

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2012

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on November 13, 2012 with the following members present: Present were Jay L. Newcomb, President; William V. Nichols, Vice President; Ricky Travers; Rick Price and Tom Bradshaw. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney and Tina Perry, Executive Administrative Secretary. Absent was Jane Baynard, County Manager.

REGULAR SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned from a Regular Session and convened in a closed Executive Session pursuant to State Government Article pursuant to §10-508(A)(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 §10-508(A)(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.

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

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmen Travers 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

The Council approved the October 16, 2012 minutes.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved vouchers as presented with Councilman Newcomb abstaining for payments made to Old Salty's Restaurant.

FINANICAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Newcomb reported total cash and investments as \$13,462,808.42

EXECUTIVE SESSION SUMMARY

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in an Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. on November 13, 2012 in a closed session at Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland, pursuant to the State Government Article pursuant to §10-508(A)(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 §10-508(A)(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.

Motion made, seconded and carried to conduct a closed session pursuant to the above. All members of the Council with exception of Councilmen Bradshaw and Travers, who joined the meeting later while in session, voted in the affirmative to conduct the closed session for the purposes stated above and to discuss the topics listed above.

REGULAR SESSION

MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS-2012 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Senator Richard Colburn and Delegate Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio joined the meeting to discuss Council's requested legislative initiatives for the 2013 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session.

Senator Colburn advised that, pursuant to the legislative pack he received from Council, he requested a bill be drafted to amend Section 16-301 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to add paragraph (f)(3) to require a super majority vote for any Chesapeake College capital project requiring long term debt service and Section 16-406, paragraph (a)(1) to allow the support counties of the college the opportunity to submit nominations for the Board of Trustees for their respective jurisdictions. He said Senator Edward J. Pipkin has agreed to co-sponsor the legislation. In response to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Senator Colburn advised that he spoke to the Caroline County Commissioners and the Talbot County Council regarding these proposed amendments. He said it is his understanding that Chesapeake College and Talbot County Council representatives may testify against both bills and that the County Council should be prepared to testify in support of the legislative. Pursuant an inquiry from Senator Colburn, Councilman Newcomb explained that the Council's decision to seek participation in the College's Board of Trustees nomination process is not based on their concerns regarding the current Dorchester County representatives. Senator Colburn expressed his belief that if legislation to allow the local supporting counties to submit three names to the Governor for consideration is passed by the House and Senate, Governor Martin O'Malley may not sign the bill into law since it reduces his authority.

Councilman Bradshaw said he was not opposed to the Center for Allied Health and Athletics project and instead was concerned about undertaking a future commitment of funds when there was uncertainty with economic forecasts. He said it is his understanding that out of the five support counties eleven Council Members/Commissioners voted against the project, nine votes for the project and one abstained.

Senator Colburn advised that he is in favor of the restoration of highway user revenues to local jurisdictions and the restoration of police aid.

Delegate Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio explained that the local Delegates meet as group to discuss legislative requests from local jurisdictions and then decide how to vote and procedurally move forward therefore she cannot make any commitment to pursuing the amendments relating to Chesapeake College. She said she recently received the Council's legislative packet and has not had a chance to fully review that document. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Newcomb, she advised that she personally understood the Council's fiscal position and has met with Chesapeake College representatives to relay that position.

Councilman Nichols noted that the Council recently incurred debt service in order to fund the construction of a Career and Technology Center at the approximate cost of \$37 million and that the Dorchester County Board of Education has identified the next public school project as the construction of a new North Dorchester High School with a projected cost of \$20 million. He said Council cannot continue to fund capital projects in light of continuing financial constraints and still maintain services for residents. He expressed concern that Chesapeake College representatives may wish to pursue a new project in the near future and noted that there are no available County funds for such an endeavor, particularly due to unfunded mandates, significant reductions to state aid, and the passage of costs previously borne by the State.

Councilman Bradshaw expressed his belief that Chesapeake College representatives should have considered using the building currently occupied by Shore Health in lieu of constructing a new facility. He noted that the Council acquired debt service for the Center for Allied Health and Athletics project and is responsible for an annual cost of \$120,000 over the next 20 years.

Councilman Price concurred with Councilman Bradshaw that an alternative to constructing a new facility should have been considered, including the possible renovation of the existing building.

Senator Colburn requested that the Council submit any salary requests, particularly relating to elected officials, during the upcoming session in order to remove politics from the equation since 2014 is an election year. Councilman Newcomb expressed his understanding that there is still legislation in place that incrementally increases the Sheriff's salary.

Councilman Newcomb noted that during the 2012 Maryland General Assembly legislative session, at Council's request, a bill was introduced to revise State law to allow qualified organizations, including volunteer fire companies, to hold bingo events on Sundays in Dorchester County. He said Council would still like to seek this legislation, noting that members from several local volunteer fire companies have also advised that they would like it re-filed.

In response to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Senator Colburn said he will reintroduce the legislation until it is adopted. He noted that although the bill passed the Senate, it stalled in the House Ways and Means Committee. He expressed his belief that the Committee members did not enact on the legislation as they considered it as a gambling bill.

Councilman Newcomb noted that volunteer fire company members usually hold events, such as dinners, on Saturdays and typically hold special events, i.e. for cancer patients, on Sundays.

Delegate Haddaway-Riccio advised Council that she and Delegate Adelaide Eckardt entered the bill to allow qualified organizations to hold bingo events on Sundays in the County and that Delegate Eckardt recently advised her that she requested that the same bill be drafted for the upcoming session. Delegate Haddaway-Riccio said she will co-sponsor the bill.

Senator Colburn said the local delegation will explore the possibility of meeting with Delegate Shelia Hixson, Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, regarding the proposed legislation. Councilman Travers noted that the legislation only pertains to Dorchester County. Councilman Newcomb expressed his opinion that the Committee members may have been hesitant to act on the legislation as they associated the fraternal organizations included in the bill with gambling. Delegate Haddaway-Riccio said because legislation relating to electronic bingo machines passed during the 2012 special session, the Committee members may view the legislation differently.

Councilman Newcomb noted that the Council also included in its legislative pack a discussion regarding the Eastern Shore Communications Alliance members' position statement about crafting legislation to codify into law the governance structure for the Statewide 700 MHz communication system.

Senator Colburn expressed his understanding that Clay Stamp, Director of Talbot County Emergency Services, is working with Caroline and Queen Anne's representatives to seek inclusion into the process. He said he believes the Council should partner with those counties and expressed his belief that the bulk of the funding for a Statewide system should be provided by the State.

