

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2019**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on October 15, 2019 with the following members present: William V. Nichols, President; Jay L. Newcomb, Vice President; Libby Handley Nagel; George L. Pfeffer, Jr. and Ricky C. Travers. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney; Keith Adkins, County Manager, and Donna F. 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

Keith Adkins, County Manager, said the following items were added after the publication of the agenda: 1) Radio Upgrade-Highway Division-Public Works; and, 2) a Lift-Stay Order. The Council approved the amended agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- OCTOBER 1, 2019

The Council approved the minutes of October 1, 2019.

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 Nichols reported total cash and investments as \$11,869,682.83.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into Regular Session on October 15, 2019 at 4:30 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; pursuant to §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; and pursuant to §3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

Present were: William V. Nichols, President; George L. Pfeffer, Jr. and Ricky C. Travers. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, Keith Adkins, County Manager; and Donna F. Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were

all of the present Council Members. Jay L. Newcomb, Vice President, and Libby Handley Nagel joined the meeting late.

The Council convened in a Closed Session on October 15, 2019 at 4:31 p.m. to discuss the following items: 1) approved the recommendation of the Emergency Services Director for an individual to remain on-call as a Paramedic by a 4 to 0 vote and an individual to remain-on call as a Paramedic by a 3 to 1 (abstention) vote; 2) approved the request of the Director of Corrections to promote an employee to fill a vacant Administrative Commander position by a 4 to 0 vote; 3) approved the request of the Director of Corrections to promote an employee to Records Supervisor by a 4 to 0 vote; 4) approved the request of the County Manager to hire two individuals as Mechanic IIs by a 4 to 0 vote; 5) approved the request of the Planning and Zoning Director to hire an individual to fill a GIS Specialist position by a 4 to 0 vote; 6) approved the request of the Emergency Services Director to hire three individuals as full time Emergency Management Technicians and to add four individuals to the on call list by a 4 to 0 vote; 7) conducted an interview for a vacant position at the Public Works Department; 8) discussed the potential acquisition of a property; 9) obtained a legal opinion from County attorney regarding termination of a lease; and, 10) obtained legal advice from County attorney regarding a billing agreement.

Present were: William V. Nichols, President; George L. Pfeffer, Jr. and Ricky C. Travers. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney; Keith Adkins, County Manager, and Donna F. 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. Jay L. Newcomb, Vice President, and Libby Handley Nagel joined the meeting late.

REGULAR SESSION

OPENING OF TIME CAPSULE ITEMS ADDRESSED TO COUNTY COUNCIL

Councilman Nichols opened two items from the 1969 time capsule addressed to the County Council which will be displayed at the Visitors Center.

MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS

Councilman Nichols noted that this is the annual meeting with Legislators regarding proposed legislative initiatives for the 2020 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session.

Adelaide Eckardt, Senator, recognized that the Council is requesting the introduction of legislation to allow the use of golf carts in the Upper and Middle sections of Hooper's Island. She said the State has made provisions for the Town of Vienna for the use of golf carts and waived a portion of the State road in that municipality. E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, noted that the roads in the Upper and Middle of Hooper's Island are County roads. Delegate Adams asked for letters of support for this legislation from the County Council and citizens. Senator Eckardt stated that they can pre-file the legislation. Councilman Newcomb advised that a local petition is forthcoming. In response to his inquiry, Tina Yinger, resident, said so far she has obtained a page and a half of signatures.

Delegate Mautz noted that Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes is Second-in Command to Delegate Adrienne Jones, Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates. Pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Nichols, Delegate Mautz said he has worked with Speaker Jones, noting that she has been on the Bond Bill Subcommittee and is familiar with all of the jurisdictions. Senator Eckardt noted that she worked with her on the Appropriations Committee and the Woman's Caucus. Delegate Adams said they will strive to pre-file the bill to obtain an early hearing date.

Councilman Travers provided a summary of the following two amendments to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland the Council is asking to be introduced, based on the recommendation of the Board of License Commissioners (BOL):

- to amend Section 19-903 "Class C beer, wine and liquor license" to allow non-profit organizations who lease Governors Hall at Sailwinds Park to obtain a Class C beer, wine and liquor license; and,
- to amend Section 19-2005 "Beer, wine and liquor licenses" to reflect revisions to the hours of sale that were made during the 2012 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session which were erroneously switched when the change was made from Article 2B to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

He queried whether or not an amendment to Section 19-2005 is necessary. He explained that the hours were changed to allow restaurants to serve mimosas during the breakfast timeframe.

