

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2018**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on June 19, 2018 with the following members present: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; Rick M. Price and Don B. Satterfield. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney; Jeremy Goldman, County Manager; and Donna Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist.

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Satterfield led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, stated that the following item was added after publication of the agenda: Eldorado Brookview Volunteer Fire Company Correspondence Request. The Council approved the amended agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- JUNE 5, 2018

The Council approved the minutes of June 5, 2018.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$5,141,555.00.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into Regular Session on June 19, 2018 at 5:45 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613 and motioned to adjourn into 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. Present were: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; 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. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were all of the present Council Members.

The Council convened in a Closed Session on June 19, 2018 at 5:46 p.m. to discuss the following item: agreed to extend annual leave for County employees in use or lose status by a 4 to 0 vote. Present were: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; 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. 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

COMMENDATION-RETIREMENT-MICHAEL RICKWOOD

The Council presented a Commendation to Michael Rickwood congratulating him on his retirement and commending him for his 25 years of service to Dorchester County.

ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION-LETTER OF AGREEMENT-MID SHORE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Katie Dilley, Executive Director, Mid-Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. (Mid-Shore) provided a summary of funding sources for this entity. She introduced Kathy Stevens, Behavioral Health Coordinator, and the point of contact for Dorchester County.

Ms. Stevens presented a year in review and county specific data. She cited Mid-Shore's valuable relationship with the local addictions authority. She said since FY15 Dorchester County has been the example for the Mid Shore region in leading that effort and partnering with Mid-Shore. She noted that all Dorchester County behavioral providers have successfully completed licensure approval under the integrated regulations pursuant to COMAR. Pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Satterfield, Ms. Stevens said she will provide the Council the number of veterans that Mid Shore serves. She noted that Joseph Hughes, Director, Department of Corrections, was recognized at Mid-Shore's annual awards banquet for his assistance in the implementation of the Prison Yoga project at the Detention Center.

The Council approved the request of Ms. Dilley to enter a Fiscal Year 2019 Letter of Agreement with Mid-Shore to act as the agent in oversight, planning and development of the Public Behavioral Health System in Dorchester County.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Roger Harrell, Health Officer, thanked the Council for having Donald Hall, Director, Dorchester County Addictions Program, at its May 15, 2018 meeting to provide an update on the Health Department's Peer Recovery and Treatment Programs. He said as a result of a conversation with Councilman Travers, Carolyn Hallowell, Supervisor, School Health Program, is present to provide information on the program which began in 1997. He provided a brief background of the program. He advised that the Health Department

and the local school system have a responsibility under State law to provide a minimum school health program.

Ms. Hallowell noted that the total budget for the program is \$744,777 of which Dorchester County provides \$138,404. She said: 1) school health services are provided to all of the public schools in the County by Health Department staff; 2) total health room visits increased from 59,686 in 2010 to 81,170 this past school year which include sick visits as well as for injuries, medical treatments and other ailments; 3) the total number of visits will continue to be counted through midsummer; 4) the number of students with medical conditions, including diabetes, has increased throughout the years; 5) 12 nurses are assigned to the schools on a regular basis; and 6) nurses from the Health Department or from outside agencies, if none are available, are sent on field trips to assist special needs students. She thanked the Board of Education and the County for providing funding for the program.

Mr. Harrell said medication administration is often a complex process; therefore, nurses perform this task, sometimes on a daily basis. Ms. Stevens advised that the number of medications administered this year were 27,924 in 11 schools.

Councilman Bradshaw commended nurses for providing medical information to bus drivers so they are prepared for a medical emergency. Mr. Harrell said Mid-Shore, the only multi-county public health authority in the State since 1987 is effective in Dorchester County. He complimented them for the services they provide to citizens. He noted that the Addictions Program is included in the Letter of Agreement.

