

The Wicomico County Council met in Legislative Session on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in Council Chambers, Government Office Building, Salisbury, Maryland.

In attendance: John T. Cannon, President; Larry Dodd, Vice President; Marc Kilmer, Ernest F. Davis, Joe Holloway, William R. McCain, and Josh Hastings.

Present: Laura Hurley, Council Administrator, Robert Taylor, Council Attorney, Lynn Sande, Executive Office Associate, Steve Roser, Internal Auditor, and Levin Hitchens, Assistant Internal Auditor.

On motion by Mr. Dodd and seconded by Mr. McCain, the Legislative Minutes from April 2, 2019 were unanimously approved.

On motion by Mr. Dodd and seconded by Mr. McCain, the Open Work Session Minutes from March 19, 2019 – Wicomico County Board of Education Quarterly Work Session, were unanimously approved.

On motion by Mr. Dodd and seconded by Mr. McCain, the Open Work Session Minutes from March 19, 2019 – Wicomico County Strategic Plan, were unanimously approved.

On motion by Mr. Dodd and seconded by Mr. McCain, the Closed Work Session Minutes from March 5, 2019 – Consult with Legal Counsel, were unanimously approved.

On motion by Mr. Dodd, seconded by Mr. McCain, and unanimously approved, the Legislative Session was adjourned to convene as the Urban Services Commission.

Urban Services Commission

On motion by Mr. Hastings and seconded by Mr. McCain, the Minutes from March 5, 2019 regarding Deed of Easement and Bill of Sale with the City of Fruitland, were unanimously approved.

On motion by Mr. Dodd, seconded by Mr. McCain, and unanimously approved, the Urban Services Commission adjourned to reconvene as the Wicomico County Council in Legislative Session.

A proclamation was presented to Grace Murdock in recognition of Wicomico Grows Kindness.

Bob Taylor, Council Attorney

Public Hearing on Legislative Bill No. 2019-01: An Act to Amend Chapter 141 of the Wicomico County Code titled "Fees," Section 141-2, titled "Dogs" to include a breeder license and administrative fee, and to update the County Code cross-reference to sections for rabies vaccinations, rabies tag, and dog licenses. Mr. Cannon opened the Public Hearing. There were no public comments. Mr. Cannon closed the Public Hearing. On motion by Mr. Dodd, seconded by Mr. McCain, and by roll call vote, Mr. McCain, aye; Mr. Davis, aye; Mr. Holloway, aye; Mr. Hastings, aye; Mr. Kilmer, aye; Mr. Dodd, aye; and Mr. Cannon, aye, Legislative Bill No. 2019-01 was unanimously approved.

Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

Mrs. Hurley said there is one change to today's Agenda, and that is the Work Session on the discussion of hiring outside legal counsel will not be held. She said the attorneys are working on finalizing the Resolution to hire special legal counsel, so that will just be postponed to a future Council meeting.

Presentation by the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) - Kirwan Commission Interim Report

Mr. Michael Sanderson, Executive Director of MACo, and Mr. Kevin Kinnally, Associate Director of MACo, came before Council. Mr. Sanderson said MACo is a nonprofit organization centered in Annapolis, and they represent the interest of County Governments across the State on a long list of issues, but today they are going to talk about education, which, in a typical County budget, is bigger than everything else put together, and he thinks that is worthy of some attention. He said Mr. Kinnally has been working on policy and media with MACo for a number of years, and has been very invested and a regular attendee at the meetings of the Kirwan Commission. He said they have been covering this very closely, so the two of them are going to try to cover education issues as they affect Counties going through this Legislative Session, and how things look going forward.

Mr. Sanderson said Council has a copy of a few pages of notes they want to walk through. He said they will not go into a ton of detail, but will hit some high notes, and, if that triggers questions, or things Council would like to talk about further, that is probably the best way to be respectful of Council's time, and the rest of the audience. He said this is a big topic with a lot of complexities, and there is a lot yet to come. He said what they have seen so far is just the beginning of some very large policy decisions that lie ahead, and Mr. Kinnally is going to walk through the issues on the blueprint.

Mr. Kinnally said, as mentioned, this is a major policy decision being made in Annapolis, and is a multi-year effort. He said many know it as the "Kirwan Commission," but it is actually the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, and is now being referred to as the blueprint for Maryland's future. He said the Commission has been meeting for over two years, and they originally were supposed to come up with formulas that would decide how the State and Counties would split costs for education by looking at things like wealth equalization, declining enrollment, etc. He said the Commission has not gotten to that part yet, but he will talk about when they plan to get there. He said, essentially, they have developed this blueprint, which, basically, is a bridge to Kirwan to get it going, and it is mostly all State money for the next year. He said the Bill is for \$255 million dollars in 2019 and 2020, \$355 million in 2021, and \$500 million in 2022. He said, for fiscal 2020, this is all State money, but there is one catch that Counties can volunteer to increase teacher salaries by 3 percent, or an equivalent of 3 percent, and then they would get a match from the State. He said everything else here is State money, so a lot of carrots and just a little bit of stick for this year at least; however, they expect next year will be a lot different. He said the funding this year is going to be paid for by casino revenue, about \$200 million dollars last year as a result of the windfall from income tax reform at the Federal level, and then there is also an adjustment to the on-line sales tax compliance that was the Wayfair decision at the Supreme Court, which, essentially, is vendors who are selling products to Maryland residents but are located outside of the State will now be required to collect taxes. He said that is a big part of how they plan on funding these elements, but, as he mentioned, the core element affecting County budgets is immediately unchanged. He clarified, unless they were to provide the 3 percent increase to be eligible for a State grant for teacher raises, everything else coming down is State money.

Mr. Kinnally said the first category is prekindergarten where there is \$32 million dollars to convert more of the half day slots into full day for low-income 4 year-olds. He said that is estimated to grow by about \$59 million dollars in 2021 with further expansion, so they can expect that to grow because the idea is to get all 3 and 4 year-olds in full day prekindergarten a little bit down the line. He said this is the first step in targeting a pre-k program that covers all the 3 and 4 year olds who are at an income level below 300 percent of the poverty line, as well as 4 year olds that are 300 to 600 percent below the poverty line, and will be more of a sliding scale, so their parents would be expected to pay a little bit there.

Mr. Kinnally said the next category is special education with \$65 million dollars to fund special education in 2020 and 2021. He said most of the special education funding was coming from the County level, and the State decided they needed to pick up their fair share, so they sort of supercharged special education funding from the State level to help get caught up. He said school districts are not required to fund any specific strategies as long as they fully implement individualized education programs and 504 plans.

Mr. Kinnally said there is \$23 million dollars to fund in-school tutoring services for students in kindergarten through third grade, which can be used for English or math tutoring.

Mr. Kinnally said a big topic of discussion in Annapolis, and with the Kirwan Commission has been mental health coordinators. He said they have \$200 million dollars to fund a Mental Health Services Coordinator in every school district.

