

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2021**

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in Open Session at 6:12 p.m. on the 20th day of July 2021. The meeting was also available to the public by conference call. A roll call of the members was conducted. Present on the conference call and in Room 110 were: Jay L. Newcomb, President; Libby Handley Nagel, Vice President; William V. Nichols; George L. Pfeffer, Jr.; and, Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 and via telephone were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney; and Donna F. Lane, Acting County Manager.

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Pfeffer led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

After publication of the agenda, the following items were added: Request To Hire-Business Development Manager-Economic Development; Mediation Offer-Use Of Space-Eldorado Brookview Volunteer Fire Company. The Council approved the amended agenda

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council approved the minutes of May 18, June 1 and June 15, 2021.

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 Newcomb reported total cash and investments as \$10,650,613.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into Regular Session on July 20, 2021 at 4:39 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 and §3-305(b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; and pursuant to §3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. The meeting was also available to the public by conference call.

Present in Room 110 and via telephone were: Jay L. Newcomb, President; William V. Nichols; George L. Pfeffer, Jr.; and, Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 via the conference call was Donna F. Lane, Acting County Manager. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were the present Council Members.

The Council convened in a Closed Session on July 20, 2021 at 4:40 p.m. to discuss the following items:

- 1- Discussed a personnel matter regarding a County Department;
- 2- Approved the request of the Director of the Department of Corrections to hire individuals through a temp agency by a 4 to 0 vote;
- 3- Approved the request of Airport Director to hire an individual through a temp agency by a 4 to 0 vote;
- 4- Discussed personnel matters relating to the vacant Business Development Manager position in the Economic Development Department-agreed to discuss in open session.
- 5- Deferred the request of the Emergency Services Director to hire an individual to fill a vacant Emergency Medical Services Manager position;
- 6- Received legal advice from the County Attorney regarding a mediation offer;

Present on the conference call and in Room 110 were: Jay L. Newcomb, President; William V. Nichols; George L. Pfeffer, Jr.; and Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 and via the conference call was Donna F. Lane, Acting County Manager. Libby Handley Nagel, Vice President, and E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney joined the meeting late via conference call and in Room 110.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. 2021-11 AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-512(D) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE AND PURSUANT TO SECTION 40-20 OF CHAPTER 40 OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE CLOSING AND ABANDONING OF A PORTION OF CORKRAN CEMETERY ROAD, A PUBLIC COUNTY ROAD SITUATE IN THE HURLOCK ELECTION DISTRICT OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND.

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said scheduled for a public hearing is a bill pursuant to section 40-20 of Chapter 40 of the Dorchester County Code to close and abandon a portion of Corkran Cemetery Road, a public county road situate in the Hurlock Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland.

Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, provided the following reasons for asking the Council to consider closing a portion of this road: 1) because it has low spots and large fields draining into it which makes it hazardous during wet weather; 2) based on his understanding that it is primarily used for agricultural purpose; 3) the lack of a funding source to repair the road which is estimated at \$15,000. In response to a question from Mr. Merryweather, Mr. Edwards confirmed that he is asking the Council to consider closing only the dirt portion of the road. He noted that there are also issues with illegal dumping in the wooded area of the road for which County resources are often being used to address this matter.

Warren Saunders, resident, expressed his opposition to the closure for the following reasons: 1) it is not unusual for roads in the County to have illegal dumping issues; 2) he used it including when Palmers Mill Road, on which he lives, was closed due to being washed out; 3) emergency vehicles will be unable to use it; 4) based on his understanding five residences will be affected by the closure. He referenced rumors on how the road was shut down for a period of time, which he circulated until he was advised otherwise. He concurred with Mr. Edward's statement about the amount of water. He noted that there are six pivot irrigations on properties adjacent to the road which drain onto the road. He noted that he had no issues until it was moved.

Trish Hopkins, resident, said she moved to Corkran Cemetery three years ago. She advised that she frequently travels the road in her electric chair to view wildlife. She expressed her understanding that Maryland officials advised that County and State roads were to be blacktopped by 2000. She noted that delivery vehicles and emergency vehicles use the road despite its condition.