PUBLIC HEARING-COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PRE-APPLICATION

Cindy Smith, Grant Administrator, stated that in order to apply for funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under the Maryland Department of Housing and the Community Development (DHCD) Block Grant Program a public hearing must be conducted prior to submittal of an application. She noted that the State received \$7 million from HUD, of which \$4.7 million is for standard grants that are due on Friday. She said Dorchester County can apply for up to \$800,000. She explained that waivers were obtained from DHCD in order for the County to be eligible due to two ongoing projects for which funds were allocated, for the Chesapeake Grove Center and for a shelter in Hurlock, that are not completed. She explained that although the Center's infrastructure is complete, the building is not so Delmarva Community Services cannot measure their goal of serving low and modern income individuals. She noted that quarterly reviews are being conducted. Ms. Smith explained that the shelter project received funding in November and needs additional time. She advised that: 1) several programs that may be of interest to the community were considered; 2) there were no requests from non-profit organizations to sponsor projects; 3) DHCD staff advised that a request for monies to renovate bathrooms in the County Office Building would score low; 4) DHCD has no interest in providing down payment assistance. Ms. Smith said the

potential property acquisition of at-risk properties that are in the flood zones received positive feedback. Ms. Smith explained that some County citizens who suffered repetitive loss due to flooding visited the Planning and Zoning Department to view options for their properties. She stated that one such individual was advised that since her property was in a Limited Moderate Wave Action area she would have to elevate her residence to seven feet. She said another property owner, struggling with flooding, approached the County for solutions as well. She referred to the trend at the federal level to encourage property owners not to rebuild if their properties are flooded on a regular basis, particularly those as a result of large weather events. She explained that this will be a pilot program which will be completely voluntary. She noted that the Council has been provided letters of supports from both property owners. She said there is a potential to obtain \$600,000 for acquisition of property, mitigating septic issues, legal services and paperwork. She stated that she and Public Works staff will provide in-kind support, to include demolition, and that landfill fee waivers will be sought. She noted that the application, if approved by Council, will be available for viewing at the County Council's Office beginning June 20, 2018 during normal business hours. In response to a query by Mr. Merryweather, Ms. Smith said no one signed up to speak. He asked if anyone present wished to speak. There was no response. Pursuant to Councilman Bradshaw's question, Ms. Smith said the properties will be deed restricted after acquisition and can go back into private use and on the tax rolls.

The Council adopted a resolution authorizing the submission of the application.

PUBLIC HEARING-POTENTIAL CREATION OF RURAL LEGACY AREA

Councilman Travers said a public hearing is being on the potential creation of a new Rural Legacy Area in Dorchester County to conserve working lands and the historic landscapes associated with the legacy of Harriet Tubman.

Bill Crouch, Maryland Director, the Conservation Fund (TCF), thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak. He explained that TCF is a national non-profit organization that protects the land and water resources of the United States. He said he oversees the State of Maryland activities for TCF. He acknowledged that Glenn Carowan, Farm Bill Coordinator, Department of Natural Resources (DNR); and Judd Vickers, Associate Director, Real Estate, DNR are also present. He said: 1) TCF's mission includes balancing land conservation with economic development; 2) they strive to protect resources for increased eco-tourism, working landscapes and to support the timber industry and agriculture; 3) TCF is present in all 50 states, having protected over \$7.5 million statewide, with 73 projects being completed and over 115,000 acres being protected in Dorchester County; 4) the Maryland Rural Legacy Area Program provides funding for landowners to voluntarily keep their properties in working land while preserving large contiguous tracts of land important to historic heritage and natural resources; and, 5) the appropriation in FY19 for the Rural Legacy Program is \$25

million. He asked the Council for a letter of support for the creation of a new Harriet Tubman Rural Legacy Area to be sponsored by TCF.

Mr. Carowan showed a map and provided the boundaries and areas incorporated in the proposed Rural Legacy Area which includes the following historical Harriett Tubman areas: Bucktown Store, Scotts Chapel, Cooks Plantation, Anthony Thompson Plantation and Malone Church.