Senator Eckardt inquired whether Council has any requests for support for legislative bond bills. She emphasized that these types of initiatives should be provided to the delegation early so they can strategize. Councilmen Travers and Nichols confirmed that the Council is working on a project that will require bonding. Senator Eckardt noted that there is a limited amount of funds for bonding per district. In response to queries from Councilman Travers, Senator Eckardt said they range from \$50,000 to \$200,000. Councilman Travers said the Council will be seeking a higher amount. Pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Senator Eckardt said it should be submitted by the end of January 2020.

Councilman Nichols said the first topic of discussion is the restoration of highway user revenues, citing the need for monies to address a large backload of County road repairs. Delegate Adams noted that Governor Lawrence Hogan prioritized the restoration of a portion of this funding to local jurisdictions. He expressed his belief that full restoration will not be realized, noting that funds are needed for County roads, particularly in the southern area due to rising sea levels.

Councilman Nichols noted that another topic of discussion is the State's shifting to counties of a portion of pensions for teachers. Senator Eckardt said she believes no changes will be made regarding this issue. She advised that they have received figures from The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (Kirwan Commission) which she has provided to Dave Bromwell, Superintendent of Schools. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Delegate Adams cited his belief that counties will be asked to provide the funding which will adversely impact taxpayers. Councilman Nichols said another topic of discussion is the maintenance of effort (MOE)-statewide moving average and its impacts. Senator Eckardt said MOE and other educational matters will be impacted by the Kirwan Commission recommendations and any related action taken during the 2020 legislative session. Councilman Travers questioned how soon local jurisdictions will be made aware of their fiscal impact.

Senator Eckardt encouraged the Council to collaborate with the Board of Education on the implementation of the recommendations. She noted that there was no local government or education representation on the Kirwan Committee, nor a member of the Caucus until last week. She said William Kirwan, Chair, will present information about the Commission at the Dorchester Career and Technology Center on November 7, 2019 at 6 p.m. Senator Eckardt encouraged attendance by County elected officials and/or staff. She said key questions include the funding mechanism and expectations for disparity counties. She noted that Dorchester County receives additional monies because it does not meet the State average on income. Councilman Pfeffer advised that he will be serving on a panel during the presentation at the request of the Dorchester Educators State Union and the Maryland Local Teachers Union. He said he is coordinating with Mr. Adkins to obtain financial information from Michael Spears, Finance Director, noting he will speak about the impact of the cost.

Delegate Adams said the full financial impact of the Kirwan Commission recommendations will be in FY 2030. He advised that Dorchester County will face a 3% increase which equates to almost \$1 million. Councilman Pfeffer noted that the funding formula committee had its final meeting today and will be submitting its recommendations to the Kirwan Commission for final approval. Delegate Adams expressed concern about the local unfunded mandate of \$1.2 billion. He explained that legislators are working on identifying revenue streams including the possible legalization of sports betting and marijuana. Senator Eckardt said there will not be sufficient revenue from any and all sources including taxing to citizens to meet funding expectations. Councilman Travers noted that the recommendations include great ideas to improve education; however, he is concerned about the funding source. Senator Eckardt noted that the recommendations also include raising the salaries for educators which will put the salaries of other workers out of alignment. Senator Eckardt underscored the need to identify ways to prepare youth for entering the workforce.

Councilman Pfeffer noted that the Maryland Association of Counties Legislative Committee has been voicing concerns about the passage of this unfunded mandate to local jurisdictions. He said they have also been monitoring the Commission meetings, noting that a portion of the discussion about the funding formula was in closed session. Delegate Mautz stressed the need to obtain information as soon as possible, particularly prior to the second half of the legislative session which is usually labor intensive. He said it is difficult to institute changes once legislation goes to the floor in the House and the Senate.

Senator Eckardt said she will be able to keep abreast of the Kirwan Commission recommendations since it will come before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and other committees. She advised that a two day work group and tour of the casinos around the State will be held next week.

Delegate Adams said other counties will challenge the Kirwan Commission recommendations. He voiced concern about the potential loss of funding for essential services including law enforcement and/or tax increases in order to fund the mandate. As a business owner, he expressed concern about a potential recession in the next 12 months. He explained that there have been recent discussions about providing lockbox monies to Pimlico to help sustain that organization. He cited concerns about using the monies for this purpose particularly since last year casino revenue was designated as a funding source for education and now 12 months later there is a request for assistance. He noted that due to this unfunded mandate other counties are

concerned about their ability to govern and its impact on local control. Councilman Travers said Council will be in the final stages of the County's FY21 budget process by the time the legislative session ends so it is imperative to be made aware of the fiscal impact prior to then. Delegate Adams expressed his belief that the cost will be spread over time.