Mr. Kinnally said he mentioned teacher pay, and there is \$2.5 million dollars to incentivize the creation of new teacher mentorship programs. He said there has been a lot of discussion about how to recruit and retain teachers coming out of college, and a lot of discussion about how to bring them up to par with other professions that have the same amount of education and experience required to get them on that same pay scale. He said he mentioned the 3 percent salary increase, and Mr. Sanderson can talk a little more about how Counties can get there, and what that entails.

Mr. Sanderson said all of these funding components in the Bill that passed this year are down payments towards the larger items the Kirwan Commission has in mind for the next decade of school funding, so what they are seeing is the beginning of this plan coming together. He said this year's Bill was relatively easy to get through the General Assembly. He said the dollar amounts for the next three years total about a billion dollars, but it is in increments in today's dollars, and seems relatively affordable to most Legislators. He said there is no real tax increase that goes along with this, so these passed by overwhelming majority.

Mr. Sanderson said, regarding the teacher pay element, this is the piece that requires a County opt in, but they wanted to make this a reachable carrot for most school jurisdictions. He said, if a County funds a school budget that allows a 3 percent increase for teachers, they will be eligible for some extra State funding that would also go back to teacher pay. He said they cannot require them to do it, but when they go back to the negotiating table for what to do with the extra pay, they would like to have that money directed towards the new and first five-year teachers with the idea of recruiting and retention of newer teachers. He said that is the body language in the first year of the Bill, but this is meant as a two-year program for the FY20 budget they are doing now, and the FY21 budget they will be doing about this time next year, and is what they have in mind as the beginning. He said this is inching toward one of the grand visions of the Commission, which is to change the nature of the teaching profession. He said he does not want to steal their thunder, but the Commission has spent a great deal of time, and one of their policy goals is to have more people thinking sooner about becoming teachers as a professional aspiration, and they would like to put teaching on the same parallel as engineers. He said, when they get to the longer-term version of the Commission, that is a big part of what they have in mind, and a big part of what would be imbedded in the long-term Legislation they are about to see. He said, if the locals pay for a budget that funds a 3 percent increase, they will get a little extra on top. He said it is sort of calculated for a County that is neutral on the wealth scale, and would be about another percent and a half worth for their block of teachers, but that would be wealth adjusted, so a jurisdiction like Wicomico would probably be a little more than that amount. He said they have the dollar amount of what it amounts to for Wicomico in the fiscal note, but this is the nature of how that grant was set up.

Mr. Kinnally said next steps is a talking point that is very important, which not too many folks are talking about yet. He said this Bill directs the Commission to develop recommendations for an evenly smooth cost schedule, and this is important because originally the Commission's recommendations were, technically, a ten-year phase in, but really it amounted to a four-year phase in that would be all the way ramped up. He said he thinks the General Assembly saw the writing on the wall that this would be very, very difficult to do without raising taxes, so now they are going to instruct this Commission to figure out how to phase this in evenly over ten years as much as possible. He said Mr. Sanderson has talked a lot about this too, and the significance of it, to which Mr. Sanderson added, he has been doing policy work in Annapolis for an awfully long time, and he thinks this is a very important decision they have made. He said, in the big Bill for next year, he thinks they were facing a political crisis of being able to pass a Bill that required something like \$3 billion dollars of new funding by the third or fourth year of that ten-year phase in. He said, if everything was really a three or four-year phase in, getting up to \$3 or \$4 billion more in the space of three or four years, even if it is half State and half County, is still a billion and a half more State funds at a time when they already have a looming structural deficit. He said, even if they make assumptions that the economy is going to be continuing along pretty smoothly in the future, they do not have the means to make that happen in any easy fashion. He said the idea of giving some nudge language to the Commission to come back with a ten-year plan rather than a four-year plan that is dressed up as a ten-year plan is, he thinks, a strong indication that Annapolis wants to pass this, and they want to have it come back in a format they can absorb fiscally. He said they will talk in a few minutes about what this means to Counties from a practical standpoint, but what it means to Annapolis is the State's general fund budget is in the neighborhood of \$20 billion dollars. He said, if ordinary economic growth means revenues come in by something like 3 percent more each year, they have \$600 million or so as new revenue each year. He said some of that is spoken for if they are a population in Medicaid and other entitlement programs, and so forth change, and some of that is mandated spending, but the core idea is, if there is \$600 million each year in new revenue, they could afford \$200 or \$250 million of that to be directed to new education, and the new education funds are going to advance the mission of the Kirwan Commission. He said he thinks that is the constructive way to think of what they have in mind. He said what that means to the County is tricky, and they will talk about that, but they feel that the addition of smoothing it out so they can pass it is politically very important language in that Bill, and they now believe this Bill is going to pass next year, and this is a strong sign of that.

Mr. Kinnally said he mentioned earlier that this Commission was to develop formulas on how the State and Counties would split the cost of implementing Kirwan. He said they were not able to get to that over the past two years, so, essentially, that was put on hold. He said, now that this Bill has passed, and this is all State money, the idea now is to get a smaller group of the Kirwan Commission to convene in the interim, and they will talk about a lot of these formulated components they have been talking about. He explained, not only will they discuss how the State and the locals will split the cost, but they will also look at things like declining enrollment, how they can evenly phase this in, how they calculate wealth, and whether they put a lot of it into property values, or the ability for folks to pay income taxes and the tax capacity. He said that will be a major piece of this, and, in the interim, they will be following it closely. He said they expect to have representation on that smaller work group, but that is really going to be extremely, extremely important for next year's Bill, and how they plan to parse this all out.

Mr. Kinnally said there is one other interesting component in school construction. He said this year they saw a supercharged school construction Bill in the General Assembly. He said the House passed the Bill, but the Senate did not, and that would have provided about \$2.2 billion dollars for school construction. He said the idea was to wipe the slate clean and get all of the projects off the table, but that Bill did not pass; however, they think there will be a Bill just like it next year, which will possibly cause some complications with the Kirwan Bill in that it will be competing for the same money. He explained, if there

is \$2.2 billion dollars they want to put into school construction, obviously, that is less money for Kirwan, and he thinks a lot of the debate in Annapolis was that they did not want to spend the money to build schools because they have to do Kirwan, so there were some competing interests there, and he thinks that will continue into the next session as well. Mr. Cannon asked if the Governor is committed to the capital expenses with construction, to which Mr. Kinnally responded, absolutely. Mr. Sanderson said they summarized it on their sheet for Council in a way so they can see this as a complimentary idea. He said they have a variety of education advocates who believe they need newer schools, or better or bigger schools, as well as a bigger investment in the classroom on the operating side, or they can see this as a competing idea that these are, arguably, alternative ways to make the commitments that, to some degree, the State is bound to make. He said the voters just in the last election approved the constitutional amendment that casino revenue should be on top of the current education formulas, and not displacing general funds just to accomplish what they were doing anyway. He said the State has already committed to \$125 million this year, \$250 million next year, then \$375 million, and then in the neighborhood of \$550 million. He said there is a school funding commitment happening anyway, and they see that this year's blueprint Bill spends money from casino revenue, so they have already sort of factored that in. He said the Governor's original plan was to take the first \$125 million and take that amount each year of casino revenues, and bond against it to do this supercharged school construction plan. He said, in some people's minds, these are alternative ways to spend the same money.