Mr. Crouch provided an overview of a second map showing boundaries and those lands owned by the Federal, State and County governments or conserved by private landowners with easements, such as the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation and Maryland Environmental Trust. He stated that about 53% in the area is protected or in the "to be" protected category. He said the proposed rural legacy area is 28,300 acres. Mr. Carowan noted that a small portion of the map being shown is now part of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. Crouch stressed that the Rural Legacy program is voluntary. He said there are currently two rural legacy areas in the County on the Nanticoke with landowner support. He noted that over 22,000 acres are enrolled. He explained that landowners, who voluntarily enroll in the program, will be compensated to retain their lands in an actively managed state, either in agriculture or forest management. He advised that each easement is personally tailored to meet landowner needs. He said the program keeps property in private ownership and on the tax rolls while protecting large contiguous tracts of land important to our historic heritage and natural resources. He explained that the proposed area is an overlay of the land that has already been designated as the Tubman National Monument, Tubman National Historic Park, Tubman Historic area and future expansion area of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

Edward James, a Princess Anne resident, stated that his family owns land in Bucktown area, noting that they have been there since the 1800s. He said they have been involved in farming for a long period of time. He opined that farming land is being threatened by commercial development and environmental changes. He expressed his belief that this program will help farmers. He urged the Council to vote in favor of the proposed rural legacy area.

Ralph Lewis, a resident, said he is from Bucktown and would like to speak even though he did not sign up to do so. He advised that he is interested in maintaining homeowners' rights to join the program. He stressed the need to ensure that development does not interfere with the right to farm. He expressed his understanding that while some individuals will be interested others will not be.

Elizabeth Hill, resident, read the attached written statement in support of the creation of a new rural legacy area.

William Geise, resident, said he and his wife own a 118 acre three generation farm on Maple Dam Road which falls into the Harriet Tubman National Park acquisition area. He

said they are not interested in selling this property. He said he supports this proposed rural legacy area which will provide homeowners the opportunity to keep their land in production and within the family. Mr. Geise noted that land will stay in private hands and on the tax rolls. He urged the Council to support the proposed new rural legacy area.

Kathy Gootee, Jane Phillips and Doug Cooper advised Mr. Merryweather that they erroneously signed up to speak. Mr. Merryweather asked if anyone else present wished to speak.

Dan Rider, a Rhodesdale resident and owner of a 30 acre property, said the proposed rural legacy area as well as the other two existing areas do not overlap his property. He advised that while he will not directly benefit from the proposed rural legacy area he supports it. He echoed the other reasons cited in support of this area.

Ms. Vickers thanked those who attended this meeting regarding this proposed rural legacy area. He explained: 1) that the Rural Legacy Advisory Committee will meet this Thursday; 2) they would like to recommend then that the designation of this area move forward; 3) if there is a favorable result they will appear before the Board of Public Works to advocate for funding. He said \$25 million has already been secured. He noted that the request is for a letter of support from the Council. Mr. Goldman referenced the Council's past actions to allow written comment for a certain period of time after a public hearing. He noted that any action to do so may result in a delay. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Mr. Vickers said a little over 300 individuals are in the proposed rural legacy area. He advised that TCF sent letters to each of them during the last two weeks. Pursuant to a query of Councilman Travers, Mr. Vickers said many of the attendees indicated they were landowners and approximately an equal amount were in favor of the proposed rural legacy area. He noted that the Council agreed to hold a public hearing in order to provide individuals the opportunity to provide their input on this matter.

Dennis Elzey, resident of Maple Dam Road, said he owns several properties but does not have enough information on the proposed rural legacy area to determine if he wishes to participate in the program. Councilman Travers reiterated that the request is for the Council to send a letter of support for the proposed area. He explained that if the area is approved by the Board of Public Works, someone will meet with landowners about an easement.

Ms. Gootee said she owns two acres in the proposed area. She advised that she is not familiar with the program therefore she is unsure whether she will participate. She noted that she wants to leave the property to her grandchildren.

Mr. Vickers said throughout the State properties consisting of 13 to 20 acres are in easements under the Rural Legacy Program. He said at least one development right has been eliminated with those properties. He stressed that it is a voluntary program. He advised that TCF will privately work with individual landowners to determine eligibility

and regarding easement terms, which are specific to landowners needs. Pursuant to a question posed by Mike Asplen, resident, Mr. Vickers said the easements are in perpetuity. Mr. Asplen noted that future generations will have to abide by the decisions made by landowners. Mr. Vickers said the landowner will work with TCF and DNR staff in the long term to manage the easement. He noted that they are not selling or divesting any interest in the property.