Delegate Haddaway-Riccio said the local delegation sent correspondence to the Governor's Office regarding codifying a governance structure over the summer. She and Senator Colburn said they will send a second letter with the inclusion of Dorchester

County. Delegate Haddaway-Riccio said at that time the Maryland State Police were taking the lead on the project but as of last week it was announced that the State Department of Information and Technology will be the lead agency. She expressed her understanding that staff in that department may seek legislation to create a Control Board as the governing body for the statewide interoperability initiative.

Councilman Newcomb noted that the Council is requesting that the local delegation support the inclusion of the expansion of Sunday turkey hunting on public land in Dorchester County. Senator Colburn said he has already requested that the bill be drafted. In response to an inquiry from Senator Colburn, the Council agreed that an emergency bill should be submitted since the turkey season begins in April. Based on a question from Councilman Newcomb, Senator Colburn expressed his belief that the legislation will pass; citing his understanding that there is a large turkey population in the County. He noted that if entities, such as the Department of Natural Resources, express concern about the effective date it can be modified.

Senator Colburn said he supports the dualization of Route 404 and the construction of a new Dover Bridge. He explained that there are right-of-way and mitigation funds available for the bridge construction project. He noted that plans are underway for a spring groundbreaking for the new regional hospital in Easton, by the Airport and that he is opposed to moving the location of that facility any further west. He expressed his understanding that some of the State legislators and members of the leadership in Queen Anne's County and Caroline County are opposed to the location and want the facility to be constructed in Queen Anne's County. Senator Colburn noted that a new emergency center was recently constructed in Queen Anne's County which will serve the residents in that area. He said a new modern facility is needed to serve the residents in Dorchester, Talbot and Caroline. He encouraged the Council to send a letter of support for the construction of the new regional hospital once the Certificate of Need process commences. Delegate Haddaway-Riccio concurred with Senator Colburn.

Delegate Adelaide Eckardt joined the meeting.

Councilman Price said he supports for the restoration of highway user revenues, noting that there are over 600 miles of road in the County, many of which are in need of repair or maintenance for which there is limited funding available. He said the municipalities in the County are also in need of funds to maintain their roads. Councilman Bradshaw stated that several residents have expressed concern that the fuel tax that is being collected in Dorchester County is not being returned. Senator Colburn said he supports the restoration of highway user funds.

Councilman Newcomb summarized the legislative items already addressed with Delegate Eckardt, noting that there was a discussion regarding legislation to allow Sunday bingo events to be held in Dorchester County. He explained that Senator Colburn and Delegate Haddaway-Riccio expressed their belief that it was not passed during the 2012 legislation session due to concerns regarding gambling. Delegate Eckardt concurred.

Councilman Newcomb noted that the Council agreed to the submission of an emergency bill to allow turkey hunting on private land on Sundays due to the April commencement of that hunting season. Delegate Eckardt said she supports that legislation and that it is her understanding Maryland Department of Natural Resources staff has also discussed seeking such legislation. She apologized for her late arrival noting that she attended a Spending Affordability briefing today. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Price, Delegate Eckardt stated that the State budget outlook for the next fiscal year is cautiously optimistic. She said there may be discussions undertaken during the State budget process regarding the increase in the State's debt serve for capital projects; that revenues are growing slowly and that there are a lot of system needs, particularly relating to transportation, that need to be addressed. She stated that possible taxing issues may be discussed. Senator Colburn said it is his understanding that there may be a future discussion regarding a potential fuel tax increase. He expressed his belief that the Eastern Shore jurisdictions and residents have not recovered from the recession, which depends on employment, and if there is lame duck Congress a deeper recession will occur.

Councilman Travers advised that the Council cannot absorb the cost for any additional unfunded State or Federal mandates, projects or programs and cannot continue to balance the State budget deficit nor fund projects that are being developed on the Western Shore. He noted that local jurisdictions now have to absorb the costs for teachers' pensions and the local Assessments Office. He referenced the new septic regulations implemented by the State which require local jurisdictions to map their areas in tiers in addition to critical area restrictions which results in 92% of the land in the County being unbuildable.

Senator Colburn expressed his understanding that residents in larger counties such as Montgomery and Prince George's are not dependent on septic tanks to the extent Dorchester County residents are since there are no critical areas in those jurisdictions. He said the majority of the bills that implement restrictions on watermen and farmers are introduced by legislators on the Western Shore, who are not cognizant of the needs of the Eastern Shore residents.

In response to a question from Councilman Newcomb regarding a recent development constructed on Kent Island, Senator Colburn expressed his belief that Kent County is exempt from the Critical Areas law. Councilman Travers said it is his understanding that there are 15 to 18 lots located in that development.

Councilman Newcomb noted that County staff and the Council members have requested exceptions from the Critical Area Law for Dorchester County to no avail. He said he knows individuals who purchased a lot several years ago in anticipation of their retirement, and now that they are ready to build on the property, due to State law they cannot develop the land. Senator Colburn expressed his opposition to rendering the majority of Dorchester County unbuildable.

Councilman Bradshaw said State regulations have negatively impacted watermen in the County and it is his understanding farmers are now being targeted.

Councilman Price advised that several watermen have expressed concern that they are receiving consistent updates regarding the closure of waters for oyster harvesting. Senator Colburn said, in his opinion, the most productive oyster sites were placed into sanctuaries. He clarified that the majority of the legislation that has been detrimental to the seafood and agricultural industry has been introduced by Senators and Delegates in areas where their residents are not dependent on these industries.

Councilman Newcomb said local watermen have expressed their belief that dredging has substantially improved the oyster population, noting that Talbot County watermen are catching their limit by 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. He asked Senator Colburn and Delegate Haddaway-Riccio to encourage the Governor and Department of Natural Resources Secretary John R. Griffin to increase dredging efforts. Councilman Bradshaw concurred.

Councilman Bradshaw expressed concern that pursuant to legislation passed during the 2012 legislative session maintenance of effort will be calculated based on a statewide five year moving average which will affect the County's FY 2016 budget and beyond. Senator Colburn said he believes that the State's action to shift a portion of teacher pension costs to local jurisdictions was unfair and that they should not be held responsible for contracts made by the State in the past. Councilman Bradshaw noted that many private companies have frozen retirement benefits for new hires and are offering a 401k with no company match and suggested that the State consider a similar solution. He said it is his understanding that the Caroline County Commissioners may increase that jurisdiction's property tax rate in order to cover the cost of teachers' pensions.