Mr. Holloway asked if casino revenue also includes lottery revenues, to which Mr. Sanderson responded, actually, lottery and casino revenues go to two separate sources. He said the net proceeds from the lottery just go to the general fund, but casino revenues go through an education trust fund. He clarified, when they say casinos, they are literally talking about Ocean Downs, Maryland Live, MGM, and so forth. He said there are six facilities in Maryland. Mr. Kinnally said there was a proposal to use lottery funds for some of the school construction piece, but that was defeated as well.

Mr. Kinnally said page 3 of the handout shows estimated fiscal 2020 State money coming into the Counties for the blueprint, but on the next page there is more of a detailed breakdown of what this means exactly for Wicomico County. He said the difference between 2019 and 2020 is a little over \$14 million dollars, and a 9.6 percent increase in State education funding. He said they can see how it is broken down, and a lot of components they went through they can see here, and how it all balances out. He said they will hear people refer to this as the small Kirwan Bill, and he thinks Mr. Sanderson eluded to the fact that next year they expect there to be a much bigger Bill with a lot more sticks, and maybe less carrots for Counties, but maybe less State funding, and Counties are going to be expected to chip in heavily in next year's Bill. He said they wanted to give Council an idea of exactly what this means for Wicomico, which is in the packet provided to Council, and they are happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Sanderson said he has two forward looking observations. He said one is very near term, which is the State Legislature cannot add money to the current year budget. He said some of these columns of numbers have an asterisk in that they presume that the Governor will follow up on the authority the General Assembly has granted in this Bill to, basically, take some money and release it for these purposes, but there is no certainty that the Governor will do so. He said the Governor a few years ago was sort of boxed in similarly on some other spending priorities he decided not to do, and let the money just be unspent, so it fell through the bottom line, and it is possible that Governor Hogan decides to do the same. He said he does not think they have a clear forecast on what he will do, but, at one point during the session, the Governor objected to the idea of spending more money without accountability provisions. He said this Bill now has several pages of elements that were in one of the Governor's Bills creating an Inspector General's Officer to oversee education funding, and some other provisions that are accountability related. He said whether that will satisfy the Governor's concerns is unclear because

they have not seen anything direct, but they will know in the next month or so. He said the Governor, in theory, could veto this Bill, but he thinks that is unlikely. He said, whether the Bill goes into law without his signature or with his signature is probably the confines of what happens here, but the Governor still would have the option for the FY21 funding to not fund it, and this year would not be the bump that they are expecting. He said that lies in the background here, and he does not want to give Council their forecast on what will happen there because he thinks that is uncertain.

Mr. Sanderson said, looking ahead to the Kirwan Commission spending time looking at funding formulas and sort of parsing out how to do a ten-year phase in, and how much of this is State spending versus County spending, he wanted to give Council a back of the napkin of what this might mean. He said, if it plays out the way they are guessing it will, he will give Council his cocktail napkin math on what it will mean to Wicomico County. He said Wicomico has about 1.5 percent of the student population Statewide. He said, if there is a plan that costs in the neighborhood of \$4 billion dollars, and they are going to do a ramp up that is, more or less, smooth to get it over ten years, that is about \$400 million per year. He said, if they decide that pie is split 50/50 between the State and the Counties, they would find \$200, and the County would find \$200. He said, if they are 1.5 percent of \$200 million dollars, that would suggest Wicomico's share is about \$3 million a year. He said the wise way to look at this is that the State probably will again engage in wealth equalizing, and maybe on the ask as well. He said Wicomico is lower than average on these wealth indices for a variety of reasons, so maybe the ask will not be \$3 million, but will be \$2 million. He said, if they want a number in their head of what the passage of a long-term Kirwan plan might look like for the Wicomico County budget and the taxpayers, he thinks that might be the framework to be thinking. He said, in the 2021 budget and onward, the State may be mandating or expecting that the County comes up with \$2 million more in 2021, and then \$2 million more on top of that in 2022, and then \$2 million more on top of that in 2023 for about a decade. He said that is, more or less, the dynamics of what they think the Kirwan plan translates to at the County level. He said he may easily be off by 50 percent in either direction, but, to give Council an order of magnitude of what collectively the Legislation means to County finances, it is a big commitment. He said the Commission has spent lots of time on this being a generational investment in education to transform the way they do public education in Maryland, and that is trying to take these big paragraphs and turn them into numbers. He said, as they talked about, finding their \$75,000 challenge here, and \$300,000 challenge there, \$2 million a year each year is probably the magnitude of what this is.

Mr. Cannon asked what happens to the maintenance of effort formula. He said he has been told they will probably do away with the maintenance of effort formula, and it will be a whole different plan, to which Mr. Sanderson responded, he will give Council plan A, B, and C off the top of his head, and plan C is he does not know. He said there are two easy ways to do something like this. He said, a few years ago when the State was having trouble funding teacher pensions, they, basically, went to the Counties, and said they were going to ask the Counties to pay a share of teacher pension costs. He said the way they did that was that each County's maintenance of effort number now was maintenance of effort plus "this". He said they ran through a table of numbers, and for Wicomico County it ended up being they had to come up with extra. He said each jurisdiction was, basically, told their job was maintenance of effort plus "X". He said, in theory, the Commission and the subsequent Legislation could do that. He clarified, they could start with today's maintenance of effort and say the County now needs to do more, and they will calculate it. He said their new maintenance of effort could be their old maintenance of effort plus some number, such as \$2 million each year, and that is one way they could do it. He said that, basically, assumes that current County spending is a legitimate place to start. He said not everybody believes that is true, so it is possible that this Commission or smaller work group could say they are going to start from scratch, and plan B could look like this. He said they could look at what they think is required to really provide a quality education for every student in every school, and they have successful

school models they build on, so they could do that. He said they would run the numbers say the State share for Wicomico County is going to be 64 percent of that, so the remaining 36 percent would be the County's responsibility, and they will give them "X" years to get to that number. He clarified, that would, basically, say maintenance of effort is a thing of the past, and there is now just a funding obligation. He said to some jurisdictions, and he thinks as a matter of structure of Government, that is a more aggressive way for the State to really take over the way schools are funded. He said plan C is something he has not thought of yet, but they should not confine their thinking to what they have guessed are the obvious ways to do this. He said he thinks either of those are intellectually fairly obvious, but it is certainly possible they will come up with something hybrid, or something totally different.

