which reviewed Chapter 78 as well as citizen input and as a result are proposing changes. He explained that 90% of this bill is a restatement of existing regulations. He said a new section, Section 78.41 has been proposed which adds more protections for dogs in the County concerning health, shelter, housing conditions and safety. He asked if anyone present wished to speak. There was no response. The roll call on the enactment of Bill No. 2017-6 was as follows: Bradshaw-aye; Price-aye; Travers; Satterfield-aye; Nichols-aye. Councilman Nichols noted that modifications can be made to this Chapter in the future.

REGULAR SESSION

The Council convened into Regular Session.

PUBLIC HEARING-2017-2026 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Merryweather said a public hearing is being held on a draft 2017-2026 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). Jeremy Morris, Senior Engineer, Geosyntec Consultants, provided a power point presentation, which is attached. Mr. Merryweather said public comments will be limited to three minutes.

Susan Bautz, resident and Secretary of the North Dorchester Railroad (NDR), explained that this nonprofit organization was formed to develop approximately six miles of State owned rail line from Hurlock to Preston. She said the members of the organization are currently negotiating a lease with the Maryland Department of Transportation which was submitted two months ago. She explained that approximately half a mile of line runs through the Beulah Landfill and the plan as drafted will impact their plans. She said Mike O'Connor, a volunteer civil engineer who has been with NDR since November will speak.

Mr. O'Connor thanked the Council for providing the opportunity for him to speak regarding the plan. Based on his experience in preparing various environmental statements and community plans in the past, he cited his belief that the plan incorrectly identifies the ownership of property that abuts the landfill on the east side. He said it is his understanding that the current owner of the property is the State Highway Administration/Maryland Transit Authority, and not the the Maryland Delaware Railroad, which leased the property up to the early 1990s. He expressed his understanding that Parcel 15, which is listed as a source for mining material, is not included in the study area that requires the identification of environment impacts. He said it is listed in the plan; however, it is not in figure 4-1 in which critical areas are to be identified. He expressed his belief that: 1) approximately 10 to 12 feet have been mined from that parcel; 2) an additional 30 to 40 feet will be needed to build a new landfill; 3) current operations may result in the property be mined into the groundwater table; 4) it is a potential site for illegal dumping. Mr. O'Connor said he is concerned about the view of the landfill from the proposed North Dorchester Railroad. He opined that it will carry approximately 30,000 to 40,000 passengers annually. He cited the potential cultural, historic, and economic impact this rail may have on the County. He asked that consideration be given to either erecting an architectural barrier or adhering to a larger setback than the required 100 feet.

Pat Finley, resident, encouraged Council to take into consideration Mr. O'Connor's statements regarding the proposed railroad project which will provide an economic resource for North Dorchester. She noted that odors from the landfill sometimes drift over to adjacent property. She expressed her belief that a vertical expansion is undesirable.

Gloria Dolan, resident, read a prepared statement, attached, in which she expressed her continued opposition to the vertical expansion of the landfill and its inclusion in the proposed SWMP plan. She noted that pursuant to the County's zoning regulations there is a 75 foot height restriction from which County owned landfills are exempted. She expressed her belief that this limit should be applied to all landfills. She asked for the height of the new planned 67 acre landfill and for a status of the permitting process. Ms. Dolan also asked Council to consider including in the

SWMP the statement that the proposed rise to 175 feet is due to emergency reasons and the intent is to limit landfills to 75 feet. Mr. Morris and Mr. Goldman said site investigation and monitoring began several years ago. Mr. Goldman noted that efforts were made to speed up this process in anticipation of relief by the Governor Lawrence "Larry" Hogan from the Zero Waste Executive Order issued by the prior Governor. He stressed that the County is in the permitting stages, noting that a design has not been completed. Ms. Dolan referenced Mr. Morris' statement during the presentation that the goal is to proceed with the vertical expansion until a new cell is available, which will minimize the final height. Mr. Goldman confirmed that statement, noting that the Council has publicly recognized this goal several times. In response to an inquiry from Ms. Dolan, Mr. Morris said the 8 million cubic storage space projection is based on the current conceptual design layout. He noted that the Council can collectively decide to limit the height to 75 feet which would provide an estimated disposal capacity of 5 million. Mr. Morris confirmed Ms. Dolan's statement that if it is restricted to 75 feet, the additional waste disposal capacity will be less than the projected 50 years.