Councilman Nichols noted that during the 2012 election campaign advertisements promoting an election ballot referendum question relating to slot machines aired. He said it was referenced in those advertisements that if it passed, additional revenue will be garnered which will be applied towards education. He noted that it did pass and suggested the State consider using those funds to pay for teachers' pensions instead of passing those costs to local jurisdictions. Councilman Price noted that lottery receipts are also supposed to be dedicated for education. Senator Colburn explained that while there were reductions in highway user fund distributions and in other areas of the State budget education funding was increased when it should have been reduced as well.

Councilman Newcomb noted that two more counties have agreed to participate in a coalition of local governments to ensure the accuracy and effectiveness of the Bay Total Maximum Daily Load regulations and Watershed Implementation Plans. Senator Colburn expressed his belief that local jurisdictions cannot continue to cover the cost of unfunded State and Federal mandates.

Delegate Eckardt encouraged Council to contact the local delegation if they have any additional legislative requests they would like to pursue as soon as possible in order for them to have the opportunity to file legislation, if necessary. Councilman Travers explained that the Board of License Commissioners will be considering at least one legislative request at its next meeting and if they choose to proceed with legislation they

will provide it to the Council for its review. Councilman Newcomb noted that the next County Council meeting is December 4, 2012.

Councilman Newcomb asked if any of the public wanted to speak to the legislators regarding any concerns or requests they may have regarding legislation. There was no response.

The Council thanked Senator Colburn and Delegate Eckardt and Delegate Haddaway-Riccio for attending the meeting to discuss legislative initiatives and proposals for the 2013 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session.

ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION MEETING-MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Darrell Mobley, Acting Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation, opened by thanking the Council for the opportunity to discuss the draft capital program for transportation funding for 2013. Mr. Mobley acknowledged that the following individuals were present to provide a brief overview of their perspective areas: Sean Agerson, Deputy Administrator, Motor Vehicle Administration; Beth Kreider, Director of Local Transit Support, Motor Transit Administration; Katie Parks, Assistant Director of Real Estate, Maryland Department of Transportation; Frank Hamons, Deputy Director Harbor Development, Maryland Port Administration; Melinda Peters, Administrator, State Highway Administration; Donnie Drewer, District Engineer, State Highway Administration; and Ashish Solanki, Director of Regional Aviation, Maryland Aviation Administration.

Mr. Mobley began discussions by thanking the residents of Dorchester County for their understanding and patience during the rehabilitation on US 301 and Route 50 relating to the bridge work under construction while citing the limited time period to complete the project. Pursuant to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. Mobley stated that the estimated timeframe for completion of the project is spring of 2013.

Mr. Mobley thanked the Council for working with the Maryland Department of Transportation during Hurricane Sandy. He noted that for safety reasons it was necessary to shut down the Bay Bridge for approximately 18 hours during the peak of the storm as a result of high winds and excessive wind gust. Mr. Mobley stated that after the winds diminished inspectors were on site to examine the structure of the bridge prior to its reopening.

Mr. Mobley said that 18% of the Department's Consolidated Transportation Program is funded through federal aid and is a significant source of funding for the Department of Transportation but that it has not been a stable funding source. He stated that the prior transportation safety bill expired in 2009 and since that time the Department of Transportation has had to depend on a series of non extension by Congress which has not assured a stable funding source long term. Mr. Mobley explained that during the past summer Congress passed a two year bill called MAP-21 authorizing surface

transportation programs but leaving the funding essentially flat. He stated that in FY 2013 and 2014 Maryland will receive approximately \$580 million in highway funding and \$200 million for transit funding which was essentially the funding amount received in FY 2012. Mr. Mobley clarified that the funding will allow for payment of projects currently underway, but will not provide additional funding for major or new projects. He stated however moving forward MAP-21 funding will be used for a variety of work planning in the County for next year which includes nearly \$4 million for resurfacing work which is scheduled to begin in spring 2013. Mr. Mobley said that the Department of Transportation will continue to work with the Congressional Delegation to maximize opportunities for future federal funding to ensure efforts to close the federal deficit does not disproportionately impact transportation funding. He added that State funding for transportation also remains essentially flat.

Mr. Mobley explained that the revenue projections faced in the six year capital program showed slow financial growth for the past fiscal year while noting that projections were accurate and that the Department of Transportation was able to fund all projects currently in the Consolidated Transportation Program and no cuts were necessary. He stated that the Department of Transportation's has closely monitored its revenue and expenditures in its effort to control cost but he noted that in order to move forward in expanding Maryland's transportation network additional revenue to fund roads, bridges and transit projects will be needed. Mr. Mobley indicated that despite economic challenges there are signs of progress to include the Port of Baltimore setting a new record during the month of July for most cargo tons handled in one month which surpassed records held during the previous month of April. He continued stating that an additional sign of progress is a new 50 foot seagirt marine terminal which will open this fall and once fully operational and complete in 2015, Baltimore will be one of only two ports on the US east coast with an operating berth depth for larger ships. Mr. Mobley said that the use of Baltimore Port has increased substantially and that it is utilized by several local businesses in Dorchester County to include Cambridge, Incorporated, GKD USA and POK, Incorporated.

Mr. Mobley stated that the Department of Transportation is continuing to make progress in Dorchester County in that it has addressed flooding issues on Hoopers Island Road Maryland Route 335 and is continuing to raise the profile of the road surface. He continued noting the recent completion of the third segment north of the Wallace Creek Bridge and the installation of ADA improvements and sidewalks on Washington Street within the City of Cambridge.

In closing, Mr. Mobley stated that the ability of State and local jurisdictions to partner in the days ahead is essential to addressing mutual priorities.

Ms. Kreider provided Council with an overview of the Motor Transit Administration. She opened by stating that transit ridership across the State has increased and that in Dorchester County it has increased by nearly 3% from last year to more than 116 thousand trips. Ms. Kreider noted that the increase indicates a real demand for transit. She explained that the increase in ridership creates challenges for State and local government to look for innovative and effective ways to meet the demand within

constraint budgets. Ms. Kreider stated that through State support the Motor Transit Administration has been able to maintain consistent funding for locally operated transit systems across the State. She explained that in FY 2013 Dorchester County will receive in excess \$600,000 State and federal grant operating assistance to help support transit operations. Ms. Kreider said that Delmarva Community Transit was successful in receiving a grant award to provide transit services for the elderly, those with disabilities, and low income individuals on the weekend, mid day and evening service to job centers and to support regional mobility transit information center. She stated that in addition, the County is awarded nearly \$300,000 in capital funding which will be utilized for preventive maintenance and to purchase bus cameras, radios, a minivan, and a heavy duty bus. Ms. Kreider continued in stating that through the 5310 program nonprofit organizations can obtain equipment or maintenance funding grant and announced that the Dorchester County Commission on Agency for Pleasant Day Adult Day Care was able to acquire funding in the amount of \$10,800 for preventive maintenance support.