Councilman Pfeffer explained for the public that the Kirwan Commission established new policy on education to create a world class education environment. He said he is in favor of pursuing such an endeavor which will benefit teachers, students and local school board; however, a way to responsibility fund the project needs to be identified.

Councilman Nichols expressed concern about the financial impact the Kirwan Commission recommendations will have on the County budget as well as a potential recession in the near future. He said he hopes he will not have to repeat one of the saddest days of his life, when reductions in staffing were necessary due to budgetary constraints.

Delegate Adams said Maryland's Thorton formulas for public schools needed to be revised so the essence of the Kirwan Commission's is honorable, lawful and should be achievable. He cited concerns about the potential cost.

Senator Eckardt said they are committed to county health care including the delivery of mental health and addiction services and to ensure access to Chesapeake Bay Restoration funds to address failing berm infiltration ponds. She said she works closely with the treatment plants in the County. She stated that access to broadband is necessary in the rural areas of the County. She explained that authorizing legislation passed last year for Choptank Electric Cooperative (Choptank) to provide internet services to their members, noting that additional legislation will be pursued during the 2020 legislative session. She said on the lower portions of the County students can utilize broadband service for school purposes when flooding occurs.

Pursuant to Councilman Newcomb's inquiry, Senator Eckardt said she believes the larger companies will oppose the initiative. Senator Eckardt noted that Choptank already has a presence in the area. She said rural cooperatives were established and provided incentives by the federal government since they will serve remote locations. Councilman Newcomb expressed concern about South Dorchester K-8, a five star school, not having internet access for approximately one-third of its students. Delegate Adams stressed that only Choptank users will benefit. Senator Eckardt noted that Choptank serves Dorchester and Caroline. She said Dorchester County has a community health center, Fassett Magee, because there were no other providers. She said community health centers are comparable to the rural electric cooperatives, particularly on the Eastern Shore, which is more rural and has lower income.

Delegate Adams said they want the County's support on Choptank's initiative, noting that the company is regulated by the Public Service Commission. He said they must treat their broadband industry separate from their energy business. He advised that he is a member of Choptank. He said Comcast and Verizon will probably oppose this initiative. Councilman Newcomb said Bay Country Communication provides service to residents on Hooper's Island, utilizing Choptank's fiber.

Senator Eckardt said she will speak to the Council about services for children at a later time.

Delegate Mautz encouraged the Council to continue to provide letters of support for legislative initiatives. He said another significant issue is implied preemption. He referenced the court case that brought this issue to the forefront, noting that it has ramifications on State authorized activities that conflict with local control, zoning and taxing. Councilman Pfeffer said this is one of MACo's top priorities.

Delegate Adams explained that it provides the State solar siting control. He referred to a new State law that requires 50% of Maryland's electricity be from renewable energy sources by 2030. He noted that a solar project may be sited through the Public Services Commission through the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity process. He explained that the justification for this pre-emption is based on a Court of Appeals decision against Washington County on solar siting. He said this same judicial rationale can be used for other issues that arise which are in opposition to a local jurisdiction. Councilman Pfeffer explained that a bill was introduced last year that would only allow a small fee to be charged even if a County had a Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program. Councilman Travers noted that the County's PILOT program is based on the personal property tax to control siting.

Sheree Sample Hughes, Delegate, joined the meeting. She said she will ask her colleagues to provide her a summary of the items the Council addressed earlier. She stated that she is willing and available to meet with any of the Council Members prior to the legislative session. She referenced Choptank's initiative, noting that she may sponsor that legislation. She said she is working with the Public Service Commission and other entities on this matter.

Keith Adkins, County Manager, advised that at its last meeting, after Choptank's presentation of its legislative initiative, Council agreed to send a letter of support. Delegate Sample-Hughes said the Chairman of the committee to which the legislation will be submitted has meet with Choptank. Councilman Newcomb noted that the Council is seeking legislation to allow golf carts on Hooper's Island and asked for her support.

Councilman Newcomb said the County needs assistance with cleaning out mosquito outlet ditches which result in road closures. He advised that yesterday and today roads were closed due to high tides. Senator Eckardt expressed her understanding the roads in the County were worse last weekend than in 2003 due to Hurricane Isabel. Councilman Newcomb said the flooding is worse than what occurred in Isabel, noting it was in different locations. He noted that water flowed into some houses and vehicles. Delegate Sample-Hughes said during a recent Eastern Shore Legislature Environmental Summit flooding in Dorchester County was referenced, noting that she spoke about the High Tides video in her comments.

