

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2015**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on December 1, 2015 with the following members present: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; William V. Nichols; Rick M. Price and Don B. Satterfield. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney; Jeremy Goldman, County Manager; and Donna Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist.

REGULAR SESSION

CLOSED SESSION

The Council adjourned from a Regular Session and convened in a Closed Session pursuant to Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, pursuant to §3-305(b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction.

Voting in favor of the closed Closed Session were all Council members.

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence was held for Walter Collins, a former Town of East New Market Mayor, who recently passed. Councilman Price led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- NOVEMBER 17, 2015

The Council approved the minutes of November 17, 2015.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented. Councilman Price opposed a payment to Facility Logix, Consultant, for the Eastern Shore Innovation Center.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$11,115,743.39.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The County Council of Dorchester County convened at 5:00 p.m. on December 1, 2015 in a Closed Session at Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland, 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

Motion made, seconded and carried to conduct a closed session pursuant to the above. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative to conduct the closed session for the purposes stated above and to discuss the topics listed below.

Action taken at the closed session: 1) discussed personnel matters with the State's Attorney-approved request to hire an individual to fill a Deputy State's Attorney position by a 5 to 0 vote; 2) discussed a departmental policy-deferred; and 3) discussed with legal counsel a matter relating to a State mandate.

The above information is being provided to the public pursuant to and in compliance with Section §3-306(b) and (c) of Title 3 of the General Provisions Article.

REGULAR SESSION

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Via motion, the Council agreed that Councilman Travers shall remain as President and Councilman Bradshaw shall remain as Vice President of the Council for one more year. Councilman Price opposed based on his belief that the same process for the Election of Officers should be followed annually.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

PROPOSED LEGISLATION-2016 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE SESSION-BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, said the Board of License Commissioners has submitted a recommendation to the Council to seek a legislative amendment to Article 2B of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Councilman Travers explained that the recommendation is to submit a request to legislators to introduce a bill to reduce the seating requirement for a Class "B" beer, wine and liquor license from 50 to 25 seats. He said several individuals spoke in favor of this legislative amendment at the Board's November 16, 2015 meeting. He noted that a survey of surrounding counties was conducted and Talbot County has a lower seating requirement.

The Council agreed to submit a request to the legislators to introduce legislation to amend Article 2B, §6-201(k)(1) to reduce the seating requirement for a Class "B" beer, wine and liquor license from 50 to 25 seats which amendment, if adopted, will be effective June 1, 2016.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AWARD-ADA RAMPS-COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING-GRANT MONITOR

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, to accept a Department of Housing and Community Development Block Grant award to Dorchester County of \$137,500 for the construction of a ramp on the front entrance of the County Office building and the replacement of the ramp at the rear of the facility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Council acknowledged that the grant match includes \$2,500 for landscaping which will be covered by Custodian salaries and County Office Building funds and \$51,000 for parking lot paving from the Maintenance County Office Building line item in the FY15 Capital budget. The Council also acknowledged that other expense line items in the operating budget will also be utilized. Additionally, the Council recognized its September 1, 2015 decision to seek \$125,000 and its subsequent decision, via phone poll, to change the requested amount to \$137,500, due to an increase in the project estimate.

MARYLAND AVIATION ADMINISTRATION SPECIAL GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION REQUEST-RUNWAY REPAIRS-AIRPORT

The Council approved the request of Meighan K. Chisholm, Airport Manager, to submit a Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) Special Grant Application for funds to repair the runway surface at an estimated cost of \$59,284 and approved the selected vendors. The Council acknowledged that: 1) the request will be for 75% of the eligible cost, not to exceed \$44,463, with Dorchester County being responsible for the remaining 25% or \$14,821; 2) funds from the FY16 Capital Budget line items for the airport expansion project will be utilized to cover the County's share; 3) MAA will make funding determinations in January-February; and 4) work must be completed by June 30, 2016.