Glen Payne, resident, said he was a Maryland State Trooper for 25 years and used this road multiple times as a shortcut to Petersburg Road. He expressed his understanding that there are six properties on that road. He advised that he viewed the road when he learned that each end of the dirt portion of the road was blocked by posts and chains, which he felt was a liability. He noted that Delmarva Power has installed power lines along the road and expressed concern about the company not having access if the road was closed. He said when he traveled the road on a Sunday it was in good condition except for a puddle due to the irrigation along the road. He cited his understanding that a farmer paid the County to move the road to its current location for his irrigation. He noted that he does not travel the road on a regular basis.

Jerry Rhue, speaking as a resident, expressed concern about closing this road which will result in emergency vehicles not being able to access it during a call as well as the impact it will have on residents on it. He also expressed concern that if this road is closed, others such as Johnson, Kraft and Messick, all dirt roads, will be closed in the future.

Charles Sergeant, resident said he lives on Corkran Cemetery Road. He stated that he, his family and friends use this road to access his property as well as a refuse company. He noted that the road sometimes has flooding issues due to storms. He advised that he travels the road daily since he moved there 7 months ago. He said there are individuals who dump furniture and trash along the road, noting that there are also individuals who squat in that area. He expressed his understanding that some of the land along it is used for hunting. He expressed his belief that signs should be installed as well as deer cameras and no dumping signs should be posted.

Councilwoman Nagel clarified that she did not authorize anyone to close the road despite reports to the contrary. She said when responding to call on Corkran Cemetery Road: 1) a Caroline County paramedic, contacted the fire chief on scene as they entered the road on the muddy side as they were having difficulty making access; and, 2) the decision was made to continue down the road and two minutes later they turned around due to a large hole in the road. She noted that: 1) individuals live on both ends of the road; 2) farms are located in the middle of the road; and, 3) the farm owners are constantly having to remove trash and other items from this road.

Councilman Pfeffer read a letter from Delmarva Power about the need for ingress and egress to maintain its electric transmission facilities along the road which is attached. He referred to the

community's use of the road. He said he traveled the road, and there is one spot in the middle on which water was laying. He noted that money was identified to repair a cul de sac at Wagner Point Road that only accommodates one dead end driveway and questioned whether funding can be identified for Corkran Cemetery Road.

Councilman Travers made a motion to not close the road which was seconded by Councilman Pfeffer. Councilman Nichols said he received calls about this road over the weekend with 50% voting to close the road and the other 50% wanting it to remain open. In response to a query from Councilman Nichols, Mr. Edwards said: 1) during the dry season a vehicle can access the road; 2) it very difficult, if not impossible, to travel down the road during the wet season; 3) a small amount of water from irrigation systems travels onto the road; 4) the day after he was advised about the road he tried to go down the road with a grader and had to back out due to its poor condition; and 5) he spoke to Sonny Willey, Roads Foreman, who said for 40 years, after the road was moved, it has been in poor condition due to the bed not being installed correctly. Mr. Edwards, in response to comments previously made about the road advised that there are no irrigation system laws. He stated that Delmarva Power and Light: 1) has a utility right of way; 2) its power grid spans over 300 miles; 3) repairs can be made by helicopter as they cannot typically climb the poles as they are too tall for the bucket truck. Pursuant to his query, Councilman Pfeffer said the Manager of Real Estate forwarded the letter to the Senior Internal Affairs Manager of Delmarva Power and Light. Mr. Edward noted that no correspondence was received from the Operating Department. He said there is only an issue four months out of a year. He advised that Palmers Mill Road was only washed out for one day before repairs were made and was open on December 26th, the next day. In response to a question posed by Councilman Pfeffer, Mr. Edwards confirmed that letters were sent out to the adjacent property owners and there was no correspondence received in favor of the road closure. Mr. Edwards said a traffic count was not conducted pursuant to Councilman Nichols' query.