Ms. Kreider stated that Motor Transit Administration and the Maryland Department of Transportation support short line freight services in Dorchester County and on the Shore and that Motor Transit Administration engineering staff is working to complete final design in 2013 for rehabilitation of eight rail crossings on the Cambridge line, four of which are in Hurlock and she noted that Motor Transit Administration is in process of identifying funding for capital to support construction in 2013.

In closing, Ms. Kreider recognized and thanked Dorchester County's transit partners Jerome Stanley, Delmarva Community Transportation Operations Manager and Santo Grande, Delmarva Community Services Executive Director who are instrumental in ensuring that transit services are provided to County residents, and she thanked the Council for its support of Delmarva Community Transit.

Mr. Stanley thanked the Maryland Department of Transportation, the Motor Transit Administration and the Council for their continued support of Delmarva Community Transit operations.

Mr. Adgerson provided a brief overview of the Motor Vehicle Administration. He stated that the Motor Vehicle Administration is focusing on streamlining services concentrating on efficiency while reducing branch office visits by providing services through web-based services, 24-hour customer kiosk, and interactive voice recognition systems. Mr. Adgerson explained that over the past several years these services have reduced customer wait time and have increased overall customer satisfaction and have allowed customers using services to obtain identification cards and license renewals via those avenues. He stated that from another technology prospective, the Motor Vehicle Administration has embarked on capturing emails from individuals' using the internet or kiosks and has begin forwarding renewal notice via email which is at an estimated at a cost saving of approximately \$3,000 per month in postage. Mr. Adgerson added that legislation passed last year to change license renewals from five to eight years which will also reduce branch office visits.

He explained that in addition, the Motor Vehicle Administration is charged with focusing on public safety and educating drivers insuring that they understand the rules of the road. Mr. Adgerson stated that the written driving law test and skills test have been revamped in an effort to increase driving safety awareness. He explained that the skills test currently consist of a two part test – a closed course and a live traffic course to better determine if individuals are safe drivers. Mr. Adgerson closed in stating that the Motor Vehicle Administration will continue to work in partnership to ensure Maryland safe roads.

Councilman Newcomb said that he has received several complaints from residents regarding poor customer service and extended service wait time at the Motor Vehicle Administration Easton branch in comparison to the pleasant efficient service offered at the Salisbury branch office. Councilman Bradshaw concurred, voicing concerns of inadequate service at the Easton branch in comparison to the Salisbury branch.

Mr. Mobley apologized for any unpleasant experiences the Council and their constituents may have encountered while visiting the Easton Motor Vehicle branch. He explained that the Motor Vehicle Administration consistently trains and coaches staff to ensure that individuals experience the same efficient service at all branches. Mr. Mobley acknowledged that the District Manager of Easton and Salisbury facilities was in attendance at the meeting and that she will take all concerns under advisement and address the matter with the manager of the Easton team.

Councilman Newcomb added that recently a resident experienced having to reschedule an appointment at the Easton branch after being advised there was a backlog of paperwork due to the illness of personnel. Mr. Mobley expressed his displeasure in such procedures and thanked the Council for its comments.

Pursuant to a question from Councilman Bradshaw, Mr. Mobley stated that the eight year duration for driver's licensing is for non commercial license renewals as commercial licensing is directed under federal standards and is not controlled by the State.

In response to a question from Councilman Price, Mr. Mobley stated that residents may obtain a copy of their driving record by using the internet or by visiting one of the Motor Vehicle Administration's kiosks.

Mr. Hamons provided a brief overview of the State's dredging program. He stated that there are plans to expand the Poplar Island wetland restoration project in Talbot County starting at 2015 or 2016 having the operational phase of the project completed about 2019, which will be approximately 50% wetlands and 50% uplands. He said that there are plans to restore 52 acres of habitat at Masonville Cove, one of the largest Brownfield's.

Mr. Hamons explained that in order to move forward with the Mid-Bay Islands (James and Barren Islands) Projects steps to obtain authorization from Congress in a Water Resource Development Act needs to occur. He stressed that the project is critical in that

it will create a habitat for waterfowl in off shore waters and is an important project from the Port of Baltimore and the State and he noted that Dorchester County has been very supportive of the Mid-Bay Project. Councilman Newcomb questioned if the Council send an additional letter to Senators Benjamin Cardin and Barbara Mikulski and Congressman Andy Harris requesting their assistance in attaining that authorization. The Council agreed to send another letter to Senators Cardin and Mikulski and Congressman Harris.

Ms. Parks provided a brief update regarding the Cambridge Redevelopment Project. She stated that in addition to the transportation updates, the Department of Transportation is seeking to leverage transportation assets for economic development. Ms. Parks added that the Department of Transportation is currently working with the City of Cambridge and Dorchester County on the redevelopment of the Cambridge Marine Terminal site, noting that the Maryland Port Authority does not perceive feasibility for that site as a port facility and would like to utilize it to spur economic development and smart growth. She thanked the County for its partnership in the developer's selection team and as well as the project team and she commended the professionalism of Jane Baynard, County Manager and Keasha Haythe, Economic Development Director as team members while emphasizing that a continuing partnership will be integral to the project's success. Ms. Parks stated that previously this year the Jerome J. Parks Corporation, an Annapolis based company, was selected as the developer for the project. She explained four phases of project with the first phase including the economic development component – working with the Smart Growth subcommittee to form a working group which will coordinate with State agencies, the City of Cambridge, Economic Development and Tourism to identify what investments are taking place through the Department of Transportation and other State agencies as well seeking opportunities to utilize programs in an effort to leverage the Smart designation for the site to coordinate all resources that are available; the second phase – begin working on the development team sheet in an effort to start looking at the feasibility of each component for the site; the third phase being infrastructure planning - a need for a development plan to determine what type of infrastructure is needed for redevelopment of the site for which it has been determined that Governor's Hall is an important venue of the community and the Department of Transportation is reviewing options for replacement and has identified that the wharf and bulkhead will need to be replaced but will be funded through different mechanisms; and the fourth phase being public outreach to ensure that the community is engaged in all aspects of the project by obtaining community feedback through the development team prior to the formal process which is slated to begin early next year.