In response to queries from Lin Spicer, Mr. Vickers said: 1) taxpayer funds are used by the Rural Legacy Program; 2) individual landowners make their decision on whether or not to add a public access component; 3) the easement will include language to either allow or not allow public access. Mr. Crouch said it is very uncommon for a landowner to choose to allow the public to access his/her property. Mr. Merryweather said he not viewed an easement that provides public access.

A gentlemen from Chestertown questioned the impact this will have on assessed proposed values, for example will it decrease property taxes. Mr. Goldman said that depends on the property classification. He referred to the various classifications which include swamp and hunting land, agricultural and residential land. He advised that if the property is considered agricultural land and that use will continue the taxes will probably remain the same. He noted that if a property is later subdivided the assessed value will change.

Councilman Bradshaw made a motion to send a letter of support which Councilman Satterfield seconded for discussion. In response to Councilman Satterfield's inquiry, no attendees expressed their opposition to the creation of this proposed rural legacy area. He expressed his belief that the Council should move forward for those who are interested. Councilman Price queried whether landowners have an option to not enter into an easement. Mr. Vickers said landowner participation is voluntary. He explained that if the Council agrees to support the creation of this rural legacy area, a request will be forwarded to the Advisory Committee and then to the State Board of Public Works, probably in August. He noted that the easement process will begin either in the fall or winter. He stated that Mr. Crouch will be the point of contact for easements. The Council agreed to send a letter in support of the creation of this proposed rural legacy area.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

INTRODUCTION

BILL NO. 2018-5 AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY MARYLAND, ACTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-203 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND AND PURSUANT TO SECTION 10-202 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE TO REPEAL AND REENACT, IN ITS ENTIRETY, CHAPTER 110 ENTITLED "MINIMUM LIVABILITY CODE" OF THE

DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE, PROVIDING FOR REGULATIONS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE IN RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES AND PREMISES BY ESTABLISHING MINIMUM PROPERTY MAINTENANCE STANDARDS FOR BASIC EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES USED FOR LIGHT, VENTILATION, HEATING AND SANITATION FOR RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE AND PREMISES, AND FOR SAFE AND SANITARY MAINTENANCE OF RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE AND PREMISES; AND ESTABLISHING MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE AND PREMISES FOR MEANS OF EGRESS, FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AND DEVICES NECESSARY FOR SAFETY FROM FIRE; AND FIXING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROPERTY OWNERS, OPERATORS AND TENANTS OF RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE AND PREMISES; AND PROVIDING FOR ADMINISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said Bill No. 2018-5 is scheduled for introduction. Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, stated that the Minimum Livability Code is being updated. He explained that the proposed legislation removes the rental building inspection requirement since the County does not have adequate staff to perform this task. Pursuant to a query from Councilman Price, Mr. Goldman said the municipalities which have their own code, such as the City of Cambridge and the Town Hurlock enforce their minimum livability code. The Council agreed to proceed with publication of a public hearing on this matter.

INTRODUCTION

BILL NO. 2018- AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND PURSUANT TO SECTION 10-8.1 OF ARTICLE 10 OF THE PUBLIC LOCAL LAWS OF MARYLAND, AND PURSUANT TO SECTION 10-202 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE TO REPEAL AND REENACT SECTION 121-10(A) ENTITLED "COMPLAINTS" OF CHAPTER 121 ENTITLED "PROPERTY MAINTENANCE" OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE FOR THE PURPOSE OF DELETING THAT THE NAME OF THE COMPLAINANT IS A REQUIREMENT FOR THE COMPLAINT.

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said Bill No. 2018- 4 will repeal and reenact Section 121-10(A) entitled "Complaints" of Chapter 121 entitled "Property Maintenance" of the Dorchester County Code for the purchase of deleting that the name of the Complainant is a requirement for the Complaint. This change is in light of the Council's December 15, 2015 decision to accept anonymous complaints. The Council agreed to proceed with publication of a public hearing on this matter.