Councilwoman Nagel cited the need for phragmites control, noting that due to their root system water cannot flow through some ditches. She referred to the cleaning by the State of a County ditch off of Drawbridge Road several years, noting that the phragmites have grown back. She said the County needs financial assistance to control these weeds. Councilman Newcomb advised that while recently driving a bus phragmites, which were on both sides of the road, were coming into the vehicle via the door.

Senator Eckardt said Council is welcome to contact either of them for assistance. Councilman Nichols expressed appreciation for the assistance the legislators provided to improve areas on the Eastern Shore, particularly in Dorchester County.

ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION MEETING-MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Sean Powell, Acting Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), on behalf of Secretary Pete Rahn, thanked the Council for the opportunity to provide an overview of the draft Consolidated Transportation Plan (CTP) for fiscals years 2020-2025. He said the following individuals are present: Jason Ridgway, Deputy Administrator/Chief Engineer Planning, Engineering, Real Estate, Environment at MDOT-State Highway Administration; Jay Meredith, District #1 Engineer, State Highway Administration (SHA); Rhashad Johnson, Director, Field Operations, Motor Vehicle Administration; Travis Johnston, Director, LOTS, Maryland Transit Administration; Ashish Solanki, Director, Office of Regional Aviation Assistance, Maryland Aviation Administration; Melissa Williams, Director, Planning & Program Development, Maryland Transportation Authority; Kristen Fidler, Director of Harbor Development; Jennifer Guthrie, Legislative Manager, Maryland Port Administration; Ian Beam, Regional Planner; Harry Romano, Rail Program and Policy Manager; Jeff Tosi, Director, Office of Government Affairs; and, Pilar Helm, State Legislative Officer. He recognized that Ryan Snow, Intergovernmental Affairs, Governor's Office, and Melissa Kelly, Eastern Shore Regional Director, Senator Chris Van Hollen's Office, are also present.

Acting Deputy Secretary Powell, provided an overview of the CTP including items relating to Dorchester County. He recognized the meeting between County and MDOT officials during the summer Maryland Association of Counties conference. He said MDOT is pulling and initiating the evaluation of the following intersections on U.S. 50 in the County pursuant to that discussion: Maryland 16, Beaver Neck Village Road, Bucktown Road, Airey's Spur Road and Vincent Road. He noted that sign improvements and lane markings were made at the Maryland 392 and Maryland 14 intersection which was also discussed at that meeting. He advised that they are currently monitoring this area.

Mr. Ridgway provided an update on roads and bridges including those that have a direct impact in Dorchester County. He advised that there were more than 500 fatalities in Maryland, noting that MDOT is taking efforts to address this issue including the release of a Context Drive Access and Mobility For All Users guidance document. Mr. Ridgway said the paving of nearly three miles of Maryland 392 from Palmer Mill Road to Maryland 313 between Hurlock and Reliance was completed. Mr. Ridgway stated that this year SHA will pave about one mile of Maryland 16 between Preston and Hurlock. He announced the award of \$60,000 for the design of the Vienna Elementary School Safe Routes to School sidewalk project.

Mr. Johnson said the focus of the Motor Vehicle Administration is ensuring all residents are Real ID ready, noting that 45% of Dorchester County are compliant. He provided an overview of MVA highway safety initiatives.

Mr. Johnston thanked Delmarva Community Services (DCS) for its continued service in the region and its partnership with the State, which has been providing service for the Middle and Upper Shore since 2016. He said DCS was provided the following: 1) \$888,00 in operating and capital grants to support the local transit operation which includes funds for the replacement of a small bus, minivan and ongoing preventive maintenance for FY20; 2) \$478,000 for transportation services for seniors and those with disabilities for FY20; and, 3) \$90,000 in operating funds for FY20-22 through Maryland-Job Access and Reverse Commute to allow for

the expansion of service hours for employment sectors in surrounding areas of Cambridge, Easton and Federalsburg.

Mr. Solanki presented an overview regarding the Maryland Aviation Administration, noting that it is providing design funding of \$17,520 to support the Cambridge Dorchester Regional Airport obstruction removal project as well as \$136,000 for a runway crack seal and re-marking project. He thanked Meighan “Chis” Chisholm, Airport Director, and his team for gathering the required information for the submission of the grant application for the runway crack seal and re-marking projects.

