

**County Council of Dorchester County**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**January 2, 2024**

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in Open Session in Room 110 of the County Office Building at 6:05 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2024. A roll call of the members was conducted. Present in Room 110 were: George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President; Rob Kramer, Jr.; William V. Nichols; Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 were: Jeff Powell, Interim County Manager; Charles MacLeod, County Attorney; Donna F. Lane, Chief of Staff; and, Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist. Mike Detmer, Vice President, joined the meeting by phone.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Nichols led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

**CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

**FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

Councilman Pfeffer reported total cash and investments as \$30,988,334.98.

**CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY**

The Council convened into Regular Session on January 2, 2024 at 5:30 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.

Present in Room 110 were: George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President; Rob Kramer, Jr.; William V. Nichols; Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 were: Jeff Powell, Interim County Manager; Charles MacLeod, County Attorney; Donna F. Lane, Chief of Staff; and, Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist. Mike Detmer, Vice President, joined the meeting by phone. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were the present Council Members.

The Council convened in a Closed Session on January 2, 2024 at 5:31 p.m. to discuss the following items:

- 1) Notifications of recent personnel changes within the County were provided.

Present in Room 110 were: George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President; Rob Kramer, Jr.; William V. Nichols; Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 were: Jeff Powell, Interim County Manager; Charles MacLeod, County Attorney; Donna F. Lane, Chief of Staff; and, Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist. Mike Detmer, Vice President, joined the meeting by phone.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Council approved the minutes of December 19, 2023.

### **APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS**

The Council approved the vouchers as presented

### **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION GRANT AWARD – VICTIM/WITNESS COORDINATOR – STATE'S ATTORNEY**

Based on the request of Amanda Leonard, State's Attorney, the Council accepted the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention Victim/Witness Coordinator grant award of \$47,824.00, with no match requirement and a performance period of October 1, 2023 to July 30, 2024.

### **REQUEST TO SURPLUS AMBULANCE – EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Council approved the request of Debbie Wheedleton, Emergency Medical Services Manager, to surplus a 2003 Ford Ambulance, VIN No. 1FDXE45F53HB48716.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING – OAK CREEK LANDING – ROAD EXTENSION – PUBLIC WORKS**

The Council approved the request of Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, to move forward with a public hearing to add an extension of the County road, Oak Creek Landing, into the County road system.

### **DELMARVA WATER TRANSPORT COMMITTEE INC. PARTICIPATION DISCUSSION**

After a brief discussion with Susan Webb, Planning & Zoning Director, the Council agreed to continue its membership with Delmarva Water Transport Committee, Inc., and designated Councilman Detmer as the County representative.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

The Council agreed to move forward with the process of filling the Board of Education District 2 vacancy due to the passing of Dr. Theresa Stafford. Mr. Powell provided a brief overview of the process, which includes publishing an advertisement soliciting applications and interviewing all applicants. He said the Council will appoint the board member by a majority vote at a future Council meeting.

Mr. Powell stated that information regarding appointing a board member to Cambridge Waterfront Development Inc. will be provided to him in the future. He recommended following the same procedure as filling the Board of Education vacancy.

**INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER’S COMMENTS**

Mr. Powell wished everyone a happy New Year.

**SECOND QUARTER PRESCRIPTION REBATE – HUMAN RESOURCES**

Based on information provided by Mr. Powell, the Council acknowledged that a \$10,575.43 prescription rebate check was received for the Second Quarter of 2023 from Integra Administrative Group.

**COUNCIL’S COMMENTS**

Councilman Kramer said he has received several complaints regarding drainage issues on Deep Point Road and Dailsville Road.

Councilman Pfeffer wished everyone a happy, healthy and safe New Year. He also stated that the FY25 budget process is in its beginning stages.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.


**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

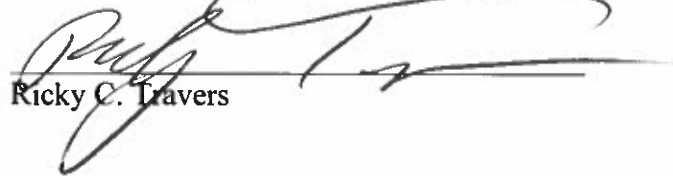
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Powell  
Interim County Manager

THE COUNTY COUNCIL  
OF DORCHESTER COUNTY:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Detmer, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Kramer, Jr.

*Absent*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William V. Nichols

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ricky C. Travers

Approved the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.

**PRESIDING OFFICER'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING  
("CLOSING STATEMENT") UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT (General  
Provisions Article § 3-305)**

**This form has two sides. Complete items 1 – 4 before closing the meeting.**

**1. Recorded vote to close the meeting:** Date: 11/2/24 ; Time: 5:30 p.m.; Location: Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland; Motion to close meeting made by: Kramer Seconded by Nichols ; Members in favor: Heffer, Kramer, Nichols, Travers ; Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_ ; Abstaining: \_\_\_\_\_ ; Absent: \_\_\_\_\_ . Detmer joined by phone

**2. Statutory authority to close session (check all provisions that apply).**

**This meeting will be closed under General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b) only:**

**(1)**  "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals"; **(2) \_\_\_** "To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business"; **(3) \_\_\_** "To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto"; **(4) \_\_\_** "To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State"; **(5) \_\_\_** "To consider the investment of public funds"; **(6) \_\_\_** "To consider the marketing of public securities"; **(7) \_\_\_** "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice"; **(8) \_\_\_** "To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation"; **(9) \_\_\_** "To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations"; **(10) \_\_\_** "To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans"; **(11) \_\_\_** "To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination"; **(12) \_\_\_** "To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct"; **(13)**  "To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter"; **(14) \_\_\_** "Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process." **(15) \_\_\_** "To discuss cybersecurity, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to: (i) security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology; (ii) network security information . . . or (iii) deployments or implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices."

**Continued →**

3. For each provision checked above, disclosure of the topic to be discussed and the public body's reason for discussing that topic in closed session.

<b>Citation (insert # from above)</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reason for closed-session discussion of topic</b>
<b>§3-305(b) (1 )</b>	Notifications of recent personnel changes within the County.	Public Discussion of applicant's names and job info could discourage people from applying for County jobs
<b>§3-305(b)(13 )</b>	Same topic as above	Public Information Act, GP Section 4-310 and 311 requires us to shield recommendation letters and job applications

4. This statement is made by , Presiding Officer.

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**WORKSHEET FOR OPTIONAL USE IN CLOSED SESSION: INFORMATION FOR SUMMARY TO BE DISCLOSED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT OPEN MEETING. (See also template for summary.)**

➤ **For a meeting closed under the statutory authority cited above:**

Time of closed session: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Members who voted to meet in closed session: \_\_\_\_\_

Persons attending closed session: \_\_\_\_\_

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: \_\_\_\_\_

Topics actually discussed: \_\_\_\_\_

Actions taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Each recorded vote: \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **For a meeting recessed to perform an administrative function (§ 3-104):** Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Persons present: \_\_\_\_\_

Subjects discussed: \_\_\_\_\_