COUNTY EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM RECOMMENDATION-EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Mr. Goldman advised that the current contract for the County's Emergency Notification System is up for renewal in December. The Council approved the recommendation of Steve Garvin, Emergency Management Planner, and Kim Vickers, 911 Center Communications Chief, to select Everbridge, the lowest bidder, as the vendor for the system, at the cost of \$10,000. The Council acknowledged that a \$920 one-time cost will be waived if a contract is executed prior to December 18, 2015.

REQUEST TO EXPEND EXELON GENERATION GRANT MONEY-UPGRADE FURNITURE-EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

The Council, based on a request submitted by Steve Garvin, Emergency Management Planner, agreed to sole source and purchase 10 tables from National Business Furniture at the cost of \$4,863.22 utilizing funds from the \$10,000 donation/grant the County received from Exelon Generation to upgrade the Emergency Operations Center. The Council acknowledged that a County financial commitment is not required. The Council also agreed to declare the existing six 72" tables as surplus property. The Council approved the use of less than \$1,000 of these funds to replace the electrical floor boxes, which were installed over 15 years ago. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Price, Mr. Goldman advised that there is approximately \$5,000 in donation/grant funds remaining and that proposed uses for these monies are being discussed, including the possibility of using them for a backup center.

MARYLAND RURAL COUNTIES COALITION PARTICIPATION-BUDGET

The Council agreed to to continue its participation in the Maryland Rural Counties Coalition and to contribute \$2,000 to the coalition as a membership investment for 2016. The Council also appointed Councilman Satterfield as the County's representative to this coalition.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Terry Wheatley, resident, referenced the job posting for the Emergency Services Director position and, in particular, the residency and/or drive time and availability requirements. In response to a question from Ms. Wheatley, Mr. Goldman explained that the current method for calculating mileage is to utilize Google maps.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Bradshaw explained that the Clean Chesapeake Coalition members agreed to not file a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court, on behalf of the American Farm Bureau, requesting the review of the decision of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals to uphold the 2010 Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) established by the Environmental Protection Agency. He referred to a memorandum from Charles MacLeod, Legal Counsel, Clean Chesapeake Coalition, which includes references to a court ruling that the TMDLs are a plan and not a mandate. He suggested that this document be provided to Tom Moore, Public Works Director, for review and the possible modification of the County's draft Watershed Implementation Plan.

Councilman Satterfield referenced an inquiry from a citizen several months ago about a small building on Elliott's Island across from a church. He said it has been demolished.

The Council agreed to close County offices on December 24, 2015.

Councilman Bradshaw said Senator Adelaide Eckardt advised him today that an individual was recently appointed as the new Commander for the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Council agreed to invite this individual to participate in a boat tour of the Tar Bay Channel, the same tour the Secretaries of the Maryland Department of Environment and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources attended in October 2015.

Senator Eckardt explained that the local delegation is in the process of drafting legislation which will be pre-filed. She advised Council that they have spoken to Maryland Board of Elections staff regarding Council's concerns about not being provided an opportunity to submit comments on salary adjustments for Elections personnel or account for those adjustments in the County's budget. She said they have advised that they will make every effort to ensure that the Council is involved in that process. Senator Eckardt noted that the local delegation will monitor this matter.

Senator Eckardt referenced Councilman Bradshaw's August 18, 2015 inquiry about the possible pursuit of legislation to allow home school children to attend programs at the Dorchester Career and Technology Center. She explained that it is a State policy and that the local delegation will seek a change in this policy.

Senator Eckardt advised that she attended the recent Delmarva Water Transport Committee meeting and one of the topics discussed was dredging. She noted the new Baltimore District Commander, Edward P. Chamberlayne, was present and reminded attendees the number one mission of the Army Corps is navigation to support economic growth and as a form of Homeland Security. She said he spoke about dredging channels. She stated that during this discussion she told him about the need to dredge in the Hoopers Island area and he expressed an interest in participating in a tour of the area.