Ms. Peters introduced Mr. Drewer and Doug Simmons, Deputy Administrator and Regional Planners Eric Beckett and Tonya Mitoni who were in the audience. She began discussions by addressing local needs and priorities. Ms. Peters stated that safety is a paramount concern and that State Highway Administration programs focus on safety and system preservation from a complete streets approach looking at them from all users of the roadways and the safety of all roadways i.e. vehicle, pedestrian, bicyclist, transit vehicle or commercial vehicle. She said that the State Highway Administration recognizes that education and enforcement in partnership with the Highway Safety Office

and the Motor Vehicle Administration are critical components. Ms. Peters mentioned the ADA improvements along MD 343 which was completed last spring and that the State Highway Administration looks to provide pedestrian crosswalks, pedestrian signals and other enhancements to pedestrian's accommodations across roadways. She explained that an area of focus for the State Highway Administration, which is somewhat on the outside the footprint of the State Highway, is the enhancing the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and to that end are concentrating on reforestation and stream projects and other initiatives to improve water quality along the roadways. Ms. Peters stated that while the State Highway Administration has been fiscally constrained, the agency remains focused maintaining existing facilities and she noted that approximately \$2 million in system preservation projects in Dorchester were completed last year. She stated that the State Highway Administration will be moving forward this spring with some resurfacing projects as the agency is focused on extending the life and duration of pavement and are looking at various maintenance options and preservation of roadways. Ms. Peters said that another area of focus is traffic operations and the use of technology to communicate with motorists to obtain traffic conditions and congestion along roadways by calling "511" or by going online at "MD511". She closed in thanking the Council for its partnership with the State Highway Administration.

Mr. Drewer reviewed with Council the State Highway Administration's Safety, Congestion Relief, Highway and Bridge Preservation Program. He stated that in FY12 safety/spot improvement of MD 343 Washington Street from Pine Street to St. Clair Avenue was completed with ADA accessibility upgrades and pedestrian crosswalks and that the location was repaved. Mr. Drewer explained that as a result of the mild winter in 2011 the State Highway Administration was able to utilize winter surplus funding to complete several FY12 and FY 13 resurfacing/rehabilitation projects in the County to include MD 343 from Leonard Lane to US Route 50; MD 750 from to US 50 West to US 50 East; MD 331 from beginning of State maintenance to Indiantown Road in Vienna; MD 16 from 335 from Brannocks Neck Road through Church Creek. He said that the streetscape in Vienna has not yet been completed but paving of the road was completed. Mr. Drew continued and stating that repaving of US 50 from Austin Road to Chateau Road east and west bound were completed and that from MD 335 north to Wallace Creek Bridge to Blackwater Bridge was completed and that the Blackwater Bridge roadway was raised approximately two inches and that the piping in that area was inspected to ensure that they were clean and structurally sound. He stated that the project was a substantial project in that it consisted of nearly 5.3 miles of roadway. Mr. Drewer said that in FY13 and FY 14 under resurfacing/rehabilitation approximately two miles on MD 313 north of Moon Pine Road to MD 14 had recently been completed and that roughly one half mile of 313 from the Sharptown Bridge to Galestown Road had also been repaved. He said that beginning this year repaving will commence on US Route 50 from Choptank River Bridge to Bucktown Road both east and west bound lanes. Mr. Drewer stated that under community safety and enhancements program Church Creek streetscape project continues to be on hold but stressed that the paving of the roadway had been addressed. He said that under enhancements program the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center is under construction and that it is anticipated that parking lot will be completed within the next year.

Mr. Drewer addressed previous concerns expressed by Council regarding Aireys Road Spur to the west end of US 50 and the need for placement of flex posts to restrict cross movement but allow left turn movement from Route 50 east and west. He said that it is estimated that flex post will be in place by the end of year. Mr. Drewer also addressed the need for a guardrail on Route 343 where there had previously been a fatal accident near the vicinity of a tree. He advised that a guardrail in the prospective area is warranted and will be installed by the end of the year. Mr. Drewer stated that due to lack of funding the State Highway Administration cannot share maintenance of responsibility for the riverwalk at the Visitor Center.

Councilman Travers stated that unfortunately Hurricane Sandy caused significant damage to the riverwalk.

Mr. Drewer addressed two questions posed earlier by Council to include possible guardrail installation on the shoulder of west bound US 50 at Mill Road at the corner of Breckenridge Farm corn maze going west toward Linkwood Manor. He said that the matter was investigated and that it had been determined that a guardrail unwarranted in that area. Mr. Drewer advised that Jay Meredith, Resident Engineer, has suggested to the farmer that he move the maze further back from the shoulder.

Mr. Drewer continued stating that the State Highway Administration will conduct a study to establish if a street light is warranted on Route 331 at turn on Skeet Club Road. Councilman Price clarified that residents in the vicinity have expressed concerns regarding poor visibility in the area. Mr. Drewer said that he would look into the matter and get back to Council regarding findings.

Mr. Drewer stated that visibility concerns at Cabin Creek Road and Route 16 were reviewed last year and at that at that time road signage was relocated in an effort to improve visibility. He mentioned that he had visited the location earlier during the day and explained to Council that the State does not have the right of way to move what appears to be a mound which is the lay of land and suggested that a possible solution maybe to move the stop bar and stop sign further out as it may provide a clearer view for drivers. Mr. Drewer said that the State Highway Administration will continue to look into the matter. Councilman Price thanked Mr. Drewer for continuing efforts to investigate the matter further.

Mr. Drewer stated that the Route 331 paving/resurfacing project through the Town of Hurlock is not budgeted in the FY14 State Highway Administration program but will likely be included in the FY15 program noting that the area is stressed but remains functional. He said that he had spoken previously with Town officials regarding the matter and that he believed they were referencing Neaslon Street, which was used a designated truck route wherein years previously trucks were prohibited from using Route 331 and in an effort to accommodate them they used Neaslon Street. Mr. Drewer explained that over the years truck traffic has taken a toll on Neaslon Street and it is his understanding, according to Town officials, the Town of Hurlock lost its highway user

funding and have no funds available to repave the street. Mr. Drewer stated that because Nealson Street is not State road there is no funding available for paving but he noted that during the time traffic was being detoured from the Marshyhope Creek Bridge in Federalsburg and truck traffic was rerouted to Route 331, the State Highway Administration used its lab van to assess the roughness of the roadway recording a before and after data. He said that if it is determined that there is a substantial difference in the roughness of the road it may justify the State repaving the road, but if there is not a big difference then it is undermined what action can be taken.