REGULAR SESSION

The Council convened into Regular Session.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

FY 2018-2 OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT-BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Council approved the request from Dr. Diana L. Mitchell, Superintendent, for a FY 2018-2 Board of Education Operating Budget Amendment and Transfer that: 1) reflects an increase in: Miscellaneous rebates of \$278,858 (part D Medicare, \$147,469, Delmarva Power & Light Energy Savings Program, \$131,389), Investment income of \$30,000 due to higher rates than expected; 2) reflects savings from: Instructional Salaries due to unfilled counselor position and turnover savings, \$270,000; and, Other Instructional Costs due to Home & Hospital, and Department of Juvenile Justice since contracted services are not needed, \$76,142; and, 2) transfers the unanticipated revenue to the following: a) Student Health Services, \$5,000 for Narcan training and supplies; b) Student Transportation, \$100,000 for higher than expected fuel prices, additional salary expenses for supplemental transportation needs (homeless students and non-public placements; c) Operation of Plant, \$350,000 for utility costs above budget due to delayed implementation of energy savings equipment; \$90,000 for higher salary costs due to turnover and absences; \$35,000 for contracted services such as travel removal; and, d) Maintenance of Plant, \$75,000 for out of ordinary repairs and upkeep such as insulation at Cambridge South Dorchester High School, a gym floor at South Dorchester School and security fencing at Sandy Hill Elementary and Warrick Elementary.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE-DUMP TRUCK BODIES-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Ryan White, Public Works Director, to purchase two steel dump truck bodies utilizing FY18 funds from Reynolds, lowest bidder, at the cost of \$16,900 each plus a \$500 delivery charge.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION-CRS-2 CONTRACT-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. White to extend the 2017-2018 CRS-2 contract with Asphalt Emulsion Industries, LLC through August 31, 2019.

PURCHASE REQUESTS-VEHICLES-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the requests of Mr. White to purchase the following vehicles: 1) 2018 Ram 2 ton dump body pick up to replace an existing older unit from Fred Frederick in Easton at cost of \$59,878 plus \$1,337 for the emergency light package for the Highway Division utilizing FY19 Capital Budget funds; 2) a new 2019 Ram ½ ton crew cab from Fred Frederick for \$28,242 for the Highway Division using FY19 Capital Budget funds; 3) 2018 Ram 3500 from Fred Frederick for \$41,457 for the Landfill Division utilizing FY19 Capital Budget funds; and, 4) 2020 Kenworth T880 from Kenworth of South Florida for \$159,795 utilizing FY19 Capital Budget funds. Jeremy Goldman, County Manager said letters of intent will be sent for the vehicles that are to be purchased with FY19 budget funds since they are not available until July 1, 2018.

GRANT EXTENSION REQUEST-DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANT-TOURISM

The Council approved the request of Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, to extend the FY17 Private Sector Partnership Grant, also known as the Advertising/Marketing Grant from the Maryland Department of Commerce Maryland Tourism Development Board in order to expand remaining funds.

EXTENSION OF LICENSE AGREEMENT-EASTERN SHORE INNOVATION CENTER-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Jeff Trice, Economic Development Director, presented his request for an extension of the License Agreement with Quevera for space at the Eastern Shore Innovation Center for \$269 per month with a term of June 7, 2018 to June 6, 2019. He noted that this is the last year this company can extend the agreement. He advised Council that Quevera has indicated an interest in relocating to another Suite within the building and if that occurs, a new License Agreement will be submitted for its review and consideration. He explained that this will open up a small suite, for which he may have a tenant. The Council agreed to extend the License Agreement

RESOLUTION-INTERNATIONAL CITY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION RETIREMENT CORPORATION- RETIREMENT PLAN ADOPTION

Mr. Goldman advised that the International City Management Association Retirement Corporation is a national organization that represents County administrators at all levels from the Assistant Department Head upwards. He explained that it has a deferred compensation plan that will be available to any County employee. He said there will be no cost to the County. He recommended that the Council add this to the portfolio of retirement plan options for County employees. The Council adopted the Resolution. He confirmed for Councilman Price that employees make the decision on which plan to choose. Mr. Goldman that there are two other plans in addition to this one.