Senator Eckardt noted that another topic of discussion was dredge spoil sites which are handled by a separate Army Corps district. She said at the meeting she met a gentleman with the Coast Guard who views potential sites and identifies channels that may need to be changed. She stated that she will send the Council his contact information since he may be able to provide some assistance in addressing dredging needs in the County.

The Council requested clarification on whether Public Works staff attend Delmarva Water Transport Committee meetings.

**PUBLIC HEARING-COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
PROGRESS REPORTS - HOUSING STUDY RESULTS PRESENTATION-DR.
TOSSEY-GRANT MONITOR**

Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, explained that pursuant to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) regulations public hearings are required on the progress of grant funded projects. She said there will be two public hearings. She explained the first public hearing is for the Community Development Block Grant generator project at Cambridge

South Dorchester High School. Ms. Smith explained that the DHCD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds of \$880,000 for this project are being used to purchase and install a generator for the emergency shelter at the school.

She advised that: 1) construction at the school began over Thanksgiving weekend; 2) the majority of the conduit is installed; 3) there will be more weekend conduit installation before the holiday break; 4) the generator is being manufactured and will be complete by year end; 5) a custom enclosure is needed; 6) delivery of the entire system will occur in the first quarter of 2016, possibly as soon as February; 7) a modification has been made to the contract to add an auxiliary tank donated by the Board of Education; and 8) the timing of the pouring of a pad for the generator will be dependent upon weather.

There were no public comments.

Ms. Smith said the second public hearing is on the progress of the Substandard Housing Study for which CDBG funds were utilized. She explained that Dr. Marvin Tossey, Founder and Director, Salisbury University Center for Family and Community Life, conducted the study which included all areas of Dorchester County, including the municipalities. She advised that it has been completed and he is present to provide the study results. She noted that the data, which was collected on iPads, was mapped on an internal Geographic Information System website.

Dr. Tossey presented the results of the housing study.

Ms. Smith noted that a link to the housing study is on the County's website under the Finance and Treasury Department. She explained that the data was uploaded onto an internal website to ensure that protect the privacy and confidentiality of property owners and is not publicly accessible. She said the Council members and municipal representatives can ask her for specific information on the study.

There were no public comments.

Councilman Nichols expressed his understanding that many houses are vacant because heirs, who have moved away, fail to claim property. Dr. Tossey said this is frequently the case and it is compounded by the lack of clear property titles.

Councilman Bradshaw referenced the housing study results relating to Blackwater Road, which is considered a distressed area, noting that 30 years ago it was a thriving community until damage, as a result of Hurricane Isabel, forced many from their homes.

Dr. Tossey said the study was completed in nine months pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Travers.

Councilman Price noted that the north Dorchester area was referenced in the County's Comprehensive Plan as having the most potential for growth. In response to a question

from Councilman Price, Dr. Tossey said new construction from Route 16 East through the Towns of East New Market, Secretary and Hurlock indicates growth.

The Council thanked Dr. Tossey for presenting the results of the housing study.

Councilman Travers announced the following: 1) members of the Dorchester County Council will attend a work session with Chesapeake College Staff and Board Members to discuss college initiatives on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 5 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Cambridge/Dorchester Regional Airport, 5263 Bucktown Road, Cambridge, Maryland; and 2) the next County Council meeting will be held on December 15, 2015.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

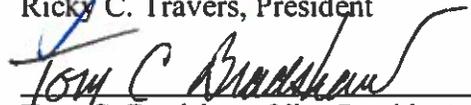


Jeremy Goldman
County Manager

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:



Ricky C. Travers, President



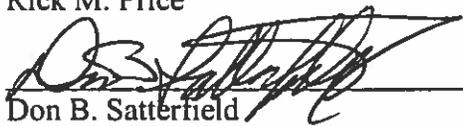
Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President



William V. Nichols



Rick M. Price



Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 15th day of December, 2015.