Mr. McCain said he knows these are theoretical examples, and they are trying to predict what they might be looking at in the future, and how much the County will have to share. He said, with Wicomico being a lower wealth County, if these first couple of years are any indication, it looks like Wicomico gets quite a bit of the lion's share of dollars compared to what the wealthier Counties will get from this. He said the example was used of \$2 million dollars, which is about 1 percent of the total education budget, but in 2019 it looks like, just as a result of this, the County is getting \$7.7 million dollars more, and in 2020 it could be \$14 million dollars. He said it seems like proportionally the lower wealth Counties will do pretty well, hopefully, as a result of this. Mr. Sanderson said he thinks that is a reasonable guess, but he does not want to over speculate. He said he thinks the Commission has led considerable deference to the idea of wealth equalization and balance, so for a jurisdiction below average in local ability to pay, that ratio of what the State contribution looks like versus what the State contribution looks like will probably be 5:2 or 7:2, or some ratio that is more than one, and this conversation in Howard County would be a different conversation. He said he thinks it probably stands to reason that this is likely to be what the Commission recommends, and he thinks is likely to stay through the Legislature. Mr. McCain said the wealth equalization component seems to be maintained throughout this whole process from the beginning to where it is now. He said that has always been there, and seems to continue to survive, so he kind of expects that to survive, to which Mr. Sanderson responded, without derailing the conversation, he will say he was around in Annapolis and working for MACo during the Thornton Commission, which was a big iteration of a big serious look at school funding. He said that was in the late 1990s, and passed in the year 2000. He said the Thornton Commission itself was very committed to wealth equalization, but the General Assembly proved less committed to it, and part of that is because there is a different math in the Legislature, and that is finding 71 Delegates to vote for it. He said it is hard to cobble together a coalition of just winners on a distributional issue, and there is one particular large jurisdiction whose politics are blue, and whose votes are needed to pass a big Bill like this who are much higher than average on the income spectrum, so, if they come out as dramatic losers in whatever formulas come from the Commission, it will be tough to get those votes from them. He said it would be naïve to think that the political process would ignore those sorts of things and just go with the Commission recommendation because the academics liked it. He said, if past is prologue, they would see the General Assembly take an interest in those issues. Mr. Kilmer said they also should not underestimate how hard it is for some lower wealth Counties, such as Wicomico County, to come up with even \$2 million dollars. He said they have X amount of dollars, they have a limited tax base, and the highest income tax rate they can do, and they will get the budget pretty soon. He said last year they were looking for all kinds of ways to cut, and he likes to cut budgets. He said they found about \$1 million dollars they could shift, but this looks very hard. He said every dollar that has to be spent on the Kirwan Commission mandate is a dollar that is going to be taken away from other areas of the budget. He said he understands what Mr. McCain is saying about the carrots, and Wicomico might get a lot more because of that, but with \$2 million dollars as the baseline, and then an extra \$2 million dollars the year after that, they are trying to make all of those numbers fit together in terms of revenue instead of

spending it on other stuff. Mr. Sanderson said he thinks that lies in the background in this debate that has been a debate about education. He said, if there is a 1A part of the debate, it has been about new revenues, and there are many people who are sensitive and saying they do not want to raise taxes. He said, if they end up saying education is the priority and they are going to do this plan, and then the body language from the General Assembly seems to be they want to do it without raising taxes or new revenues, but want to sort of make this the first bird they feed in the nest, that is okay. He said what they saw with Thornton over the decade of implementation was the State said they were funding Thornton, and if that meant Road money for Counties and municipalities have to go, that has to go. He said, if it means the teacher pension gets too expensive and they offload some of those costs onto the Counties, that is what they did. He said they do not have to have a fanciful imagination to see that things other than what is on the sheet of paper for the Kirwan plan could end up sort of eating the lunch of other things, such as their ability to fund Parks and Roads, and everything else that is part of the County budget, and, candidly, everything else that is part of the State budget. He said that is the underrepresented part of this conversation, as it always is.

Mr. Holloway said it seems like this is heavily relied on casino revenues. He then asked if there has been a study done by MACo about where those revenues are headed in the next five years compared to other States, and what they are doing with casino expansions, etc., to which Mr. Sanderson responded, he does not think anybody has a particularly good forecast, neither MACo nor any of the economists, as to how secure casino revenues are relative to other things. He said they know property taxes have a relative stability, and income taxes are a little choppy, but there is a certain part of income taxes that is relatively stable. He said things like corporate income are wildly fluctuating. He said, in the short-term, they know the traffic at casinos is a relative flow. He said it moves up and down a few percent, but not a lot, so projecting ten years out for casinos is a dart throwing exercise. He said they could get beaten by other States if Virginia gets into this business, and that could eclipse their market, so they just do not know the answer to those things, and he does not think anybody has a great forecast there. He said what the voters decided was, after the casino operators get their share, whatever comes back to the State all goes to education on top of the formulas that were in place at the time they voted last year. He said they know that has to be a new commitment, and he thinks everyone's projection is that the number is going to be north of \$500 million dollars, but he does not think anybody would put a hand on a holy book and say they are sure that number is good 10 and 20 years from now, so he is not sure they could do that. Mr. Kinnally said something that could drive this conversation too is sports betting, and keeping an eye on how they implement that in Maryland, if they do, and whether or not the casinos will play a major role in sports betting, or whether or not they will be able to use apps from developers that are outside of the State. He said the casinos are going to fight very hard to get the sports books put in their casinos, and sports betting in general, and he does not want to make a prediction that is wrong, but he thinks that will probably be on the ballot along with cannabis. He said cannabis is another big component, and the income they could generate at the State level with legalizing cannabis could certainly help pay for the blueprint, but he does not think anyone is predicting that with cannabis and sports betting they could just wash their hands and would be good to go, but those are two issues that he thinks are worth paying attention to in regards to how this is implemented in the State.

Mr. Hastings said he does not know where the cannabis conversation went, but he attended a conference on the West Coast this past year. He said he went to the West Coast twice, and there are a lot of small communities that are thriving due to the new revenues from cannabis. He then asked if the State is looking at this as a new piggybank for them. He said, assuming Maryland is probably going to move in that direction, if that happens and comes to Wicomico, it would be better if that were an area they could get money out of, to which Mr. Kinnally responded, he thinks that will be an ongoing conversation. He said, as far as their prediction, he thinks cannabis will be on the ballot in 2020, and

they will take it to the voters to let them decide. He said most States are going in that direction, and he thinks it is yet to be seen about how much the Counties will be able to generate, or how much of a role the State will play. He said he thinks that is all up for debate, and is, certainly, something he thinks MACo will be involved with in terms of autonomy, how they can raise revenue, where these businesses can be located, and things like that, so he thinks that will be ongoing. Mr. Sanderson added, he thinks that will be a hard fight for them, but it will be one they take up. He said, in the event the wind is blowing in the direction of heading towards being adult use legalized in the State, it will be a fight for local Governments to see that as a local revenue source instead of exclusively State. Mr. Cannon said he says this in gest, but it appears somewhat ironic that the more depraved they get as a society, the more funding they find for their education. He said they are talking about gambling and marijuana, and, if everything goes forward, great, they will have education. He said everything is relative in degrees.