Councilman Travers stated that there is a precarious situation between Route 50 and Woods Road and the Walmart on the east bound lane as there is no pedestrian crossing or sidewalk. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Mr. Drewer stated that the area is being reviewed and has been included in the State Highway program but that it has not yet been determined which fiscal year the project will be included.

Councilman Bradshaw revisited the Aireys Road Spur area stating that he has several farmers who reside in Salem Drawbridge vicinity that have semi trucks that use the Aireys Road Spur to get to Pep Up and Royal Farmers for fuel question why a stop light was not installed in the area as the current traffic pattern cuts off access putting them further out the way. Mr. Drewer responded stating that a motorists coming out of Aireys Road turning right coming out of the east end still have the same movement, which may pose a slight inconvenience but does not put them too much out of their way. He added that studies confirm that installing traffic signals at some locations such as this location are not always the best solution as it may increase accidents.

Councilman Bradshaw commended Mr. Drewer on the paving completed on the overpass on Route 331 but expressed concerns that the scoffers are not channeling water off the road as the rock has caught sediment and has filled up. Mr. Drewer said that he would mention the matter to maintenance staff and have the sediment removed.

Senator Colburn thanked Acting Secretary Mobley and the Maryland Transportation Authority representatives for their attendance on behalf of the local delegation noting that Delegate Rudolph Cane was absent due to a prior commitment. He said that it was a pleasure working with Ms. Parks on the Sailwinds Project and noted that substantial progress will need to be made in 2013. Senator Colburn requested that Mr. Mobley address Dover Bridge which is utilized by Dorchester County residents when traveling to Easton Hospital and he echoed concerns of Church Creek Mayor Robert Herbert regarding rain water flooding from woodlands resulting from Hurricane Sandy.

Ms. Peters stated that Dover Bridge is fully funded for design and right of way. She said that the draft Consolidated Transportation Program did not include right of way funding but that the final Consolidated Transportation Program will reflect that change. Ms. Peters explained that the State Highway Administration is in midst of inspection of the bridge but have no results at this time. She stated that that previously the bridge did not fall into the structurally deficit category but that the State Highway Administration understands the priority and importance and is focused on the matter and have invested

funding over recent years for maintenance and managing approach issues and other challenges on the bridge while recognizing that it will be a several year project. Ms. Peters said that in understanding the importance of this project the design and right of way have been moved forward in order to move ahead with construction once funding has been identified. She stated that the project will cost \$40 million which includes \$660,000 for right of way and approximately \$4 million for design.

Councilman Bradshaw informed Mr. Drewer that the Brookview Bridge, which he drives a school bus over daily, is difficult for large vehicles to pass on and he expressed concerns pertaining to conditions of the bridge to include the bridge's decking, concrete and iron work. Councilman Bradshaw stated that like Dover Bridge, Brookview Bridge is an inner county connector which travelers use to go to Sussex County in Delaware and vice versa. Pursuant to a question from Senator Colburn, Mr. Drewer stated that the bridge was viewed last year and passed inspection but he stressed that the State will continue closely monitor the bridge. He explained that on average bridges are inspected every two years and in some cases are inspected every year depending on the condition of the bridge. Councilman Bradshaw said that he is aware of some instances particularly with new farm equipment of rubbing against the curb of the sidewalk. Mr. Drewer said that he would have staff look into the matter.

Pursuant to a question from Senator Colburn, Mr. Drewer stated that the State Highway Administration is aware of the drainage issues in the Town of Church Creek; however, the Highway Administration was waiting for streetscape project. He mentioned that there have been discussions internally regarding correcting drainage concerns and the Highway Administration will continue to seek corrective action and identify costs. Councilman Newcomb said that he believes that the ditches from the play field back to Church Creek are possibility stopped as a result of the growth of trees and grass that the State generally cleans out and maintains, which he believes the State has the right of way.

Mayor Herbert echoed Councilman Newcomb's concerns stating that the outlets require a broad cleaning which he anticipates will be an extensive project. He said that the storm drain collapsed over the past year and that emergency repairs had to be completed. Mayor Herbert stated that at the head wall of the ditch there is sand in the storm drain which is coming from the river and that several problems had stemmed from the recent storm. He explained that an old dirt logging road which was built years ago is likely clogging the ditching causing water runoff from the wooded area. Mayor Herbert said that he believes a solution to the problem is to redirect the water to Route 335. Mr. Drewer said that he would have Mr. Meredith meet with Mayor Herbert to view the site.

Councilman Newcomb stated that the family of the late Gerry Grindel, a Church Creek resident, wanted to thank Mr. Drewer and the State Highway Administration staff for the paving of Church Creek Road. Councilman Newcomb said that Mr. Grindel attended last year's Annual Transportation meeting and had expressed concerns regarding the roadway needing to be repaved. Councilman Newcomb said that the family was grateful that Mr. Grindel was able to see the project completed before his passing.

Councilman Newcomb expressed concern regarding the condition of the road at Route 16 coming from Church Creek Road onto Route 50 at Walmart noting that at the right turn on Route 50 going towards Salisbury there is rough-ripping asphalt. Councilman Nichols stated that the two left lane in that area are also in need of repair and paving as it is beginning to form into a sink hole. Mr. Drewer said that he will have staff view the area within the week.

Councilman Price echoed Senator Colburn's earlier remarks regarding Dover Bridge. He stated that in the last census the northern end of the County has seen significant growth and an increase in traffic has come from that growth, therefore, North Dorchester and Southern Caroline residents utilize and depend on the bridge for numerous uses to include the farm community and emergency services vehicles.

Mayor Joyce Spratt from the Town of Hurlock reiterated the need for repairs on Neelson Street noting that the street has become increasingly worse since the traffic has had to be rerouted as a result of the Federalsburg bridge.

Councilman Newcomb acknowledged Hurlock Town Councilman Charles Cephas who was in the audience.

Rufus Todd, resident, thanked the State Highway Administration for raising the Hoopers Island Road but noted that it needed to be raised more as water lays on roadway and bridge. He asked if additional blacktop over Spicer Creek and Maryland 335 after the Great Marsh Bridge as there are low areas where water settles. Mr. Drewer stated that the area had been paved previously. Tommy Gootte, a resident, also expressed concern in reference to low spots in the road stating that approximately 95% of the roadway is in good condition but that the lower areas near Spicer Bridge require elevation.

Delegate Eckardt thanked the Maryland Department of Transportation staff for their willingness to work with State and local officials in the best interest of residents.

Councilman Bradshaw expressed his disappointment that the State does not perceive feasibility for the for the Port property. He noted that he has worked in the transportation industry for a number of years and he knows that jobs through shipping at port and truck driving are good paying jobs and his constituents from the northern end of the County are not concerned about aesthetics – they are worried about jobs which are needed in the area. Councilman Bradshaw suggested that the State reconsider the best use for the property as the port is one of only two natural deep water ports on Eastern Shore. He said that he feels that there are a great deal of opportunities in the County amid both the rail line and giving that Cambridge is within proximity of the Interstate 95 corridor, Route 13, Richmond and Philadelphia. Councilman Bradshaw noted that there are two companies within the Dorchester County which utilize the Port of Baltimore and he stressed what better way to create jobs then for those companies to be able to utilize resources within the County.

Ms. Parks stated that the State is considering a broad picture regarding future opportunities for utilizing that site and said that Maryland Transportation Administration staff would be pleased to schedule a meeting with Council to provide more specifics.

Councilman Newcomb thanked the Maryland Department of Transportation representatives for their attendance to discuss issues relative to the infrastructure in Dorchester County.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION NARROW BANDING DISCUSSION

The Council met with Don Keyes, Information Technology Director, and Chris Abbott, Information Technology Communications Tech Specialist for a brief discussion regard Federal Communications Commission narrow banding. Mr. Abbott explained that the federal mandate requires that all existing licensees must use narrow band VHF radio systems which operate on channel bandwidths of 12.5 kHz or less by January 1, 2013. He further explained that the County's VHF paging system currently operates on a bandwidth of 25 kHz County infrastructure which supports narrow banding and that the paging system is used to notify volunteer firefighters, paramedics and ambulance crews to respond to an emergency. The Council was provided by Information Technology staff plans and a proposal to build additional transmitter sites in Dorchester County to ensure pager system coverage once sites are narrow banded with an estimated cost for a two site expansion. The Council took no action.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-TOWERS/INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT- HEALTH DEPARTMENT/SMITHVILLE

The Council approved a request of Mr. Abbott to sign off on drawings for MarylandFirst to permit the State of Maryland to begin the installation for the 700MHz radio point of presence at the Dorchester County Health Department. In addition, the Council approved second request of Mr. Abbott for the installation of equipment for the MarylandFirst 700MHz radio system on the Smithville tower.

The Council acknowledged that both tower projects will be at no cost to the County.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSURANCE TRUST TRAINING GRANT-EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Council approved a request of Steve Garvin, Emergency Planner, to apply for a Local Government Insurance Trust training grant seeking funding to attend the 2013 National Hurricane Conference in New Orleans on March 25 through March 28, 2013. The Council acknowledged that the conference generally consists of three complete days of workshops and training sessions to include a wide series of topics and Emergency

Management Institute and Federal Emergency Management Agency certificate training courses specific to hurricane responders.

Councilman Nichols commended the Emergency Operations staff for their outstanding performance and level of professionalism displayed during Hurricane Sandy.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM CONTRACT EXTENSION REQUEST- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Council approved a request of Mr. Garvin to extend a contract with First Century Crisis Communications, LLC for the use of the emergency notification system for an additional three years commencing January 1, 2013 and ending December 31, 2015 at an annual cost of \$16,277. The Council acknowledged that Homeland Security Grant funding will fund the contract extension.

GRANT AWARD-MD INSTITUTE FOR EMS SYSTEMS MATCHING FUND GRANT-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Council accepted a grant award from the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems for matching fund in the amount of \$32,000 to purchase two LP15's (cardiac monitors). The Council acknowledged that matching funds do not include discounts, rebates, trade-ins or funds from other grants and that the local match will be funded from the approved Emergency Medical Services Capital Budget.

REQUEST TO EXTEND INVITATION-EASTERN SHORE SISTER COUNTY INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council approved a request of Keasha Haythe, Economic Development Director, to extend an invitation to Shuyi Yin, Chief of International Programs for the Suzhou Foreign Cooperation and Exchange Center, inviting Mr. Yin to tour Dorchester County to explore potential economic development opportunities. The Council acknowledged that the Dorchester County Economic Development Office recently joined the Eastern Shore Sister County International Council which has an extensive relationship with the Suzhou Foreign Cooperation and Exchange Center.

REQUEST TO SOLE SOURCE-MUSICAL EVENT-HARRIET TUBMAN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION-TOURISM

The Council approved a request of Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, to sole source and hire Marcus Shelby, jazz musician, for a musical event during the Centennial Celebration of the life and legacy of Harriett Tubman at the cost of \$10,000 which will include flight, hotel, car rental, bass rental, drum rental and talent fee. The Council acknowledged that the event will be funded through Maryland Office of Tourism Development marketing grant funding.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR QUOTES-FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION
OF TUBMAN BYWAY MARKER SYSTEM-TOURISM

The Council approved a request of Ms. Fenstermaker to advertise a request for quotes seeking service for fabrication and installation of interpretive markers for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway. The Council acknowledged that the project will be funded through FY '09 Federal Highway grant funding combined with Maryland Heritage Area Authority funding at no cost to the County.

MARYLAND AVIATION ADMINISTRATION GRANT AGREEMENT-AIRPORT
RUNWAY EXTENSION PROJECT-AIRPORT/PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved a request of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, to accept a grant award from the Maryland Aviation Administration and executed the grant agreement for the Obstruction Identification, Environmental Coordination and Airport Layout Plan Update for the Airport Runway Extension in the amount of \$4,278.50. The Council acknowledged that the \$4,278.50 represents 5% of the total project cost of \$85,570 and that the local share of 5% (\$4,278.50) is budgeted in the County's FY11 Capital Budget with the remaining 90% (\$77,013) being funded through a Federal Aviation Administration grant the Council accepted in September 18, 2012.

REQUEST FOR COUNTY FLAG-CAMP EASTERN SHORE POLICE
ASSOCIATION

The Council approved a request of Jack Lewis, Board Member, on behalf of the Camp Eastern Shore Police Association (ESPA) for the donation of a County flag.

FY 2012/2013 THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTER COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
SCHEDULE-FY 2014 BUDGET ADOPTION SCHEDULE

The Council approved the FY 2012/2013 Third and Fourth Quarter County Meeting Schedule and the FY2014 Budget Adoption Schedule with the understanding that the schedules are subject to change.

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTION-FY2013 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
AGREEMENT-DORCHESTER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN &
FAMILIES

The Council confirmed its action, due to timing constraints, to execute the FY 2013 Community Partnership Agreement between the Governor's Office for Children and Families accepting administrative funding in the amount of \$65,000 and program funding in the amount of \$305,513 for the Dorchester Community Partnership for Children & Families for the period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

The Council acknowledged that the program funding will be utilized for the following: Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (\$29,976), Youth Services Bureau

(\$61,537), School Based Behavioral Health (\$80,000), TREK/after school program (\$74,000), Teen Ambassadors (\$10,000), Girls Circle (\$50,000), and LAM/comprehensive program addressing teen pregnancy (\$62,900).

CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN/TELEPHONE POLL CONFIRMATIONS

Confirmation of Actions Taken

Due to the cancellation of the County Council's October 30, 2012 meeting as a result of Hurricane Sandy, the Council took the following actions, by means of a poll, because of timing constraints: 1) closed County Offices on October 29 and October 30, 2012 and cancelled October 30th County Council meeting with the understanding that business scheduled for that date will be conducted at its November 13, 2012 meeting due to the hurricane, by a 5 to 0 vote; 2) unanimously approved the execution of a resolution to support a loan from the Department of Business and Economic Development from the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority in the amount of \$250,000 to Protenergy Natural Foods, Inc. and authorized a 10% County match of \$25,000 in the form of a real property tax credit over a three year period to the company by a 5 to 0 vote; 3) agreed to refer to the Planning Commission amendments to Bill No. 2012-6, to establish standards and procedures for subdivisions by requiring regulations that apply to development within designated tier areas as established in the Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act (Senate Bill 236) for its review and recommendation back to the Council by a 5 to 0 vote; 4) agreed to provide a letter of support to Delmarva Community Services for the re-application of Federal grant funding in the amount of \$665,000 for the Jarc/New Freedom program to continue the Mobility Management 1-Stop Program which provides specialized transit services to seniors, individuals with disabilities, Spanish speaking persons and persons needing transit to get to work, with no County funding commitment required by a 5 to 0 vote; 5) approved request of Tourism Director to submit a grant application to the Mid-Shore Community Foundation for \$10,000 to provide assistance in support of a jazz performance event that is part of the Harriet Tubman 2013 Centennial Commemoration with a \$3,500 cash match from the Maryland Office of Tourism Development (\$3,000) and Tri-County Gas & Oil (\$500) and an in-kind service match of \$5,000 through a Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort facility fee waiver, and a letter of support by a 5 to 0 vote; 6) agreed to award a bid for the Wildlife Drive Paving Project to American Infrastructure MD, Inc. at a unit price of \$78.50 per ton for a total estimated price of \$141,300 with funding being provided by the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge, and authorized the Public Works Director to execute the bid award contract by a 5 to 0 vote.

Telephone Poll Confirmations

Councilman Newcomb stated that in the interim between meetings the Council, by means of a poll, took the following actions: 1) confirmed the observance of Halloween on Wednesday, October 31, 2012 by a 5 to 0 vote; 2) agreed not to establish a County debris management clean-up plan after Hurricane Sandy by a 5 to 0 vote; 3) approved correspondence prepared by Charles MacLeod, Special Legal Counsel, and agreed that it

be forwarded to neighboring Shore counties and members of the Maryland Rural Counties Coalition as follow up to previous correspondence regarding participation in a coalition of Maryland local governments to ensure the accuracy and effectiveness of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load regulations and related Watershed Implementation Plans by a 5 to 0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Todd thanked the Council for permitting him to speak during the Annual Transportation Meeting. He expressed concern that the roadway to Sandy Island Cemetery is becoming level with the marsh and he voiced that he believed that the roadway needs to be raised. Based on a question from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. Moore stated that Roads Department has blacktop millings readily available for road repair. The Council instructed Mr. Moore to investigate the conditions of the roadway.

Councilman Bradshaw informed Mr. Todd that he had met with a representative of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and had been informed that the Refuge is continuing efforts to seek funding for raising Shorters Wharf Road.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Bradshaw stated that he was pleased that he had an opportunity to express his concerns regarding the Cambridge Waterfront Marine Terminal port property project during the Annual Transportation meeting.

Councilman Bradshaw commended Kim Browning, Emergency Services Communications Division Chief; Steve Garvin, Emergency Management Planner; Sheriff James Phillips and Emergency Operations staff for ensuring that the public was well informed during Hurricane Sandy. In addition, he commended Mr. Moore and the Highway Division staff for their efforts during the storm.

Based on the recommendation of Councilman Price, the Council reappointed Catherine McCulley as the District 4 representative on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Councilman Price asked Mr. Moore to follow up on what appears to be a reoccurrence on Wrights Wharf Road between 4128 and a side street known as Jabar Way which is increasingly becoming compromised and degrading. In addition, Councilman Price noted that there is debris and tires alongside Palmers Mill Road near the trailer park just prior to Ennels Road and he asked Mr. Moore to have staff view the area.

Councilman Price commended and thanked Emergency Operations staff, the Sheriff's Office, Public Safety and the Public Works Department for their diligent efforts during Hurricane Sandy.

Councilman Price commended the Veteran's Day organizations that had Veteran's Day events for which he had attended several.

Councilman Price noted that Mayor Ron James of Galestown assisted in the coordination of a Veteran's Day parade that was held in the Town of Federalsburg on Saturday, November 10, 2012 in which many Dorchester County residents participated.

Councilman Price announced that the Grandtastic Jamboree will at the East New Market Fire Department on Friday, November 16, 2012 for the hunting community and the community at large. He said that the event will feature live bands and other activities.

Councilman Newcomb stated that the next County Council meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, November 20, 2012.

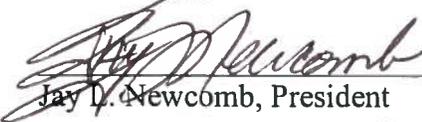
With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

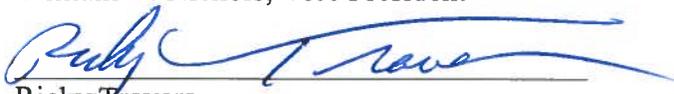


Jane Baynard, County Manager
Donna Flane
Executive Administrative Specialist

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:



Jay D. Newcomb, President


William V. Nichols, Vice President


Ricky Travers


Rick Price


Tom Bradshaw

Approved the 4th day of December, 2012.