The roll call on killing Bill No. 2021-11 was: Nagel-nay; Nichols-aye; Newcomb-aye; Pfeffer-aye; Travers-aye.

BILL NO. 2021-13 AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND PURSUANT TO SECTION 10-202 AND SECTION 10-328 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND TO REPEAL AND REENACT SECTION 116-6(A) ENTITLED "ENFORCEMENT; COMPLAINT, INVESTIGATION AND ABATEMENT" OF CHAPTER 116 ENTITLED "NUISANCE CONTROL" OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE TO PROVIDE THAT THE DESIGNATED AGENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING SHALL BE THE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF CHAPTER 116 OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE.

Mr. Merryweather said the public hearing on this bill has been cancelled. He explained that a new bill will be prepared which will be introduced at a later date.

REGULAR SESSION

LOWER SHORE CEMETERY PRESERVATION ORGANIZATION, INC UPDATE-REQUEST

Edward Dean, Lower Shore Cemetery Preservation Organization, Inc., provided in update on Lower Shore Cemetery Preservation Organization, Inc., a copy of which is attached. He introduced the Board Members. He spoke briefly about the Anchor of Hope Cemetery and Donald Willey, resident, who has been pursuing the restoration of this cemetery for multiple years. He expressed his understanding that a culvert pipe needs to be installed in a ditch near the Madison United Methodist Church Cemetery located at 1213 Old Madison Road. Mr. Edwards said he will ascertain whether a work order has been established for this work. Mr. Dean asked the Council to move forward with the Burial Sites Preservation Board. He said he will provide the name of an individual who is interested on serving on that board. Mr. Hamon referenced a study that has been initiated on Hoopers Island relating to coastal resilience and coastline protection and offered to provide Mr. Dean further information on this study.

Donald Willey, resident, said he has been working towards the restoration of the Anchor of Hope Cemetery for 19 years. He thanked all of the individuals who have been involved in this project and who have volunteered to clean up cemeteries. He spoke briefly about this project and Mr. Dean's involvement a year or so ago. He said Mr. Dean circulated rumors about him that were inaccurate. Mr. Dean responded to Mr. Willey's comments about him.

Councilwoman Nagel left the meeting.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

REVISED FY22 BUDGET REQUEST-REQUEST TO USE FUND BALANCE- CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE

The Council approved the request of Clifford P. Coppersmith, President, Chesapeake College, to approve the College's revised FY22 Operating Budget, \$23,420,066 which includes an \$895,052 increase resulting from the Senator John A. Cade Funding Formula & Budget Reconciliation & Financing Act for FY22. The Council also approved his request for a one-time fund balance transfer of \$1,200,000 for: contractual services; dues/training; fixed costs and equipment. The Council acknowledged that additional support from the support counties is not required.

FY21 CATEGORICAL BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST-BOARD OF EDUCATION

Based on the request of W. David Bromwell, Superintendent, Dorchester County Public Schools, the Council approved a FY21 Categorical Budget Amendment to transfer: 1) \$50,000 from Mid-Level Administration to Administration which is over budget mainly due to the need for clerical substitutes in Human Resource Department; 2) \$260,000 from Operation of Plant to Maintenance of Plan for additional maintenance activities during the restricted school building use.

BID AWARD-TWIN POINT COVE SHORELINE RESILIENCY STUDY-PLANNING AND ZONING

The Council approved the request of Herve Hamon, Planning and Zoning Director, based on the recommendation of a selection/steering committee, to award the bid for the Twin Point Cove Shoreline Resiliency Plan to Versar, Inc. at the cost of \$49,092. The Council acknowledged the receipt of a Federal Emergency Management Agency/Maryland Emergency Management

Agency grant of \$37,500 with a required match of \$12,500 cash or in-kind services for this study.