Mr. Cannon asked if there is a hard fast deadline they know they are going to see from this. He said, obviously, it has to go back through Legislation again, and their budget is pretty much cut this year, so it is not going to be an issue, but next year at about this exact same time they will be looking at their budget. He then asked if they will know by that time whether the State has figured this out yet, or is it still going to be for the following year, or is it going to be a surprise after they finish their budget next year, to which Mr. Sanderson responded, that is an excellent question. He said he only has one little light at the end of the tunnel, and that is, generally speaking, Annapolis is sympathetic when folks such as MACo, a County's Budget Officer, or Elected Officials come to the table and say, if they want them to do something this year, they need to know by the 1st of April, or, preferably, sooner. He said they have, generally, been receptive to that. He said, if there is going to be an ask in next year's budget that is more than what is in the Bill that is already before them, he would anticipate that the messaging will get out about what is in the Bill, and what they expect to pass. He said he thinks the worst case is sending something out on Valentine's Day saying this is their best guess with relatively high certainty that has not passed, but they think this is what the Counties should build their first draft around.

Mr. Dodd said he has often wondered how much better their schools would have been if this took effect in the Ehrlich Administration for the past 16 years. He said, with that said, he watched a lot of the hearings on the website, and he would say MACo was well represented there, and he thanks them for coming to give Council an update.

Mr. Hastings asked if Wicomico is going to be a part of the podcast they are doing. He said they could at least mention Wicomico County, to which Mr. Sanderson thanked Mr. Hastings for the reference. He said, for anybody else who is listening or watching, Mr. Kinnally is the host, and he is occasionally a guest of the Conduit Street Podcast. He said that is their street address in Annapolis, and they try and cover policy and politics in Annapolis, some County stuff, and some other stuff they find interesting, so they can dial in if they like that sort of stuff. Mr. Cannon said he thinks if someone really wants to know how State politics are affecting them at the local level, that is a shortcut to figure that out, and it is an excellent resource. He thanked them for coming to the meeting.

Presentation on the Environmental Impact Statement of the Patuxent River Navy Air Station

Mr. Chris Jarboe came before Council, and said he is a representative of the Naval Air Station Patuxent River, and he works for the Atlantic Test Range. He said he is a lifelong resident of Maryland, born and raised in St. Mary's County, and today he is speaking to Council from both sides, his Navy role, and also as their neighbor across the Bay. He said he wants to share an effort they are getting ready to launch, which is updating or redoing their Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). He said they did an original statement back in 1998, and they are looking at a document that is 20 years old, so it is about time to

redo it, and refresh the effort they did. He explained, the purpose of an EIS is to support the testing they do in the airspace that overlies the Bay, and stretches over onto the Eastern Shore very close to Salisbury and parts of Wicomico. He said the reason they need to update the EIS is because, over 20 years, they have done a lot of changes in technology they operate, changes in the environment, and changes in the population that has come and gone in the area. He said the other reason they are doing this is that they have to comply with the Federal Law, and their big driver is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). He said, basically, NEPA is a Federal Law passed in 1969, and has Federal Agencies look at how their major actions effect the human environment, and also the natural environment, so they will take a look at all of their testing and analyze it with respect to numerous factors. He said the EIS is just, basically, taking that analysis, and putting it into a document the community can take a look at, and it documents their decision making process. He said he mentioned testing, and the Patuxent River Complex is a major testing facility for all of the Department of Defense. He said 99 percent of Navy and Marine Corp aircraft come through the test range, but they also support the Air Force, and even the Army for their helicopters will sometimes come to the test range. He said they are also open to other corporations, such as Boeing, and some of the other large aerospace companies will come out also and primarily do aircraft testing. Referring to his slide, he said he will not read everything on the list, but one of the things they do that may be of interest is what is called weapons integration testing. He explained, that is a fancy word for strapping something that resembles a bomb or a missile on an aircraft just to make sure the aircraft can carry it and release it. He said they do various tests like that, but they do not do anything that is explosive as there is what they call a nonexplosive ordinance. Mr. Cannon said they used to do explosives. He then asked if that changed, to which Mr. Jarboe responded, the operational units out of Norfolk would come up and use Bloodsworth Island years ago, and they did explosive firing up there with ship to shore gunnery. He said he believes that ended in the early 1990s, but they have no plans, since they are just testing aircraft, to do any of that type of activity as they go forward.

Mr. Jarboe, referring to his slide, said the map he is showing is what they call their study area, and they have to kind of put a boundary around what they are looking at. He said, for land areas, they are looking at the property they own, which is Patuxent River in St. Mary's County, and then Webster Field, which is a smaller auxiliary airfield. He said also, as the Naval Air Station, they own Bloodsworth Island. He said they took it over from the Fleet in the early 2000s, so they will be looking at activities potentially taking place there. He said they looked at their airspace, and they have a block of about 2,300 square miles of restricted airspace across the central portion of the Bay, the Eastern Shore, and northern neck of Virginia. He said they are also going to look at what they call adjacent shared airspace. He said they also fly in FAA airspace, which, again, is not restricted. He said they share it with commercial aviation and private aviation, so they are going to look at that, and also some higher altitude FAA airspace they can use from time to time to expand their range if they have an activity that will not fit within the smaller area. He said, lastly, they will be looking at their water ranges, which is the central stem of the Chesapeake Bay. He said they are not allowed to release these dummy bombs, so to speak, off of the aircraft and into that area so they hit the water, but they will also be looking at some of the surrounding waters near the base of the Patuxent River, and the same areas of the Potomac River.

Mr. Jarboe said NEPA documents have them do a proposed action, and it is pretty simple. He said they have been testing and training at Patuxent River since the 1940s, and they plan to continue doing that. He said they do not have their alternatives developed yet, but they will look at a range of alternatives. He said they have a baseline called a No Action Alternative, which is, basically, doing what they do

today, and then they will develop a series of other alternatives that are probably looking at different tempo, such as more flight hours, or more or less operations so they have something to compare.

Mr. Jarboe said the resources they are going to study include looking at the gamut of the environment, so they will be looking at water quality with the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and what affect their operations have on those. He said they will also be looking at different species including endangered species, and will look at historic resources. He referred to his slide, and said, in the center of the photo is a picture of the Point No Point Lighthouse, but across the Bay they will be looking at other historic structures like Hooper Island Lighthouse. He said a big component of these studies is noise, which is probably one of the major impacts, in addition to some of the water issues that would be seen on the Eastern Shore. He said they will also be looking at air quality, and how they contribute or change that.