Ms. Williams provided an overview of the deck rehabilitation project of the right lane of the westbound lane of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge which included information regarding the reduction of its impact on motorists in surrounding counties. She advised that: 1) there will be cashless tolling from noon to 10 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays for the duration of the project; 2) if a motorists pays their bill prior to the mailing of a statement they will receive a reduction; 3) under severe backups and weather permitting two way operations will be permitted on the west bound span at reduced speed of 25 mph to 35 mph; 4) even under normal conditions commercial vehicles are not allowed to travel on the west bound span during two way operations which practice will continue during this project; and, 5) commercial drivers are encouraged to subscribe to a notification system (Hashtag Bay Bridge Work). She spoke about the Bay Bridge Crossing Study Team which has identified preliminary corridor alternatives, noting that there will be public meetings. She said hearings will also be held on a toll modernization proposal that includes lower toll rates beginning in 2020 as follows: a 50 % reduction motorcycles, a 25% cut for light vehicles towing one axle trailers or 17% for two axle trailers.

Kristen Fidler, Director of Harbor Development, provided information regarding the Port of Baltimore including the construction of a second 50 foot deep berth. She said last month it was announced that the final design and engineering for the Mid Bay Island Project will commence. She recognized Bruce Coulson, resident, for representing the County on the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Dredging Material Management Program. She thanked him for his long standing support and advocacy for this project.

Deputy Secretary made closing remarks in which he stressed the need for work zone safety, speed enforcement and ways to end impaired and distracted driving.

Councilwoman Nagel asked Ms. Williams if it was possible for truck drivers to pay their bills in advance at a reduced rate. Acting Deputy Director Powell noted that these drivers can also “pay by plate” in lieu of a toll. Ms. Williams said most of those drivers use EZ-Pass but they are eligible to “pay by plate.” In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Ms. Williams, said it is the same cost for EZ pass and “pay by plate” which is the cash rate.

Councilman Pfeffer encouraged the public to make an appointment to obtain a Real ID noting that he did so and it only took 15 minutes. He said small local business owners have expressed their concerns about limiting commercial traffic on the Bay Bridge during the rehabilitation project. He stressed the need for good communication. Based on his inquiry, Ms. Williams confirmed that monies for advertising are included in the project cost. She made mention to the new Hashtag Bay Bridge Work notification system which the commercial drivers can subscribe to and receive alerts from via text or email.

Acting Deputy Secretary Powell, said the notification system was the result of a discussion with a small trucking company, which reached out to them. He stated that it was implemented within 24 hours of speaking with company officials, who felt the five mile mark was sufficient to alert motorists. He listed the ways that they are alerting motorists which includes: 1) an alert system/signage from Ocean City to the Bay Bridge noting the miles and minutes; 2) a SHA link that shows truck stops, weigh stations as well as parking lots commercial drivers can utilize; 3) Twitter notifications on weekends about backups on the westbound lane. He explained that meetings are being held throughout the process, noting that discussion topics include accelerating the project if possible.

Councilman Travers referenced the 24/7 hour time frame and the October 2020 completion date. He questioned whether maintenance on another lane will commence after this project. Ms. Williams stated that while other lanes will be done in the future, this is the one that needs maintenance work completed at this time. In response to questions from Councilman Travers, Ms. Williams said the project consists of an overlay process, not a deck replacement, noting that it will take three to five days to cure the new surface which can only occur if temperatures are above 40 degrees.

Councilman Newcomb advised that a resident who obtained his Commercial Drivers' License was pleased with the service he received from MVA. He noted that he has received some complaints about the Easton office. He expressed his belief that both offices have improved. He thanked Mr. Coulson and Joe Coyne, who passed away, for their support of the Barren Island project as well as the federal and state delegation. He noted that this project will assist in saving Hooper's Island and Taylors Island. He said it will create employment opportunities and assist the Port.

Councilman Nichols recognized that Victoria Jackson-Stanley, Mayor, City of Cambridge is present. He asked if she had anything to say. She thanked the Council for inviting her and for Councilman Nichols for providing her an opportunity to speak. Councilman Nichols also recognized that her husband, Jerome Stanley, Manager, Transportation Operations, Delmarva Community Services (DCS), is also present. Mr. Stanley thanked Mr. Johnston and the Council for its support of DCS.

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Council met as the Board of Health. Roger Harrell, Health Officer, provided information on the recent passage of tobacco legislation including efforts to ensure all of the retailers in the County are aware of this new law which became effective October 1, 2019. He also presented information regarding the recent medical issues relating to vaping. He also noted that it is flu season and encouraged residents to obtain the flu shot. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak and to serve as the Health Officer for Dorchester County. The Council thanked him.

PUBLIC HEARING-SCHEDULE OF FEES

The Council adjourned into a public hearing on revisions to the County's Schedule of Fees. E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, noted that the Council has before them a memorandum

from Keith Adkins, County Manager, about the amendments. He noted that no one signed up to speak.