TRAVEL REQUEST-MOTOROLA SUMMIT-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Dozia Rahilly, Emergency Services Director, for the following individuals to attend the Motorola Summit 2021 to be held October 11-14, 2021 in Orlando, Florida: Dozia Rahilly, Director; Nick Kovach, 911 Manager; a 911 Lieutenant/Shift Supervisor; Deputy Sheriff Robbie Larimer, Radio/CAD Liaison; Marshall Kjar, IT Technician I and Don Keyes, Information Technology Director and Chris Leonard, IT Technician II. The Council acknowledged that: 1) this conference was prepaid as part of the County's contract with Motorola; 2) funds for travel and meals will come from the FY22 911 training budget. In response to a query from Councilman Pfeffer, Ms. Lane said the amount of money that can be spent for breakfast, lunch and dinner are outlined County's Business Meals Policy.

HARRIET TUBMAN SCULPTURE CONTRIBUTION REQUEST-TOURISM

The Council agreed to contribute \$15,000 that was set aside in the FY 22 budget toward the Harriet Tubman sculpture project which were allocated as a cash match for a Public Art project, which will be provided to Alpha Genesis Community Development Corporation which will use the funds as a match towards its grant from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority. The Council acknowledged that other match funds will be raised privately.

REQUEST TO ALLOCATE SPACE-VISITORS CENTER-PHILLIPS WHARF ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER-TOURISM

The Council acknowledged that: 1) the Board of Directors of the Phillips Wharf Environmental Center have been working with Tourism to build a relationship to support the eventual location of the Center to Dorchester County; 2) the first step of this project is to have several aquariums as part of a display at Visitor's Center; 3) equipment and organisms will be provided and maintained by Phillips Wharf; 4) space for the tanks and related maintenance equipment will be provided by Tourism; 5) Phillips Wharf will provide signage and a staff member to be a "biologist on duty" at the Visitor Center during selected hours (tentatively Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays and Mondays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.); 6) the staff member will need keys to the building as they may need to remain after hours; 7) the project is expected to continue until Phillips Wharf is ready, possibly two to three years; and, 8) this arrangement will have to involve a contract between the Center and Dorchester County with a 90 day without cause termination clause. The Council agreed to proceed with the first step of the project.

REQUEST TO UPGRADE CONTROL SYSTEM-PHASE II-DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The Council approved the request of Joseph Hughes, Director, Department of Corrections, to expend FY21 capital fund budgets for the second phase of the upgrade to the Detention Center's control system for the heat and air systems to commence at the cost of \$95,000.00.

BID AWARD REQUEST-MAINTENANCE BUILDING ROOF-AIRPORT

The Council approved the request of Steve Nuwer, Airport Director, to award the bid for the replacement of the Airport Maintenance Building roof to BAS Construction, Inc., the lowest bidder, at the cost of \$14,208.05 using FY21 capital funding. The Council acknowledged that this company provided a revised bid as the original one did not include a certain aspect of this project. Councilmen Nichols and Travers noted that there was a wide margin between the quotes.

BUDGET TRANSFER REQUESTS

The Council approved FY21 Budget Transfers for the Highway, Landfill and Maintenance Divisions of the Public Works Department and for the Council's Office.

REQUEST TO INSTALL LIGHTING-CHESAPEAKE DRIVE RECYCLING CENTER-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, to sole source with Travers Enterprises to install three 25 foot solar security lights around the perimeter of the paved portion of the Chesapeake Drive Recycling Center at cost of \$3,290.75 to deter some of the illegal dumping after dark and improve public safety. The Council acknowledged that: 1) at a later date a request will be submitted for Council's approval to fence in this area; and, 2) funding for this project will be from the Landfill Enterprise Operating Budget. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Mr. Edwards said the fence will surround the area, not block access.