Mr. Jarboe said a major component of the NEPA process is public involvement, and they really value input from the citizens within the area they are studying, and they really want to hear from everyone. He said they had public scoping meetings, and their public comment period on the beginning of the process ended April 1st. He said they had four meetings across the area, and two were here on the Eastern Shore with one being in Princess Anne, and one in Cambridge. He said folks came and provided comments, but they also received comments in writing and via their website. He said the comment period is closed, and they are taking those comments and incorporating them into their study. He said they really would like folks to be knowledgeable and be involved, so they have a website, which is prceis.com where there is a lot of information on the study and their operations, and also their phone number and address so, if people have questions, they can contact them, and they really look forward to hearing from folks. He said across the bottom of his slide is their process map of where they are going as they produce their document. He said their next public comment period will be in 2020, and that is when they will release the draft document so people can look at it. He said, traditionally, they have always held public meetings at that point, and they will evaluate the input they had from the scoping meetings. He said he is sure they will come back to the Eastern Shore and look for a suitable venue to have the public meeting at again, and then they will open up the on-line comment period as well.

Mr. Jarboe concluded, that is what he wanted to share with Council today, and he will take questions.

Mr. Hastings said he heard there was another joint land use study for the military coming, but he does not know if that is actually happening, or if that is a different branch of Government, to which Mr. Jarboe responded, they are not leading it, but he understands the Department of Economic Development was looking at a Statewide joint land use study. He said he knows there were some interviews done, but he is not sure of the timeframe, and the Navy itself does not plan to initiate another. He said St. Mary's County sponsored a Patuxent River specific joint land use study several years ago, but the one that is currently ongoing is a State-led effort. Mr. Hastings asked if Mr. Jarboe's folks are pushing for more land protection dollars. He said he knows there was a big issue with the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program to be able to have those funds to use for land protection in this region, and there was a big disconnect. He said, apparently, the Federal Government was helping out, and then suddenly they were not, so there were a lot of landowners across the Lower Shore who were left out, and left in the dark when they wanted to help use their land as buffer and continue to be agriculture, to which Mr. Jarboe responded, they continue to do that, and it is, actually, managed out of his office in coordination with what is called the Naval District Washington, which is a regional command, and they are continuing to program the funding. He said it is a very important

program for them because it preserves land under the airspace, and they have always said the most compatible land use is farms, fields, and forests, so they will continue to program that. He said they have been working with the Lower Shore Land Trust and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources through their land conservation. He said sometimes they run into issues where they cannot find a partner in an area that can cost share, but they will continue to look into that, and support that program with the Counties.

Mr. Kilmer said he lives and represents the western side of the County, so they see a lot of these planes, and some of the folks he represents were looking forward to Mr. Jarboe's presentation because they had some questions, and he does too. He said this is an update of the EIS. He then asked if they are talking about expanding any of the airspace, or is this just an update of the current, to which Mr. Jarboe responded, it is just an update of the current, and they do not plan to expand the airspace. Mr. Kilmer then asked if they are talking about increasing the frequency of flights, or will it be about the same as it has been, and not triggered because they are making a change or anything, to which Mr. Jarboe responded, that is correct. Mr. Kilmer said Mr. Jarboe talked about new technology. He then asked if he anticipates more noise. He said they are kind of used to some noise. He then asked if the new technology will be more noise or less noise, and whether that is the sort of stuff they are looking at, to which Mr. Jarboe responded, they will look at that, but he cannot specifically address whether they think it will be more or less noise as that will be driven by the aircraft mix. He said, currently, they really do not foresee any new aircraft within the next ten years, and that is the window they are trying to address with this. He said, currently, their major developmental platform is the F35 joint strike fighter, which is a pretty robust aircraft. He said they are doing a lot of flying with that, but they really do not have a next fighter identified yet. He said the only new platform coming in is an unmanned air system that is going to be used for refueling in support of the fleet out on the carriers, but that is going to be smaller, and probably not a very loud airplane. He said they look at that, and one of the parts is noise analysis, which is very integral to this effort.

Mr. Cannon thanked Mr. Jarboe for his presentation. He said, when the draft comes out, he is certain they will be notified, to which Mr. Jarboe responded, absolutely.

Receive County Executive's Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2020

Mrs. Hurley reported, the proposed fiscal year 2020 budget was hand delivered to the Council office late last Friday afternoon. She said the budget will be processed as a Legislative Bill, and that Bill will be introduced at the next Council Meeting. She said Council will hold a Public Hearing on the budget on May 7th at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. She said, following the Budget Hearing, they will start scheduling Budget Sessions with the Department Heads. She explained, the budget is to be adopted by June 1st, but the County Council can extend that date by Resolution to a date no later than June 15th. She said, if Council is unable to adopt a budget by either of those dates, the budget estimated by the County Executive will automatically become adopted. She said they are in the process of assembling the budget binders, and, once that is done, they will distribute that to Councilmembers.

Resolution No. 67-2019 – Declaring that Elite Construction, LLC is eligible to receive Enterprise Zone Benefits for Property at 107 Williamsport Circle, Salisbury, Maryland. Mrs. Hurley said, in order for a business to qualify for enterprise zone benefits, it must meet one of two specific requirements, which are that the business must either make an investment in the capital improvements of more than \$50,000, or they have to hire new employees since they have been located in zone. She said Elite

Construction, LLC qualifies for the enterprise zone benefits because they have hired more than two employees at their location in the zone. There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. McCain and seconded by Mr. Davis, Resolution No. 67-2019 was unanimously approved.

Bob Taylor, Council Attorney

Introduction: Legislative Bill 2019-02: An Act to Amend the Wicomico County Code, Chapter 138 titled "Electrical Standards", Section 18 titled "Expiration and renewal of certificates" to clarify the types of continuing education hours that the Board of Electrical Examiners must accept when reviewing applications to renew certificates of registration. Mr. Taylor said this is being introduced by the Council President at the request of the County Executive. Mr. Weston Young, Assistant Director of Administration, came before Council, and said this proposed Bill modifies Chapter 138, Electrical Standards, and matches the State standards in regards to continuing education for license renewal. He explained, as it stands now, all applicants must demonstrate 10 continuing education hours each by annual period, and all 10 of these hours must be in a classroom setting. He said the proposed change with this Bill is to allow half of these hours to be taken on-line, and that is exactly what the State allows. He clarified, 5 hours must be in the classroom, but they can do all 10 in the classroom if they want. He said taking continuing education on-line is common practice, and one can even get a master's degree, or other advanced degrees on-line these days. He said, as a personal example of on-line training, he can do all of the continuing education credit he needs for his professional engineering licenses on-line, though he still goes to a classroom periodically, but that is allowed completely on-line. He said this brings them in line with the State, but one of the biggest benefits for doing this is for convenience and flexibility. He said, for example, a Master Electrician could choose to take an on-line class at night to avoid too much time off the job site during normal working hours. He said these on-line classes tend to provide more subject objects so one can focus on their particular expertise rather than having to take a generalized class, and they tend to be cheaper because there is no classroom, so they do not need the rented space. He said the internet brings more competition and scalability, so, once they create a class, it can be taken by 100 people, or 10,000 people, and it does not really change the cost to create at that point. He said they feel the proposed Legislative Bill would be a great benefit to the electrician community as a whole.