Richard Ball, resident, representing Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth (DCPG), read into the record the attached May 20, 2015 letter from DCPG in opposition to the increase in the height of the Beulah Landfill. He asked the Council to grant a small extension for written comment.

Phil Anderson, who signed up to speak, said he has no comments since his question has already been answered.

Bill Windsor, resident, cited his opposition to vertical expansion in an area surrounded by flat land. He expressed dismay that the height of the landfill will block the view of passengers if the North Dorchester Railroad comes to fruition. He stressed the need to identify a source to obtain indigenous trees to create a barrier. He also expressed concern about blocking the Veteran Cemetery view. He recognized that the landfill was in existence prior to the cemetery locating to the area. He suggested a partnership with other counties to accept County trash until approvals are obtained for a horizontal expansion.

Ken Heesh, resident, referred to the copy of the SWMP plan that is located at the Hurlock Library. In response to his inquiry, Mr. Morris explained that it differs from the on-line version because changes in response to four comments submitted by the Maryland Department of Environment are included in that document. He said he changed the cover page of the on-line version to reflect an August 31, 2017 date. Mr. Heesh cited his concerns about the MDE comments not being made available to the public. He also expressed concern about revisions to the on-line version which indicate this hearing was already held and the plan was adopted. Mr. Morris explained that he made those changes to expedite the submission of the plan to MDE, if the Council were to approve the plan this evening. Mr. Heesh expressed dismay about these changes which indicate to him that a decision has already been made to approve the plan.

Councilman Travers underscored that the reason for this hearing is to obtain public comments. Mr. Morris reiterated that he made the decision to amend the plan to reflect final approval in order to expedite submission to MDE. He stressed that it was not his intention to ignore comments.

Mr. Heesh referenced the prior SWMP preparation process, which Mr. Morris participated in and the amount of time it took to finalize the plan. He expressed his belief that the Council intended to vote on this plan tonight. Councilman Travers said Council has reached a consensus to extend the comment period, which will be announced at the end of the public hearing. Mr. Heesh opined that the public should have an opportunity to review the revised SWMP. He said the first SWMP was created in the early 1990s. He referenced the prior Landfill Advisory Committee which was involved in this process and the continued use of this group was included in the County's 1997 Comprehensive Plan. He said the Committee was reinstated for the 2006 SWMP and its meetings were open to the public. He noted that the only other opportunity for citizen comments was at Maryland Department of Environment hearings regarding the draft SWMP.

Margaret Anzalones, resident, expressed her appreciation for County staff responding promptly to her request to place the draft plan on the County's website. In response to her inquiry, Mr. Goldman confirmed that a new recycling location is planned for the City of Cambridge. He said the containers have been ordered and the ground has been leveled. Ms. Anzalones suggested that the new recycling location be added to the plan. She stated that a way to dispose of contaminated fuel should be identified. She recognized that composting has been added to the plan. She asked that the power point presentation be placed on the County's website. She referenced Governor Hogan's action to rescind the Zero Waste Executive Order. She said she is pleased that the document rescinding that order references private sector recycling partnerships. She expressed her belief that a glass recycling plant on the Eastern Shore would assist greatly with recycling. In response to a question from Ms. Anzalones, Councilman Travers said although there was no recycling this year's Seafood Festival, there will be next year, nothing that those requirements are in the draft plan. Ms. Anzalones spoke in favor of extending the comment period. She thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak.

The Council deferred consideration of the proposed plan and agreed that the comment period will be open for 30 days after this hearing for written comment only.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Windsor said it is his understanding that the road built across the marshland for the new Dover Bridge has dropped substantially. He questioned whether vertically expanding a landfill from 75 feet to 175 feet would result in the same action, since there is water underneath that ground, and if the aquifer in that area would be restricted.

Wendell Foxwell, resident, expressed concern about blighted housing in the southern party of the County including in Church Creek. He asked the Council to address this issue, noting that property values decrease if buildings on adjacent property are in poor condition. Councilman Satterfield said he has had conversations with at least nine property owners in that area regarding this same issue. He said he spoke to the owner of the property in Church Creek and has referred him to Ms. Smith for assistance in garnering funds to demolish the house. He explained that one of the main issues is that an older member of a family passed away, the children move away and the deed is not transferred. He said significant funds are then needed to obtain title and repair the residence. He said the Council is focused on addressing blighted properties. He expressed his belief that over two dozen abandoned homes have been demolished in the past 2.5 years. Mr. Foxwell said a volunteer fire company can do a controlled burn. Councilman Satterfield

concurring, noting that they cannot conduct one if a house has asbestos. Mr. Foxwell thanked the Council for their service.

Ms. Dolan suggested that time limits for public hearing be placed on agendas. Councilman Travers said normally there is a three minute time limit on public hearings. Mr. Goldman advised that the time limit will be noted in future advertisements and agendas. Ms. Dolan thanked him.

Mr. Ball noted that the recent Planning Commission meeting was cancelled this month during which Steve Dodd, Planning and Zoning Director, was to give a progress report on the update of the County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. In response to a question from Mr. Ball, Councilman Travers and Mr. Goldman advised that a request for proposals for a consultant to develop a plan is on the September 5, 2017 agenda.

Donald Gray expressed concern about the condition of the gazebo at the Elliott's Island Marina. Councilman Travers advised that waterway improvement funds are being sought for repairs to this marina. He said staff will view the gazebo and the surrounding area.

Mr. Heesh recollected that historically a citizens' committee has been utilized for updates to the County's Comprehensive Plan. In response to a question from Mr. Heesh, Councilman Travers said no decisions have been made regarding this process. Councilman Travers explained that funds were allocated in the FY18 fiscal year budget toward this update, which began July 1, 2017.

Phillips Anders, resident, expressed his understanding that there have been discussions regarding the dredging of the channel of Tar Bay Gaps. Councilman Bradshaw said he had been in contact with Bill Reddish, Community Liaison for Congressman Andy Harris, and Bill Anderson, Assistant Secretary, Aquatic Resources, Department of Natural Resources, who have been unable to obtain information regarding this matter. He explained that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted a depth study last summer and if monies were available, dredging was supposed to begin this Spring. Councilman Travers noted that this is a study ready project. He and Councilman Bradshaw explained that the Council toured the area by boat with representatives of the Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Department of Environment and Colonel Edward Chamberlayne, Commander, Baltimore District, Army Corps. Councilman Satterfield stated that the representatives and Colonel Chamberlayne agreed there was a need for dredging, noting that the intention is to use contingency funds for a design plan. Councilmen Travers and Bradshaw said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to accept the dredging spoils.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Satterfield expressed concern about overflowing ditches and water encroachment over County roads due to recent rain events. He welcomed Mr. White. He stressed the need for promptness when addressing citizens' concerns.

Councilman Price expressed appreciation for those who shared their thoughts regarding the draft SWMP. He advised that since the last meeting David Brinkley, Secretary, Budget and Management, and Congressman Andy Harris have visited Dorchester County. He noted that Secretary Brinkley was seeking information about capital projects in the County for which State

funds can be utilized. He said Congressman Harris made an appearance before a group of veterans in Hurlock regarding ongoing issues, including concerns about the lack of facilities for imaging, testing and medical procedures in this area. Councilman Price commended and applauded the organizers and winners of the Caroline Dorchester 4H Fair.

Councilman Bradshaw welcomed Mr. White. He noted that during the last two rain events the County was inundated with water. He expressed sorrow for those who were misplaced due heavy rain in Wicomico County. He referred to next week's Maryland Association of Counties Conference which state officials and members of the Governor's cabinet will attend. He said he hopes to meet with some of them about issues relating to the County. He said at the Talbot Watermen's Association Appreciation Day event on Sunday, Governor Hogan and Senator Eckardt were in a boat docking competition, which the Governor won.

Councilman Travers announced that: 1) the next Council meeting will be held on September 5, 2017; 2) the Council reserves the right to meet in closed session prior to regular session; and, 3) Members of the Council will attend the Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference on August 16 to August 19, 2017 at the Roland Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, Maryland and associated events within this municipality.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

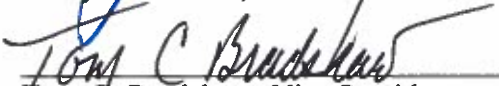


Jeremy Goldman
County Manager

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 September, 2017.