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the recommendation of the Traffic Safety Committee to install the following:

- littering signs and no camping signs on the causeway in the area of the pull off spot to assist with littering, overnight stays and party issues
- two 30 mph speed limit signs on Drawbridge Road to assist with speeding issues in the area of Indian Bone Rd and just past the bridge
- no tandem axle truck signs on North Tara Rd will be allowed between the sand pit and MD 392
- dead end sign on Wisteria Drive in the area of Holly Terrace to prevent vehicles from turning around in their lane as well as 15 mph speed limit signs and children at play signs on Madison Canning House Road to address speeding issues

Mr. Edwards said the Committee also discussed a request to install several speed bumps on Hambrooks Boulevard in the area of Oak Street to assist with speeding, running over animals and pedestrian safety. He advised that the Committee: 1) does not recommend installing speed bumps on this road for multiple various liability issues; 2) installing two 25 mph signs and two florescent pedestrian warning signs in this area; and, 3) recommends that citizens work with law enforcement to correct these issues. Denise Sebode, who owns property on this road, cited her belief that the signs will not alleviate the issues. She showed to the Council petitions signed by various residents, delivery drivers and tourists who support a speed bump as well as an online petition from her phone. She said she supports the placement of two speed bumps on the road. Mr. Edwards advised that the Sheriff's Office staff said they needed signage on this road in order

to enforce the speed limit in the area. Ms. Sebode recognized that the Sheriff's Office has limited staff. The Council approved the recommendation of the Committee and asked that the members considered other options at a future meeting.

In response to a request from Jerry Rhue, resident, Mr. Edwards said North Tara Road will be closed to tandem dump trucks from Harrison Ferry Road to Sandpoint. He explained that they can continue to use a portion from the Marshy Hope Sandpit to Route 313.

FY22 WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANT AWARD REQUESTS-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to accept Department of Natural Resources FY 22 Waterway Improvement Fund awards of \$250,000 for Smithville boat ramp improvements and \$250,000 for Crocheron boat ramp improvements.

NON PROFIT GRANT APPLICATION APPROVAL REQUEST-LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

Based on the request of Nancy Shockley, Local Management Board Director, the Council approved nonprofit grant awards to the following entities: Pine Street Committee, For All Seasons, New Beginnings and Youth Family Services, \$10,000 each; Anchor Point, \$5,510; The Cambridge Woman's Club, \$2,400; Harvesting Hope Youth and Family Services, Mid Shore Pro Bono, Pleasant Day Medical Adult Day Care, Grove City Black Heritage & Culture Group, \$10,000 each; and the Dorchester Center for the Arts, \$7,500.

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SUBRECIPIENT APPROVAL REQUEST-LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Council approved the request of Ms. Shockley to enter into an Emergency Rental Assistance Program Sub recipient Agreement with the Salvation Army for Housing Stability Services for homeless populations, staff sales and benefits to assist with the processing of landlord assistance application and for funds to support utility assistance request in amount of up to \$300,000 for the period of July 2021 to September 2022.

ROUND 3 LANDLORD ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION APPROVAL REQUEST-LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

Pursuant to the request of Ms. Shockley the Council approved Round three of Landlord Assistance Grants as follows:

- RIG Holding, Inc. \$4,175
- Choptank Property Management \$22,039.50
- Novo Properties \$7,430
- JKL Holding, LLC \$3,040
- Warren Saunders, Jr. \$9,000
- Cambridge Property Management, LLC \$16,160
- Gloria Frazier \$4,906
- Leroy Woolford \$6,840
- Johnathan Wright \$3,811

- Cherril Duncan \$4,000

GOVERNORS OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION GRANT APPROVAL REQUESTS-SHERIFF'S OFFICE-FINANCE

The Council accepted FY21 Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention Grant awards to the Sheriff's Office for Gun Violence Reduction in the amount of \$13,000 and for Sex Offender Compliance and Enforcement in the amount of \$9,930 under which premium overtime will be paid. The Council recognized that Dorchester County, Maryland should be the Authorized Official for all future GOCCP grant applications/awards.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT-BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT-CITY-SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Council agreed to enter into an Interlocal Government Agreement with the City of Cambridge and the Sheriff's Office which will include a carve out from the overtime threshold.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING-EQUIPMENT-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council, based on the legal opinion of E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, acknowledged that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and Rescue Fire Company (RFC) for the housing of a Gator owned by the County at its station is invalid since it is not signed by a RFC representative. The Council agreed to seek the execution of the agreement by a RFC representative. The Council further agreed that the Gator can remain in service based on information provided by the vendor who repaired this piece of equipment contingent upon clarification being received from RFC, that it has the insurance required pursuant to the MOU. Mr. Merryweather said the County shall be a co-insurer on the policy and has insurance on the equipment through Local Government Insurance Trust. Adam Pritchett, Chief, RFC, said he was under the impression that the MOU had already been executed.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING-USE OF SPACE-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Mr. Merryweather recommended that Council approve the amendment of paragraph 16, which provided a mutual right to terminate, to include additional language to the Memorandum of Understandings with the Hurlock Volunteer Fire Company (HVFC) and Madison Volunteer Fire Company for the leasing of space of Advanced Life Support Units and staff. He noted that HVFC is seeking \$1,200 a month and MVFC is amicable to the monthly lease payment remaining at \$800 a month.

Councilman Travers made a motion to approve the amendment for both agreements and for a monthly lease amount of \$1,200 for both with Councilman Pfeffer seconding the motion. The motion failed with Councilman Nichols and Newcomb opposing. The Council agreed to seek Councilwoman Nagel's vote.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE COUNTY PROPERTY-TOWN OF SECRETARY

The Council approved the request of the Town of Secretary Commissioners to purchase 105 Main Street, Secretary for \$5,000 which will cover the County's expenses to foreclose on the property, after which the transfer will be made.

GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING COST ESTIMATES-LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE-PARTICIPATION-MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Council approved the written request of Craig Kuhn, Program Manager, Forest Pest Management, to participate in the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Forest Pest Management Program for the identification and control of gypsy moth populations for Dorchester County and its citizens. The Council acknowledged that: 1) based on information relating to gypsy moth populations and trends in Dorchester County, up to 80 surveys will be conducted at an estimated County cost of \$1,360 which represents a 50% cost share on local costs to perform these surveys on non-State land; and, 2) this amount does not include additional funds that may be needed for aerial spraying.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Council reappointed Charles Dayton and Lin Spicer to the Board of Zoning Appeals for another term.

POLL CONFIRMATION

The Council acknowledged its approval via poll, by a 5 to 0 vote, of the following Emergency Rental Assistance Program grant applications: Choptank Property Management, \$19,039.50; Cambridge Property Management, LLC, \$4,475, Leroy Woolford, \$6,840; Jonathan Wright, \$3,811.

FREE STANDING MEDICAL FACILITY DISCUSSION

In lieu of a meeting being held with University of Maryland Shore Regional Health staff, two Council members and Emergency Services staff regarding the new freestanding medical facility being constructed and its impact on emergency services provided by the County, the Council agreed to extend an invitation for Shore Regional Health staff to attend a future meeting.

LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST-SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION NAVIGATOR PILOT PROGRAM-TEDCO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council approved the request of Susan Banks, Economic Development Director, for a letter of support to the Maryland Technology Development Corporation's Small Business Association Navigator Pilot Program application to assist in providing more personalized and local outreach to underserved small, rural, women and veteran owned businesses via training, mentoring, investment and other assistance.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council agreed to advertise a Business Development Manager position.

MEDIATION OFFER

Councilman Newcomb said an offer to mediate County issues was received from the Mid Shore Mediation Community Center. The Council agreed not to set a precedent of bringing in a third party to mitigate Council decisions.

OTHER

Ms. Lane encouraged the public to refer individuals seeking employment to the County's website.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST



Donna F. Lane, Acting County Manager

DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND



Jay L. Newcomb, President



Libby Handley Nagel, Vice President



William V. Nichols



George, L. Pfeffer, Jr.



Ricky C. Travers

Approved the 17th day of August, 2021.