Mr. Holloway said he got an email from a gentleman who is in the alarm business, and he said a lot of the 10-hour classroom subject matter does not really apply to them because they run low voltage, and things like that, so they are taking a lot of time out of their day. Mr. McCain said sometimes they are forced to take classes that have no relevance to what they are doing. He said, as Mr. Young said, there are many more options on-line. Mr. Kilmer said this seems to be a way to make it a little easier to comply with rules and regulations, so he commends Mr. Young for suggesting this. Mr. Dodd said it is not like the student is going to click on the website with the on-line continuing education, and go watch a TV show because every five or ten minutes there is a break, and a lot of times they have to answer two or three questions. Mr. Young said they all do it a little differently, and he is not saying there are not classes they can just take with no quiz at the end, but they tend to be weeded out. He said, again, his personal example is he usually has to take quizzes to show along the way that he understands the material he is reading. Mr. Dodd said this is not only a State standard, but a National standard for many professions, to which Mr. Young responded, that is correct, and right now the County does not offer that. He said this is only half the hours, and that is what the State allows, so they are not doing anything out of the normal here, but they are going into the 21st century. Mr. Dodd said he thinks it is a move in

the right direction. Mr. Holloway asked if there was ever a discussion about creating a different set of standards, or a different license just for the folks who do the alarm systems and the low voltage because it seems to him that would make more sense, to which Mr. Young responded, he thinks so. He said this was the first step in that process, and he thinks, if they look at it a bit harder, they will find there may need to be additional changes made, but his understanding is this seemed to resolve a lot of the heartburn the people obtaining these licenses had. Mr. Hastings said, after he first saw this, he thought this was a great idea, and he does not know if there are other situations like this from other fields. He said maybe there is a way they can do a larger look at any other certifications across the board in other fields, such as nursing, but he does not know what even applies to the County. Mr. Young said his understanding is the licenses one can get through the County are Master Electrician, Electrician General, Electrician Limited, and, more recently, Electrical Inspector. He said they could maybe add a low voltage category because the people who are doing low voltage are not typically a Master Electrician, but maybe that falls under the limited category. He said he thinks the continuing education courses should be relevant to the profession because that is what is keeping them on top of their game in their chosen field. He said it sounds like, from what they have heard, the classes being offered do not always apply, and someone doing low voltage may have to take a course in marine pedestal electric hookups, and they are not certified to do that work, even though they have taken a course in it. He said they think this is a positive step, and a fairly simple one, and they can see how it works, and then come back as there may be other improvements necessary. Mr. Holloway said he thinks the industry would probably drive that if they wanted it. Mr. Dodd asked if the County can set that standard for alarm companies, to which Mr. Young responded, he thinks so, but he thinks they would want to have a work group. He said he researched this, but he does not fully know about low voltage versus all the different aspects, or the reason why they have a Master Electrician versus an Electrician Limited. Mr. Dodd said, at some point, it would probably be a good idea to look into that. There being no further discussion, on motion by Mr. Dodd and seconded by Mr. McCain, Legislative Bill 2019-02 was unanimously introduced.

Introduction: Legislative Bill 2019-03: An Act to Amend Chapter 27 of the Wicomico County Personnel Manual titled "Definitions," Section 2701, to correct the definition of "Termination-at-Will" to properly describe the status of employees on their initial probationary period, and appointed employees as "at-will" employees. There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. Dodd and seconded by Mr. Kilmer, Legislative Bill 2019-03 was unanimously introduced.

Mrs. Hurley said the next step on both of these Bills is to schedule a Public Hearing, and they can have that on May 7th at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comments:

Mr. Patrick Nelms came to the podium, and said he is a Wicomico County business owner, and Somerset County resident. He thanked Council for giving him the opportunity to speak today. He said he has owned and managed Bay Land Aviation at the Salisbury-Wicomico County Airport since 1998. He explained, Bay Land Aviation provides aviation fuel, passenger crew services, flight instruction, and charter flight transportation. He said, in the industry, they are known as a fixed base operator, or FBO. He said, as the only FBO at the Airport, Bay Land services are critical to the success of the Airport, and they take seriously their responsibility for safe and quality services, and in serving as the outward looking face to the Airport's aeronautical users. He said, unfortunately, he is disappointed to say that in the last two years, the relationship with Airport Management has become contentious and troubled, but

nothing at Bay Land Aviation changed in that time. He said, over the past 18 months, the Airport has sent him communications that attempted to suggest that Bay Land was in default of its lease. He said, in every case, he provided the information the Airport was looking for, responded with documentation, or complied with the requested action. He said a communication from the County's legal counsel that he received on Friday says two things that are important for him to address today. He said, first, it suggests that Bay Land's lease will not be renewed when it expires in 2025. He said, secondly, it demands removal of Bay Land's fuel tanks by this July for reasons of Maryland environmental regulations. He said he wants to address the fuel tank issue first. He explained, the current fuel tanks are 30 years old, and he has been looking at plans to replace them, and, in fact, he has been bringing this issue up to the Airport Commission for several years, and discussed it with Airport Management. He said, if the impression has been given that Bay Land is unresponsive, or that the current tanks are dangerous, that is absolutely false. He said the tanks have continuous monitoring, and annual inspections, even though the environmental regulations only require those inspections every three years. He said the Airport's own environmental study in 2017 showed no hazardous release from the tanks. He said, in 2018, the Airport's environmental consultant stated there was no evidence of leaking, or violation of the regulations. He said the July deadline for removal of the tanks is arbitrary, and he wishes to proceed with replacing the tanks, but the recent communications with the County caused him to question whether, going forward, they will be cooperating, or be in an adversarial stance. He said he would prefer the cooperation route. He said he hopes the intent is not simply a campaign of harassment to make him want to abandon the Airport and Bay Land's long-standing business. He said Airport Management would like to see them provide aircraft maintenance. He said Bay Land offered maintenance at one time, and eventually had to close due to high overhead costs compared to the number of actual customers. He said at no time in the past 34 years was aircraft maintenance required to be provided by Bay Land, or any FBO for that matter. He said, nowadays, business jets are primarily maintained by companies that build them, first because they are under warranty, and secondly because specialized tooling, manuals and training are required. He said that leaves the customer market for maintenance as primarily smaller piston engine aircraft. He said, in total, they have 26 active aircraft at Salisbury right now, and that is not enough to support a fulltime maintenance base. He said they have been told that Bay Land's lease will not be renewed or extended, and he just would like to know why. He then asked on what basis has this been predetermined. He said they know that the Airport and County are looking to promote and sustain the Airport's long-term future, and Bay Land wants to be part of that future. He said they are in the best position to provide FBO services because they know and understand the needs of the base customers, the Airport's unique operational requirements, and they have good relations with business aircraft operators that may eventually decide to base here. He said he would like to return to present Bay Land's comprehensive infrastructure plans and service plans to the County and Airport Management in the future. He said Bay Land's proposal should be given fair and equal consideration. He said the FAA grant assurances require good faith negotiation for fair and reasonable terms, and he has retained aviation counsel that will provide specific case law on those points. He said he, his family, and his company are dedicated to the Airport's success, they are dedicated to safe aviation practices, great customer service, and to supporting the Airport, and supporting the local aeronautical community.