REQUEST TO APPLY-RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM GRANT-FINANCE

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Administrator, to apply for a Recreation Trail Program Grant (RTP) for \$40,000 with no County match at this time. The Council acknowledged that this application is for the match for the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority grant application and the Transportation Alternative Program grant application submitted to support the trail at Cannery Park.

ELDORADO BROOKVIEW VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY CORRESPONDENCE REQUEST

Mr. Goldman stated that this is the time of the year that volunteer fire companies seek funding from the Maryland State Firemen's Association Voluntary Company Assistance Fund for equipment. He said the Eldorado-Brookview Volunteer Fire Company (Eldorado-Brookview) is seeking funds to purchase 30 sets of gear for its members at the

approximate cost of \$2,000 for each set for a total of \$60,000. He explained that as part of the grant requirements, the volunteer fire companies must obtain a letter from the County Council regarding funding availability. The Council agreed to send correspondence supporting Eldorado-Brookview's request that will note that the County cannot assist the fire company financially to purchase this equipment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bruce Coulson, thanked Ryan White, Public Works, for addressing a ditching issue on Bayshore Drive as a result of a broken pipe. He advised that federal funding of \$644,000 has been allocated for the design phase of the Mid-Bay Islands Restoration Project. Pursuant to a question from Councilman Travers, Mr. Coulson said the project will begin with Barren Island and then 2,220 acres of James Island. Mr. Coulson asked the Council to send a letter of support to the federal legislative delegation with a copy to the Eastern Shore delegation. The Council approved Mr. Coulson's request. Councilman Bradshaw advised him that during recent meetings with federal agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Council spoke to them about the Mid-Bay Islands Restoration project in addition to the dredging of Tar Bay Gaps. Mr. Coulson said pursuant to the last notification, Poplar Island is to be full in 2026 so James Island needs to be ready to accept material then. He noted that the channel above the Chesapeake Bay Bridge is being widened so two ships can pass at the same time which will take up more capacity at Poplar Island.

Councilman Travers said Barren Island has been approved as a spoil site for Tar Bay Gaps. Mr. Coulson expressed his understanding that the plan has always been to use this site for local dredging projects such as Tar Bay and Back Creek. Councilman Satterfield advised Mr. Coulson to contact the Council if additional support or assistance is needed.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Satterfield thanked the volunteer fire fighters, emergency responders and law enforcement for ensuring the safety of residents. He asked the public to be mindful of the increase in summer traffic increase. He noted that school ended last Friday and encouraged motorists to slow down and be aware of children at play. He expressed his belief that the Council's action to support the creation of a third rural legacy area will benefit farmers and landowners.

Councilman Price said he attended the opening of Dover Bridge last week which is utilized by many North Dorchester residents who use it to travel to points west for services/businesses. He noted that the East New Market Community Day, held last Saturday, was well attended. He echoed Councilman Satterfield's comments regarding the rural legacy area. He encouraged the public to exercise their right to vote, noting the Primary Election is next Tuesday.

Councilman Bradshaw said during the question and answer period after a viewing of "High Tide of Dorchester" at the Historical Society a gentlemen with a PHd in Geology

provided facts and figures that contradict information referenced in that film. He expressed disappointment that this individual was only able to speak briefly. He advised that lobbying the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the return of the Man-O-War Shoal dredging program was successful. He said the program will be go through the Board of Public Works process. He noted that as a result shell can be used in sanctuaries and public fishing areas in lieu of granite and concrete. He advised that the Delmarva Fisheries Association was very involved in lobbying for the return of this program.

Councilman Travers announced that: 1) the next meeting is scheduled for July 3, 2018; and, 2) some of the Council members will attend an event at 4:15 p.m. tomorrow at the Historic Freedom Shrine on East New Market-Elwood Road.


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

ABSTAIN

William V. Nichols



Rick M. Price



Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 3rd day of July, 2018.