Mr. Adkins said the proposed changes include: 1) a reduction of the overnight Tie-Down for single-engine aircraft from \$25 to \$10; 2) removal of a \$1,500 per house fee for agricultural plans for poultry houses for survey and design since Soil Conservation does not prepare these plans; 3) an increase in commercial/industrial permit fees and changes to costs for plumbing work to reflect expenses incurred including outside inspector costs. He cited one example in support of the increase in the permit fee, noting that the fee was \$100 and the cost of an outside inspector was \$8,000. He explained that pursuant to the County Code the Highway Division must install all culverts and as a result of landowners' concerns about the costs, the revised Fee Schedule includes a reduction of those fees if Highway Division staff install them. Mr. Adkins noted that the cost of a contractor to install the culverts remains unchanged.

The Council agreed to adopt a Resolution to amend the County's Schedule of Fees.

PUBLIC HEARING-ACCEPTANCE OF NEW COUNTY ROADS-PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Merryweather said a meeting is being held on the acceptance of the following roads in Section II of the Lords Crossing Subdivision: Solomon's Circle and Ashbury Lane. He said one individual signed up to speak. Jerome Harris, resident, said he erroneously signed up. The Council acknowledged that Mr. Harris will speak during Public Comment about a topic. The Council agreed to accept the roads into the County's road system. Mr. Merryweather asked that Public Works staff be advised to proceed with obtaining the appropriate documentation for acceptance of these roads.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

FY19 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Dozia Rahilly, Emergency Services Director, to accept a FY19 Emergency Management Performance Grant for \$71,159.44 in federal funds which covers the Emergency Management Planner salary and some of the Emergency Management budget line items. The 100% match is covered by 911 expenses each quarter.

MARYLAND AVIATION ADMINISTRATION GRANT REDUCTION IMPACT-AIRPORT

Meighan Chisholm, Airport Director, provided the Council a synopsis of the impact of budget reductions of 50% in Maryland Aviation Administration funding will have on future projects for the Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport, effective July 1, 2020: 1) grants for anything other than hard construction costs will not be considered after July 1, 2020; and, 2) planning services, environmental services, land acquisition services, permitting fees, design services, construction administration, owner administration costs and survey and inspection services are no longer eligible. He said that MAA will be able to reimburse for actual costs to acquire land. He noted that correspondence will be exchanged between the County and the Federal Aviation Administration regarding available funding and an updated multi-year plan for the Airport beginning in November 1, 2019.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS-VIRTUAL-AUGMENTED REALITY-HARRIET TUBMAN BYWAY-TOURISM

The Council approved the request of Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, to advertise for proposals for a Virtual and Augmented Reality experience along the Harriet Tubman Byway to create an interactive experience for the user. Funds for this purpose will be from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority Grant titled "Dorchester County Virtual and Augmented Reality" and the match will consist of Bartus Trew grant monies and marketing funds.

LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST-DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE-IRONMAN MARYLAND EVENT-TOURISM

The Council approved the request of Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, to send correspondence to the Department of Commerce seeking \$25,000 towards the licensing fee for next year's IRONMAN Maryland event scheduled for September 19, 2020.

TAX FORECLOSURE PROPERTY OFFER

Based on the recommendation of Cindy Smith, Assistance Finance Director, the Council accepted the following offers of Pastor John Cornish, Sr., St. Johns Holiness Church: 1) Lot 51, Edgewood Avenue, \$100; 2) Lot 53-59, Edgewood Avenue, \$100; and, 3) Lot 89, Edgewood Avenue, \$100.

FY20 MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION GRANT AWARD-DELMARVA COMMUNITY SERVICES-FINANCE

The Council approved the request of Brittany Palmer, Grant Administrator, on behalf of Delmarva Community Services, to accept Maryland Transit Administration annual operating and capital grants for FY20. These annual pass through grants are comprised of a federal, State and local share. The match under the operating grant is supported in part by the County's FY20 budget appropriation to DCS with the remainder being funded by the entity.

PINE STREET REHABILITATION PROJECT

Mr. Adkins said: 1) at a October 4, 2019 meeting attended by City of Cambridge officials, County Council representatives, Kenneth Holt, Secretary, Department of Housing and Community Development, the Pine Street area and his conversations with Winn Development were discussed; 2) Winn is requesting a minimum of 75 units before they will enter an agreement; and, 3) Secretary Holt has requested a response from the City and County by October 19, 2019 indicating whether there are 75 units that the City and County will be willing to give to this developer.

In response to inquiries from Mr. Adkins and Mr. Merryweather, Cindy Smith, Assistant Finance Director, said: 1) there are 69 available properties of which 24 are not located on Pine Street including a mansion on Appleby; 2) Winn Development, a nationwide company as well as a 50% partner with the Housing Authority, intends to build rental properties; and, 3) the company's expertise is in multifamily buildings. She explained that Winn Development's business model is based on tax credits with the remainder of the costs being recouped by leasing the properties for

15 years then selling them. She noted that larger properties are available for development. She said the Cambridge Revitalization Committee, of which she is a member, discussed ideas, noting that more senior housing is needed. She expressed her belief that single family lots are the answer to housing issues in the County. She noted that 14 of the 69 properties are not buildable pursuant to the County Code.

In response to an inquiry from Councilman Newcomb, Ms. Smith said Winn Development is a for profit organization. Mr. Merryweather noted that the properties will be placed back on the tax rolls. Councilman Pfeffer said the company's goal is to lease the properties for 15 years after which they will be sold. Ms. Smith clarified that the tenant will have the first right of refusal with no price guarantee not an option to purchase. She said perhaps funding can be obtained from Secretary Holt to foreclose on lots on Route 16 which can then be built on by Winn Development. She noted that small homes or senior housing can then be constructed on those lots. She said City of Cambridge Commissioner LaShon Foster is concerned about the possible construction of another facility similar to Bradford House, based on concerns about this housing facility.

Pursuant to Mr. Merryweather's query, Ms. Smith suggested that a conversation be held with Secretary Holt regarding potential ways to address housing in the County.

Councilman Nichols expressed concern about the cost of the rent based on his understanding that the eviction rate in the County is high. Ms. Smith said there are multiple houses in the Pine Street area that are in need of repair which are not County owned. Pursuant to a query from Councilman Newcomb, Ms. Smith advised that she is not aware of the type of response Secretary Holt is seeking since she was not present at the meeting.

Councilman Travers said it is his understanding that Secretary Holt will meet with Winn Development in late October. He said during the meeting potential properties were placed before Secretary Holt who presented his vision of Cambridge. He explained that Secretary Holt was advised that the Council would be discussing this matter. Councilman Travers suggested County staff meet with Secretary Holt and his staff to discuss potential options. In response to a question posed by Councilman Newcomb, Ms. Smith said the length of the foreclosure process is nine months after which additional areas can be identified. Councilman Nichols said he has viewed a map showing the proposed area pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Travers. He noted that many of the properties are too small to build on. Ms. Smith explained that the goal is to enhance the existing properties by offering some of the smaller properties to them which can be used to increase parking in the area.

The Council agreed to a meeting between staff and Secretary Holt.

REQUEST TO RESERVE DOCKAGE-RICHARDSON MARITIME MUSEUM

The Council approved the request of Jane Devlin, Executive Director, Richardson Maritime Museum (Richardson), to reserve dockage at the "T" dock of the County's Trenton Street marine facility for the Dudley, a 64 foot buy boat for which there is a dock lease agreement with Richardson. The Council agreed to accept the lease fee of \$124 a month while this marine vessel is located at this facility.

FY19 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE REQUEST-STATE'S ATTORNEY OFFICE

The Council approved the request of Mr. Adkins and William Jones, State's Attorney, to sole source with Royal Plus to install carpet in the main lobby and hallway areas in the State's Attorney's Office which have tile floors at a cost of \$24,926.53 utilizing FY19 Capital funds from the roof repair that has a balance of \$66,000.00. The Council acknowledged that: 1) the tile floors may contain asbestos, which if discovered will be removed; and 2) the remaining areas of this Office received new carpet due to a leak that occurred during roof replacement.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT JUSTICE REINVESTMENT COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

The Council appointed Joseph Hughes, Director of Corrections, to the Local Government Justice Reinvestment Commission as the County's representative.

PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL BOARD NOMINATIONS

Councilwoman Nagel made a motion to defer the nomination of individuals to Governor Lawrence "Larry" Hogan for two vacancies on the Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board for Dorchester County which Councilman Nichols seconded for discussion. Councilman Nichols noted that the Council is required to submit three nominations for each vacancy on this Board. He said five individuals have been identified, noting that he has two additional interested parties who are speaking to Mark Dennis, Supervisor, Dorchester County, Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation. In response to a question posed by Councilman Pfeffer, Donna F. Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist, said there is no deadline, noting that the Board meetings are held during the months of May, June or July. The Council agreed to defer this item until its November 5, 2019 meeting.

2020 MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

The Council agreed to appoint Councilman Pfeffer as a member and Councilman Nichols as an alternate to the 2020 Maryland Association of Counties Legislative Committee.

COUNTY OBSERVATION OF HALLOWEEN

The Council agreed that Halloween will be observed by County residents on Wednesday, October 31, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for children ages 12 and under. The Council acknowledged that: 1) this policy will not supersede prescheduled times and dates set by municipalities; and, 2) residents living outside town limits should follow the County policy set forth by the County Council, unless they intend on carrying their child (ren) into a town.

RADIO UPGRADE-HIGHWAY DIVISION-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council agreed to the installation of new 700 Mhz system radios at the Highway Division of the Public Works Department at the cost of \$129,298.48.

LIFT-STAY ORDER

The Council agreed to proceed with seeking a lift stay order to terminate a County lease.

POLL CONFIRMATION

The Council confirmed its following actions, in the interim between meetings, by means of a poll, to:

- approve a request of the Airport Director to submit a Maryland Aviation Administration Special Grant Application for funding up to \$300,000 for runway pavement maintenance with a local match of \$45,659.75 for which FY18 Capital Budget funds will be utilized by a 5 to 0 vote;
- accept a Maryland Aviation Administration grant award in the amount of \$17,519 for MAA's share of obstruction removal design and wetlands mitigation, phase 1, with a local match of \$17,519 of which \$9,953 (for wetlands mitigation) is in the FY18 Capital Budget and \$7,567 (for obstruction removal) is in the FY19 Capital Budget and funding from the Federal Aviation Administration of \$315,356 by a 5 to 0 vote;
- approve the request of the Sheriff to submit a FY2020 Police Recruitment and Retention grant application to the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention for \$46,150 to aid in the retention and recruitment of Deputies with no local match by a 5 to 0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jerome Harris, resident, said several years ago he asked the Council to turn over a property in Vienna to him and/or his committee, to develop into a park. He referred to the MDOT discussion, noting that there is no rest stop between Cambridge and Salisbury. He explained that individuals from a Harriet Tubman organization are willing to assist him with this endeavor. He said this park will provide a safe place for senior citizens and the youth in the Town to enjoy. He noted that the basketball court at the public school in the area was removed when the parking lot was enlarged. In response to a question from Mr. Merryweather, Mr. Harris said the property is roughly three to four miles from the Town line and is located across from Back Street which was annexed into the Town. The Council agreed to a meeting between Mr. Harris and the following individuals, with the understanding that they will report back: Councilwoman Nagel, Councilman Nichols, Mr. Adkins and Frank Stout, Recreation and Parks Director.

Stanley Trice, resident, referenced the earlier discussion regarding a meeting with Secretary Holt. In response to his inquiry Councilmen Travers and Pfeffer said they attended the meeting. Councilman Nichols stated that he was attending another meeting with a government official. Councilman Newcomb noted that Council meet in a personal work session two hours prior to that meeting.

Pursuant to an inquiry from Kyle Powley, resident, Mr. Adkins said the bid for mowing and ditching has not been awarded. He asked Mr. Powley to provide him his telephone number so Brian Chester, Highway Manager, can contact him.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

The Council presented a commendation to Donna Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist.

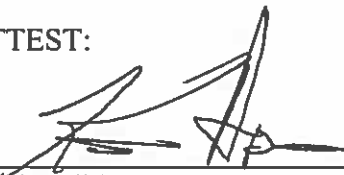
A discussion ensued regarding the potential use of a County vehicle without authorization. Mr. Adkins said he will check into the matter.

Councilman Pfeffer noted that the burn ban is effective until rescinded by Council after consultation with the Forester, based on inquiries he received about the potential lifting of the ban due to the recent small rain event.

Councilman Nichols announced that the next meeting will be held on November 5, 2019 at 6 p.m.


With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:




Keith Adkins
County Manager

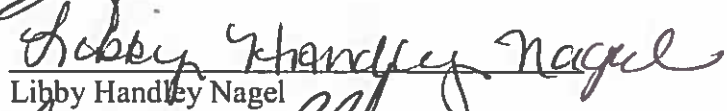
THE COUNTY COUNCIL
OF DORCHESTER COUNTY:



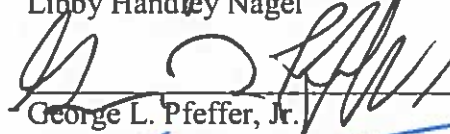
William V. Nichols, President



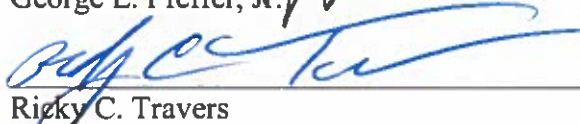
Jay L. Newcomb, Vice President



Libby Handley Nagel



George L. Pfeffer, Jr.



Ricky C. Travers

Approved the 5th day of November, 2019.