Council Comments:

Mr. Hastings said it is good to see City Councilmember April Jackson at the meeting. He said, this past Friday, he and Ms. Jackson actually went to the MAC Center for a foster grandparent program through

Shore Up, and it is a pretty good program, so it was nice to be able to speak to the folks there. He said it is for individuals over 55 who want to be able to spend time with individuals with special needs and build friendships, and it is, actually, a good partnership. He said he also went to the inauguration of Dr. White, and that was really great to see. He said for many years in high school he sang for All Shore Chorus, and this past Friday he went and saw a lot of folks there. He said Salisbury is picking up Third Friday again, which will be outdoors, and should be a great event, and he hopes to see everybody there.

Mr. Dodd said some of the Councilmembers attended the Mission of Mercy tour at the Civic Center, and he was very impressed, and is thankful to see all the people who donate their time, especially the hardworking dentists. He said he thinks this is done every two years, and it was a very impressive program. He said, on Saturday, Council President Cannon, Councilman Kilmer, and himself attended Fruitland Little League Parade and Opening Ceremonies. He said some of the other Little Leagues had to cancel because of the weather, but it turned out to be a good event. He said there were a lot of people there, and they handed proclamations to the little players who were there who attended the Council Meeting, and they were so happy. He said they want to frame them, and told their parents not to throw them away. He said, when they see kids excited like that, it gives him a good feeling, and it means a lot for them to do that for the kids. He said tonight is the Delmarva Poultry Industry banquet, and he will be attending that, and he hopes a lot of the other Councilmembers will be attending that as well. He said, for the last three months, Mrs. Hurley drove him up to Annapolis every Wednesday to attend MACo Legislative Meetings, so she took the time out of her busy schedule to be there with them, and give Council a weekly update on that. He said Council President Cannon attended as well, and it is very important they go up there and network with the rest of the Counties and MACo. He said it is a good thing, and, as they saw today with the Kirwan Commission, they do a lot of good work.

Mr. McCain said several of them attended Dr. White's inauguration at Salisbury University, and it is quite an honor to only be the 9th President of Salisbury University considering the history. He said he also wants to mention that Salisbury had their Salisbury Marathon since they had their last meeting, and he wants to mention that their own Lynn Sande ran the full marathon, and, at 58, he decided to run his first half marathon, and they are both still here today, so they survived. He said he would also like to give a quick shout out to one of their County residents who ran in the Boston Marathon yesterday, a good friend of his, Ed Godfrey. He said he did very well yesterday, and he just wanted to mention that as well.

Council President Comments:

Mr. Cannon said he attended the Mission of Mercy as well, and he had to do that because his sister Sharon Deshields is the chairperson for the event. He said, it is really worth seeing to see how well it is run, and how many dentists come out and volunteer their time. He said they have to do plumbing into the floor of the Civic Center, and then they, literally, have to establish within a 24-hour period the plumbing to pump the water out of the individual stations, so it is a huge process they have to go through in order to make this happen. He said it is very much needed, and they saw the people standing outside the doors at 5:00 a.m. Mr. McCain asked if Mr. Cannon knows how many actually were seen, to which Mr. Cannon responded, he thinks it is over 1,000, so there certainly is a need, and they did a great job. He said he went to Shorebirds Stadium on opening night, and there is a good group of people out there. He said they finally put together the new walk around in the outfield, and that is really the place to see a game. He said, when a ball is hit into the outfield, it is about 20 feet from where they are standing, and it is a lot of fun, and a huge enhancement for the ballpark as a whole. He said the fact that

they had the hindsight to recognize that this was needed, and then to get the funding and execute it, really, he thinks, has brought the level of participation at the Shorebirds games up quite a bit as far as an enjoyable time for anybody who is going to go there. He said, outside of that, as Mr. Dodd said, he attended the Fruitland parade and the Hebron parade, and those were a good time. He said they appreciate all of the effort the people go through to put those on for the community.

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Dodd, seconded by Mr. Kilmer, and unanimously approved, the Legislative Session was adjourned to go into Open Work Sessions followed by a Closed Work Session pursuant to the General Provisions Article, Section 3-105(b)(1) to discuss a legal personnel matter to protect the identity of the individual, and an Administrative Closed Session pursuant to General Provisions Article and Section 3-104 to discuss Internal Auditor project updates.

The Wicomico County Council met in a Closed Work Session on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at approximately 2:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Government Office Building, Salisbury, Maryland.

In attendance: John T. Cannon, Council President; Larry Dodd, Vice President; Marc Kilmer, Joe Holloway, Ernie Davis, William R. McCain, and Josh Hastings.

Present for the Closed Work Session: Laura Hurley, Council Administrator; Robert Taylor, Council Attorney; Lynn Sande, Executive Office Associate; Steve Roser, Internal Auditor, and Levin Hitches, Assistant Internal Auditor.

The purpose of the Closed Work Session was to discuss a legal personnel matter to protect the identity of the individual. No formal action was taken.

On motion by Mr. Dodd, seconded by Mr. Kilmer, and unanimously approved, the Closed Work Session was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m. The legal authority for the Closed Work Session is General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b)(1).

The Wicomico County Council met in an Administrative Closed Work Session on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at approximately 2:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, Government Office Building, Salisbury, Maryland.

In attendance: John T. Cannon, Council President; Larry Dodd, Vice President; Marc Kilmer, Joe Holloway, and Josh Hastings.

Present for the Administrative Closed Work Session: Laura Hurley, Council Administrator; Robert Taylor, Council Attorney; Lynn Sande, Executive Office Associate; Steve Roser, Internal Auditor; and Levin Hitchens, Assistant Internal Auditor.

The purpose of the Administrative Closed Work Session was to discuss Internal Auditor project updates. No formal action was taken.

On motion by Mr. Dodd, seconded by Mr. Kilmer, and unanimously approved, the Administrative Closed Work Session was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m. The legal authority for the Closed Work Session is General Provisions Article, Section 3-104.

Signatures on next page

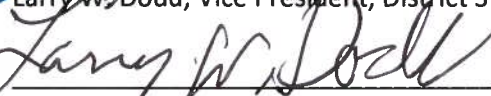
**Legislative Session
April 16, 2019**



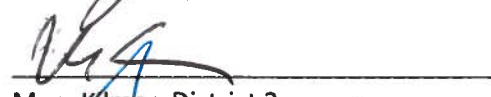
John T. Cannon, President



Larry W. Dodd, Vice President, District 3



Ernest F. Davis, District 1



Marc Kilmer, District 2



Josh Hastings, District 4



Joe Holloway, District 5



William R. McCain, At-Large



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator