

The Wicomico County Council met in Legislative Session on Tuesday, March 19, 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. Hastings, the Legislative Minutes from March 5, 2019 were unanimously approved.

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

On motion by Mr. Dodd and seconded by Mr. McCain, the Open Work Session Minutes from February 19, 2019 – Fiscal Years 2020-2024 Capital Improvement Program and Budget (CIP), were unanimously approved.

On motion by Mr. Dodd and seconded by Mr. Hastings, the Open Work Session Minutes from February 19, 2019 – Discussion with PAC 14-Wicomico County’s Public Access Channel, were unanimously approved.

A proclamation was presented in recognition of National Social Work Month to the Wicomico County Department of Social Services.

Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

Resolution No. 51-2019 – Extending the Date for the Adoption of the Capital Program (CIP) from March 19, 2019 to June 4, 2019. Mrs. Hurley said Charter Section 704 indicates that the County Council is to adopt the Capital Program as submitted or amended on or before the third Tuesday in February of each year. She said Charter Section 707 allows County Council to change any of the dates in Section 704 by Resolution if the Resolution states the reason for the change. She said Resolution No. 46-2019 was adopted on February 19, 2019 extending the date for the adoption of the CIP to March 19, 2019. She said the Resolution before Council today is to extend the adoption of the CIP for the second time to June 4, 2019, the reason being that State Legislation has been introduced which may have a fiscal impact on the County, and the Administration has requested to take a look at the projects in the CIP in light of the proposed Legislation. There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. Dodd and seconded by Mr. McCain, Resolution No. 51-2019 was unanimously approved.

Submission of Appointments to the Animal Appeal Board, the Wicomico County Airport Commission, and the Natural Resources Conservation Advisory Committee – Mrs. Hurley said, in accordance with Charter Section 315, the County Executive is to submit appointments to Boards and Commissions to Council for confirmation at a Legislative Session. She said the Director of Administration has formally submitted the names of individuals to serve on the Animal Appeals Board, the Airport Commission, and the Natural Resources Conservation Advisory Committee for Council’s confirmation.

Resolution No. 52-2019 – Confirming the Appointment of Shawn A. Bradley to the Animal Appeals Board. Mrs. Hurley said the Animal Appeals Board hears and decides appeals of determinations made by the Animal Control Authority concerning the classification of an animal as potentially dangerous or dangerous. She said they can also make recommendations on changes, implementation, and

administration of animal laws, and they can make recommendations regarding the schedule of fines provided in Chapter 133 of the County Code. There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. Dodd and seconded by Mr. McCain, Resolution No. 52-2019 was unanimously approved.

Resolution No. 53-2019 – Confirming the Reappointment of Matthew E. Creamer to the Wicomico County Airport Commission. Mrs. Hurley said the Airport Commission acts in an advisory capacity. She said they review and make recommendations to the Airport Manager and the County Executive with respect to all Airport matters. There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. Dodd and seconded by Mr. Hastings, Resolution No. 53-2019 was unanimously approved.

Resolution No. 54-2019 – Confirming the Reappointment of Nola M. Arnold to the Wicomico County Airport Commission. There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. Dodd and seconded by Mr. McCain, Resolution No. 54-2019 was unanimously approved.

Resolution No. 55-2019 – Confirming the Appointment of Minister George M. Copeland to the Natural Resources Conservation Advisory Committee. Mrs. Hurley said the Natural Resources Conservation Advisory Committee was established in 2009 for the purpose of developing a comprehensive GI plan with strategies to implement Green Infrastructure Conservation in Wicomico County. There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. Dodd and seconded by Mr. McCain, Resolution No. 55-2019 was unanimously approved.

Resolution No. 56-2019 – Approving a Concession Agreement Between Wicomico County, Maryland and Sentinel Robotic Solutions, LLC to Provide Unmanned Aircraft Systems Flight Operations at the Salisbury Regional Airport. Mrs. Dawn Veatch, Airport Manager, came before Council, and introduced Mr. Peter Bale, President and CEO of Sentinel Robotic Solutions (SRS). Mr. Cannon said he has had a publication called Government Technology for a few months, and they recommend four areas in the entire United States for the perfect drone section, and one of those happens to be in this exact area. He said the areas are Alabama, Colorado, Montana, and the Greater Washington, D.C. area, which includes Salisbury, Maryland. Mrs. Veatch said she was before Council in September and did a presentation on the drone operation to talk about the concept they had as far as development of the innovation center and the types of services they would be providing, such as training, development, and testing of other drones for companies that do not have their own drone. She said this is a concession agreement instead of a lease because SRS is providing a service, not renting the facility. She clarified, the facility is being built by the County, and there will be office space and other things rented in that facility, but not for this portion of this agreement. She said SRS has the expertise to operate this, and have done this seamlessly with tremendous success, so the County is fortunate to have a leader in the industry here as their partner, and she looks forward to being able to develop all of the new future things coming down the road with drones and the aviation community. Mr. Holloway said, when they first started talking about this several months ago, it was supposed to be fixed wing drones, as he understood it, and there were concerns from some of the general aircraft people who are concerned about vertical lift. He said then, a couple weeks ago, there was a news story on a local station about training to use drones. He then asked if that is what is going on, to which Mrs. Veatch responded, they will be doing all types of drones, and her presentation demonstrated that on September 18th. She said there are no drones being excluded. She said they have runway type drone equipment that will use the runway, and they have vertical lift, but they have prescribed departures for ingress/egress that protects the operations on the active runways, and those will all be published in a chart for all pilots to review and be able to see. She said there will be NOTAMs, which is a notice to airmen generated for every pilot who flies that they are supposed to get before they take off, as well as a local NOTAM that the tower will advise if the drone activity is currently in operation so everybody is aware. She said, typically, the vertical lift drones operate below 400 feet,

and aircraft are not supposed to be below 400 feet inside the five-mile radius of the Airport because it is restricted, so they feel they have a very safe operation. She said, coupled with that, they have drone detection technology that is very advanced, and will be coming up at the next Council meeting to get that technology installed so they can track and monitor all drone equipment that is operating in their airspace, and coordinate with air traffic. There being no further discussion, on motion by Mr. Dodd and seconded by Mr. McCain, Resolution No. 56-2019 was approved. Mr. Holloway opposed.

Resolution No. 59-2019 – Authorizing the County Executive to Accept a Grant from the State of Maryland in the Amount of \$972,684 to Modify the Poplar Hill Facility for Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery. Mr. Weston Young, Assistant Director of Administration, Mr. Steve Schuh, Executive Director of Maryland's Opioid Command Center, and Barbara Bazron, PhD, Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Executive Director of Behavioral Health, came before Council. Mr. Young reported, at the last Council meeting, he gave some background on the opioid epidemic, its impact locally, and some of the costs associated with that. He said he identified a gap in services currently provided locally in terms of there not currently being 24/7 ability to provide treatment and detox services to those in need. He said he discussed the proposed repurposing of the Poplar Hill Prerelease Facility into a regional comprehensive substance use treatment facility, and they come before Council today to accept a grant agreement in the amount of \$972,684 to begin renovations at the Poplar Hill Facility for the treatment to be provided. He said this is State money going to renovate a State facility, and, with that, he will turn it over to Mr. Schuh to give some statements as well.

Mr. Schuh thanked Council for having them at the meeting to talk about this exciting project, and said he will give some background on the Opioid Command Center (OCC). He said the Center was established by Governor Hogan early in 2017 at about the same time they declared a state of emergency because of the epidemic they face related to opiates. He said the responsibilities they were given were to coordinate the Statewide response, and to lead the overall effort to combat the crisis. He explained, what that really means in practice is that they work with the 24 local jurisdictions around the State to provide resources, to fill in gaps in delivery systems, and to provide information that people need to address the crisis locally. He said Maryland, despite immense effort, remains in the midst of an immense crisis. He said there were over 2,000 fatalities in 2017 related to opiates, which is the last full year they have data on because data is still coming in on 2018, but it is, clearly, on track for another year to have an excess of 2,000 fatalities. He said the Shore has been especially hard hit with approximately 140 of those fatalities occurring here on the Shore. He said, when they look at matters on a per capita basis, the number of fatalities per 100,000 population is substantially higher here on the Shore than it is in the rest of the State with 26 fatalities per 100,000 population on the Shore versus 21 fatalities per 100,000 population in the rest of the State, so this is very concerning to them. He said six of the nine Shore Counties are above the Maryland average in terms of per capita rates of fatalities, so the need for this type of facility is certainly here in this part of Maryland. He said they are very excited about the Poplar Hill project for several reasons, one of which is it is full spectrum, as they know, starting with observation to detox, to recovery and rehabilitation, and treatment housing. He said that spectrum of service is very consistent with the policy priorities the Governor has set in terms of treatment and recovery. He said the second reason is they think it is very exciting to see such a regional cooperative effort by multiple Counties, especially in the more rural areas of Maryland because rural areas have a unique challenge in addressing a crisis like this. He said, when they see Counties coming together to work jointly on a challenge, it tends to be more effective. He said also, as Council knows, this is a repurposing of a State asset that is lying fallow, and it is very cost-effective to put it back to work in a constructive way. He said, finally, the location looks very good to them where it is close enough and accessible to everyone in the region, but, at the same time, in a lightly populated area.

Mr. Schuh said the grant agreement and lease agreement are as easy as they get as they are trying to make this as easy as possible on the participating Counties, and they are standard agreements. He said the grant agreement, for the most part, just requires the County to provide them with invoices, be nondiscriminatory in the process of construction, and to give them approval over major subcontractors, which they would routinely grant. He said the lease itself is pretty straightforward as a 20-year base lease with two 5-year renewal options, is a \$1 per year lease so the financial burden is not particularly substantial, and the State has agreed to continue to operate the treatment facility that serves the site. He said that is the scope of things, and they are excited about the project. He said he wants to give a shout out to Ms. Lori Brewster and Mr. David Shipley for their great work. He said he mentioned to Council that mostly what they do at the OCC is coordinate with local opioid intervention teams at the local level, and Wicomico County's opioid intervention team is, of course, led by Ms. Brewster and Mr. Shipley, and Wicomico has set a very high standard of performance, which they appreciate.

Dr. Bazron said she is here to respond to any questions Council may have. She said the Maryland Department of Health really supports this project because it is filling a gap in services, and it is really needed in this particular area. She said they have to really curb the number of deaths that are occurring due to the opioid epidemic, so they have to get people into care, and they also have to keep them in recovery, and the spectrum of services that will be offered here will meet that objective.

Mr. Cannon said he noticed in the breakdown of funding there is about \$272,000 for mechanical, and then there is another \$500,000 for HVAC, so the balance of that is \$200,000, which is for dormitory improvements, and he was curious what those improvements were, what was anticipated, and if they have any type of a study demonstrating what degree of work needs to be done to the facility. Mr. Young said these are estimates they came up with working with General Services. He said, in terms of getting the facility up and running, and given the grant money being offered, this is how they decided to start things. He said there is no cooling there now, so over half of that money is going towards putting in air conditioning units. He said mechanical is for plumbing because the showers are currently in a situation where there is no privacy, and it would be upgrading the showers that are there, and other plumbing issues. He said the dormitory improvements would be taking what were large dorms as a prerelease unit where they had several bunks, and it would be creating private rooms, so the thought would be putting in walls, and taking what are large dorms and breaking them up into smaller private rooms. He said, if this grant is accepted, the very next step would be setting a meeting up with the service provider who won the request for qualifications, and working with them to see exactly what they need. He said they would then need to have some architectural sketches done, and they would need to send them to the appropriate State staff to approve any of that work before they get started. He then asked if that answers Mr. Cannon's question, to which Mr. Cannon responded, he was wondering what the \$200,000 costs were. Mr. Young explained, that is taking what are big, open spaces, and putting rooms in. He said it is creating the rooms needed for detoxification, and, ultimately, for recovery. Dr. Bazron added, that sort of configuration is what is typically found when they go into a treatment facility as opposed to looking at one that used to look like a correctional facility, so they have to really retool the environment.

Mr. Kilmer said, as far as the retooling, he thinks all of Council have been out there to see it, and there is a lot of retooling needed. He said \$10 million dollars was thrown out in January, but it seems almost as if they are doing things backwards because they are accepting this money to start work without a final plan. He said they do not have a plan on what the final facility will look like, or how much work will be needed. He said they will start the work, but it is going to cost more than a million dollars, so he is a little leery about committing to doing something without a process. He said there is a general process they follow with new schools, or the Sheriff's Department where they have a concept, a cost, then plans, and, finally, start moving on approval of the money, but now they are approving the money first, will start

moving, and go from there. He said the rush of this is what has given him a little bit of heartburn. Mr. Young said that is a good point, but the larger estimate in terms of fully retrofitting the entire complex is going to be far more than a million dollars, which they can all agree to. He said they have State money they are looking to accept, and USDA Rural Development is 100 percent behind this project, and are practically throwing money at them, and he can bring Denise Lovelady to the next meeting with what is available from them. He said the thought is to get as much grant money as possible for renovations, and, again, they are talking 20 beds, and just men because, if they go co-ed, they will need separate showers, which would be a larger mechanical cost, and there may be certain dorms they cut off at this moment and not renovate at all. He said they would get grant money from the State, get grant money from USDA Rural Development, and then whatever is required beyond that for the provider to get started, they are expected to take out low interest loans from USDA Rural Development. Mr. Kilmer said Mr. Young mentioned this at the last meeting, but it seems to him it would be useful to have an idea of how much the costs would be. He said, for example, if they get \$1 million from the State, \$4 million from the Feds, and then the provider would know how much they need to kick in. Mr. Young said part of the reason they are before Council now talking about this specific grant is, if they look at the very first page of the grant agreement, this money is good until the end of June 2019. He said Mr. Schuh can go into more detail on that, but the Opioid Command Center needs to know if Wicomico County plans to use this money this year, or should the State repurpose it to one of the other projects they have throughout the State. He said he agrees with Mr. Kilmer in terms of the process they normally go through, but his office is pursuing this, and the way to move forward is as a pass through as the County is purely taking grant money from State and Federal sources, renovating to assist the ultimate provider that will go into that facility, and who will get the rest to renovate. He said this grant agreement, if they read through it, is the simplest, friendliest grant document he has seen, but the string is the time. He said the red flag on this document is that it needs to be spent by June 30, so that is why they are before Council now with this specific ask. He said, if Council feels there is not enough information and they vote against this, that money will be repurposed somewhere else in the State to help the opioid epidemic elsewhere, and Wicomico County will just have to ask in Fiscal 2020 if they can get money then.

Dr. Bazron said, with respect to service delivery, the Behavioral Health Administration provides startup funds, and the services that are being provided are within the American Society of Addiction Medicine's level of care and are reimbursable through Medicaid, so there is a source of continuous funding. She said they will also support some startup funds to make sure that the provider can get up and running effectively and efficiently because they truly support this particular project.

Mr. Kilmer said Council learned two weeks ago the deadline was March 30th. He then asked when Mr. Young knew the deadline was March 30th, to which Mr. Schuh responded, June 30th. Mr. Kilmer clarified, Council is being asked to approve this by March 30th, to which Mr. Young responded, Administration let Council know as soon as they found out the State needed to know by the end of March whether they were going to move forward with this. Mr. Schuh clarified, that date came from the fact that the OCC will lose this money if it is not spent by June 30th because of the State's budget cycle. He said they felt if the County did not know for sure they were going to take this money by the end of March and it went much beyond that, they would not have time to find alternative grantees, and would end up losing the money because it takes time to find a project, scope it out, and legitimately represent they can spend the money by June 30th. He said he knows that sounds a little bit like they are making their problem the County's problem, but it would be a shame to lose a million dollars to defray the cost of a really good project. He said they recognize the million dollars is not the end of the cost of this project, and there is a long way to go, but they will be entering their next budget cycle, and Dr. Bazron just shared with him some very good news about Federal funding that they are going to be giving the State substantially

more funding in fiscal 2020 than they gave them in fiscal 2019. He said they look at this as a partnership with Wicomico County, and this is not the last time they will see them to help out with this project.

Mr. Dodd said two weeks ago the question was asked about funding, and Mr. Young said it was a good question. He said now they are hearing about startup funds that they did not hear about before, and Mr. Young has said the USDA is going to be throwing money at them left and right, but Council has not heard any figures, so it is like putting the cart before the horse, and that is just not a comfortable feeling.

Mr. Holloway addressed Mr. Schuh and said there are several concerns about this, but one concern he has been hearing about is the importing of folks from out of the area, and whether people would be coming from all over the State to this area due to the fact it is State money. He said Delegate Sample-Hughes asked Mr. Schuh that question a few months ago, and he said it was not practical, and probably not allowed under State law. He then asked if that is correct, and if Wicomico County will be moving people from out of the area to this facility, to which Mr. Schuh responded, he does not think so. He said, given the extent of the epidemic here on the Shore, and the size of this facility starting at 20 beds but eventually, hopefully, going to 60 beds, he does not think they are going to have any problem filling those beds with their friends and neighbors here on the Shore. He said the way the facility operates as a practical matter is going to be a function of how the County and their vendor, the people they hire to run it for the County, choose to run it and market it. He said there are providers in Florida, and they see them on TV advertising nationally because that is their business model, but he would assume that is not Wicomico County's goal. He said they know Wicomico's goal because that is how they scoped the grant, which is that it is to serve the residents of the Shore, their marketing will be focused on the residents of the Shore, and they would not expect to see them on Washington, D.C. or the Philadelphia market television. He said, as far as an outright prohibition, his understanding, as Mr. Holloway stated, is that they cannot have an outright prohibition, so, if somebody knocks on their door from a different part of the State or Country, they would have to have the same access anybody else would have who knocks on their door that lives nearby. Mr. Holloway said, in other words, if this provider takes over this facility and starts operating it, and they discover they can garner more income by taking people who are not on Medicaid but are private pay, they would be allowed to take people from anywhere in the State. He then asked if that is correct, to which Mr. Schuh responded, they would be legally allowed to, but they are going to be answering to the County. He clarified, if what the County wants them to do is focus their marketing on the Shore, that is what they will do. Mr. Holloway said, if the State funds this, or partially funds this, there is probably nothing the County can do legally to restrict this just to local citizens, to which Mr. Schuh responded, his understanding is they cannot have a legal restriction, but they do not have any opinion about their marketing practices or who they recruit into the facility.

Mr. Holloway said a few minutes ago Mr. Schuh stated a lot of the Counties jointly are excited about this, but Council has never heard anything from any other Counties. He said, in fact, one of the Counties he talked to said they did not want anything to do with being involved with it. He then asked if Mr. Schuh has a list of people who want to be involved, to which Mr. Schuh responded, he does not have a list, but his understanding is that it is multijurisdictional, and most of the Shore Counties want to be supportive and participants in the project. Mr. McCain said Ms. Brewster was before Council at the last meeting, and she said Worcester and Somerset were aware of this project, and even Caroline had contacted her. Mr. Holloway said they heard they were aware, but they have not had any outpouring. He said Mr. Schuh stated everybody was excited about it, but he has not heard anything from anybody.

Mr. Wayne Strausburg, Director of Administration, then came to the podium, and said they have had several meetings with all of the Health Officers on the Lower Shore, and all of the Health Officers on the Lower Shore have signed onto this. He said whoever Mr. Holloway is talking to may not be aware, to

which Mr. Holloway responded, he has been talking to County Council people. Mr. Strausburg said they may not be aware what their Health Officers are doing because they are State employees. He said the other thing he will remind Council of is there is a Bill before the Legislature right now that will likely pass, and was signed off on and sponsored by one of their Delegates that will require two female prerelease facilities in this State. He said they have a prerelease facility sitting there vacant, and, if Council wants a prerelease facility in Wicomico County, so be it because that is what they are going to get. Mr. Holloway said they had a prerelease facility in Wicomico County, and when they had that they had guards there, but, from his understanding, this center will not have guards, and the people would be able to walk away any time they want to, to which Mr. Strausburg responded, because they are not criminals. Mr. Holloway said, at the last meeting they heard there would be people moved from the Detention Center there, and he knows Mr. Strausburg disputed that, to which Mr. Strausburg responded, Council did not hear that from anyone with the authority to say that. He said this is very simple in his mind. He said, if Council does not want to accept the million dollars, and if Council does not want to take a progressive step towards addressing a very serious issue in this community, so be it. He said they are presenting Council with an opportunity, but if they care not to take advantage of it, so be it.

Mr. Cannon said they appreciate what Mr. Strausburg is saying, and they appreciate the State's efforts, but it was said Council has to make this decision, and his concern is, before they do anything, over and above everything else, this needs to be vetted properly, to which Mr. Strausburg responded, he agrees with that. Mr. Cannon said they have had one Work Session as a County Council, but they have not had any Public Hearings at all in reference to this topic, which is a concern. He said what he thinks Council is trying to get at is it is not an "us versus them" type of thing, but they are trying to make sure the proper process is being followed, and they certainly do not want to mislead the State. Mr. Strausburg said he does not disagree with that, but there are assertions being made that are sort of outside the lanes of the discussions they have had. He said he believes in due process, and Council knows that, but he would like to be deliberate about this, and stick with the facts as they know them. Mr. Cannon said, again, they have only had one Work Session, and he understands this is a Resolution on the table today, but, actually, this is also a Work Session for Council as well, so if Mr. Holloway or any other Councilmembers are going to make some type of comment on what they know about it, they have to have an open dialogue and an exchange that will help the Councilmembers better understand what the circumstances are, to which Mr. Strausburg responded, he agrees with him, and does not disagree with that at all.

Mr. McCain said, getting back to the comment Mr. Strausburg just made, this is an opportunity. He said they hear time and time again about the epidemic they have here on the Shore, and they have to start somewhere. He said they do not get to pick the timing, the timing is what it is, and this is just a first step of a pretty significant project, and is an opportunity. He said it is an opportunity to do something about a major epidemic they have here on the Shore, and he does not have concerns about it opening. He said this is opening the door for the County to pursue this. He said there are still a lot more steps to take, but they have to start somewhere, and this Resolution just allows them to begin the process.

Mr. Holloway asked if the State or County has done any background on the vendor, to which Mr. Young responded, yes. He said the vendor currently operates in Maryland, and he believes the Warden can comment on the work they do at the Detention Center now. He said they are providing some level of medical service in the Detention Center as well as in other Maryland entities. He said the facility they operate now in Harrington is similar to what they are proposing at Poplar Hill, and they provide a comprehensive program in a facility that is almost the exact same square footage as the Poplar Hill facility. He said their conversations with them have been that they are familiar with the USDA Rural Development loan process, and that is, ideally, what they need in terms of covering the remaining costs of what goes into getting this facility started. He said, on Mr. Dodd's comment, he was not aware of the

money that the Department of Health has, but Ms. Brewster may have been. He said, in terms of laying it out, it sounds like those funds might help operational costs. He clarified, he has been focusing on taking what was a prerelease prison facility and converting it into a friendlier treatment variety.

Mr. Holloway said, at the last meeting two weeks ago there were comments made that there would be people sent there from the Detention Center, but he did not hear that this vendor was working at the Detention Center two weeks ago. He said he does not know if he missed that, but he did not read it in the Brief Book, and now it is being said that people with no authority spoke that it would be moving in that direction, to which Mr. Young responded, as he recalls, that conversation went on that tangent because he was trying to quantify what some of the expenses are. He clarified, the County is paying for this epidemic now because they see it in their Detention Center, and pay upwards of \$200,000 a year detoxing folks, but that does not get into folks who have also contracted HIV or hepatitis from needle use as that is in addition to just detoxing people in the County, and that was where the Warden further chimed in. He said the folks they want to bring to this facility are ones the COAT team finds who want to seek treatment, so, while they are interested and have self-determination at that moment to seek treatment, they can get them to a facility. He said their current provider has limited hours and limited beds, so they are having to drive across the Bay to a 24/7 facility now, and he should also mention they accept whoever they want, and it is not restricted to the Shore or Maryland. He said, when they expressed this issue among the Health Officers, they heard that it is just not Wicomico, but it is all the Counties. He said, if the Councilmembers and Commissioners he spoke with had a concern, it was asking how it would compete with their local provider. He said that is also his office's question because they do not want to put their local provider out of business, but they have identified that the gap they are trying to fill is not met with the current provider. He said, if they go to Somerset, they have McCready. He said the demand here is high enough that they think, especially at 20 beds they would like to get started with, that the demand is high enough that Wicomico can probably keep it filled. He said, when they heard it was State money, they thought they would open it up to the surrounding Counties because they have the same needs Wicomico does. He said one can more easily get treatment 24/7 if they are across the Bay Bridge. He said, personally, they may not be able to get 60 beds, and may only be able to get 40. Mr. Cannon asked who the service provider is, to which Mr. Young responded, depending on how things go, the service provider from the request for qualifications is called Connections, and, if Council would like to hear what they are currently doing in the Correctional Facility, the Warden can talk about that. He said they are out of Delaware primarily, though they have expanded into Maryland significantly.

Mr. Holloway said they have been messing around with this for six to eight months, but they have never had a Public Hearing on it, and now they are down to the wire of approving something that is going into a neighborhood where he has heard concerns from citizens about what is going there, but there has never been an attempt about having a Public Hearing, to which Mr. Young responded, he understands that. He then asked Mr. Holloway if he attended the Community Forums they had on opioids because that is where the idea came from, to which Mr. Holloway responded, that is the people this will effect on one side, and not the people it is going to effect in the neighborhood in where the people live. He said his concern, and the concern that he is hearing from people who live in that area, is what is to keep the people from walking away, and what is to keep them there, and they say it is voluntary, so they can walk away any time they want. He said then Council heard there might be people sent down there with ankle bracelets, and they hear now that the operator is actually working in the Detention Center. He then asked if this is going to be a clearinghouse for the Detention Center. He said he is done with it.

Mr. Kilmer said part of the issue is there are a lot of questions out there, and this is in his District, so he hears those questions, but he does not have the answers, so that is why Council is asking because they do not have the answers. He said there are some of them on this side of the table who are opposed to it,

but he is more ambivalent, and does not like to be rushed, and he feels like they are being rushed. He said people have said they want to know more about this, and they call him, but he told them he did not know because it was before their last Work Session. He said he thinks part of the issue is there is not a lot of information out there, and people have questions they have expressed to him, Mr. Holloway, and probably others. He said their fears are not being calmed with information, and their questions have not been answered with what this will be in total. He said part of the issue he has that has not really been addressed is, if the County is accepting State money to work on a State facility, why do they need Wicomico County as the middleman. He said he gives the County Executive credit for bringing this up as an issue and identifying the need, and there is a great State facility here, but he is not sure why the County needs to be the middleman for it when it is State money, and a State facility. He said it seems they would have the ability right now with the OCC to take that money and immediately start work there to open something like this without the County because, frankly, the County is slowing the process down if there needs to be a State opioid facility there. Mr. Schuh responded, they generally do not act as a direct provider of services, but work with the local jurisdictions and other entities to deliver services through the grant making process, and, in this case, with a companion lease that gives local control over the facility, and is consistent with their Statewide strategy of working with local jurisdictions to deliver local services. Mr. Kilmer said they are not a provider of services either. He then asked if other Counties run these sort of facilities, or is this sort of a unique thing, to which Mr. Schuh responded, this is, typically, what they do. He explained, they make grants very often to local health authorities, and then the local health authorities will contract with outpatient providers, residential providers, or detox facilities to actually deliver the services. He said most local jurisdictions do not themselves literally deliver the services, but contract with people to deliver the services. Dr. Bazron added, she will tell them that her office provides funding to the local addiction authorities, the local health departments, the local behavioral health authorities, and core service agencies at the jurisdictional level, and then they are responsible for doing the contracting, and overseeing the network of care so it is specific to that jurisdiction. She said that is their process, and they do that as a part of their mission.

Mr. Hastings addressed Mr. Schuh and said he spent a lot of time listening to WRNR Radio, and his commercials kept coming on making this an issue for the last three years or so, which was very helpful and, he thinks, has gotten a lot of folks to know that there really is an issue. He then asked, as far as this amount of money or potential grant, is that something that is more extraordinary for this year, and does he expect the Governor's Office to have a continued commitment over the coming years of this quality. He clarified, he is trying to understand what the State's commitment is to potential resources like this in the future, to which Mr. Schuh responded, as he mentioned, this is a major priority for his office, and for the Governor. He said this funding is coming out of a \$10-million-dollar pot, so this is 10 percent of their total funds available for grant making throughout the whole State, so, yes, this is unusual. He said this is a big deal to them, and they are trying to really put shoulders to the wheel on this project. He said they are going to have even more funding available next year than they had this year thanks to the Federal actions taken of late. He said this is probably going to continue to be a priority for his office, the Department of Health, and for the Governor, so he cannot make any promises today about a future grant application, but he can say, certainly, that everyone who is directly involved in this is going to look very favorably on any future grant requests made to continue to build out this facility.

Mr. Davis said he understands they have a big problem here with opioids, but his problem is with the operation. He then asked, if the provider is going to fund this thing and keep it going, why is the County getting involved. He said, as Dr. Bazron just said, they give their money to the State Health Department, so, if that is where their money is going, why is the County getting involved if no money is going to come from the County, to which Mr. Schuh responded, the County's role is, essentially, to monitor the project, its effectiveness, and to make sure the grant funds are spent as they are supposed to be. He said that is

why they try to work with local authorities because his office does not have the capacity. He said, once that million dollars has come over to the Shore for this project, his office does not have an ongoing capability of watching over it, but the local Health Department does because that is what they routinely do. Mr. Davis said this million dollars is for construction, but he is talking about operations, and no one is talking about operation of this place, and where the money is going to come from to operate it, to which Mr. Young responded, it was mentioned at the last meeting by Ms. Brewster that it is funded through private funding and Medicaid. Dr. Bazron said, as she said earlier, the services being provided are funded through Medicaid and the 1115 waiver, which they have from the Center of Medicaid and services at the Federal level, so that is ongoing available funding for the fees for service system. She said, in addition, for those individuals who are uninsured they provide State only dollars out of her budget to support that, so, in terms of the ability to fund ongoing service delivery, the Behavioral Health Administration really provides that kind of support moving forward. Mr. Davis asked if that money would go right to the provider, to which Dr. Bazron responded, the provider will bill because it is a fee for service system, so they will bill for the services rendered. She said, if someone came in and needed outpatient detox, there is a code for that, and they would bill that code through Medicaid, and through their Administrative Services Organization, and then get the reimbursement. Mr. Schuh said he looked at National statistics that Dr. Bazron's office was kind enough to provide to him, and Nationally about 40 percent of these types of services are paid for by Medicaid, about 10 percent by Medicare, and the other 50 percent a combination of private insurance, straight out of pocket, and some charity care. He said they do not have those numbers specifically for Maryland, but it probably looks pretty much like that.

Mr. McCain said, with the information they have on the grants, he thinks they are the largest recipient. He said they had a list of all of the recipients, to which Mr. Schuh responded, most of these grants are between \$5,000 and \$50,000, which is a big deal to them. Mr. McCain said he appreciates the commitment the State is willing to make. He said he does not want Council to lose the big picture here of the problem they have with this epidemic. He said this is an opportunity to deal with this on the Shore. He said they had their health people here, they have had their Detention Center people here, and this is a major cost, and a major burden to their Detention Center, and to their hospital. He said the questions and concerns are very understandable, but, at the same time, they are getting a lot of information as this moves along, and this is the first step of this process. He said that facility is there, and they have a choice. He said it can be used for something that is going to help them here on the Lower Shore, or it is going to end up being another prerelease center again, and something is going to happen to that facility because it is not going to sit there vacant forever, and this is an opportunity to use that facility. He said he does not want to see Council get in the way of progress.

Mr. Kilmer said he thinks they all recognize they have an issue with opioids in Wicomico County, across the Shore, and across the State, and they do not want to get in the way, but there is also kind of a fallacy that they need to do something, and this is something, so, therefore, they must do this, but they need to not just jump at everything because it is presented as an opportunity. He said he has been wrestling with this over the past two weeks since they found out they are going to have to make a decision today, and he has been thinking about Connelly Mill a lot. He said that process was a pretty painful process, and first there were a lot of objections, but then they all worked together and met those objections, and passed it. He said he thinks, for him at least, and maybe some others on Council, when their backs are against a wall and they feel like they are being rushed into something without information, they are not going to approve it, but if they can work in a collaborative process, and have the community work in a collaborative process, then there may be a way to do this. He said he will be honest that he is not ready to approve this grant yet, but he does think something needs to be done, and he is open to something being done at Poplar Hill, but there are too many questions he has, and too many questions the community has, in his district especially, to rush into this. He said he does not want to be in the way of

progress, but he also does not think they should get involved in something where they could start the work, and then nothing more could happen. He said the lease is not even approved yet, and that is still going back and forth. He said, from the County's end, they do not know their exposure yet on multiple fronts. He said he is not trying to straddle the fence, even though that may be what it seems, but he is truly ambivalent about this, and he does not like being rushed into anything, and he does not like having the March 30th deadline put on, so his inclination would be to maybe not reject this, but table it and move on. He clarified, he is not making that motion yet because he knows that is not debatable, but that is his inclination. He said he likes to be cautious and have all of the information, and he likes to move slow, and he feels like they are being rushed, and he is not comfortable with that, so that is where he is. Mr. Young said, with that, if this money is not accepted now, they could apply in FY20, and try to get money at that point, and that gives them time to work on the lease. He said, again, he does not think anybody likes to rush, and, if it was not such an easy grant agreement, Administration would probably have questions and concerns about what they are having to follow to spend the money, and so forth.

Mr. Cannon said Mr. McCain talked about the big picture, but, again, he will reemphasize, he thinks the big picture really is the public, not the County Council, and he, certainly, would like to see this vetted with the public so they know where they stand because those are the individuals who are going to be impacted by this. Mr. Schuh asked when the next Council meeting is, to which Mr. Cannon responded, April 2nd. Mr. Schuh said he hears loud and clear what everybody is communicating, and it sounds like some of Council are on the fence, but, if they could knock out some of these issues that have been put on the table over the next couple of weeks, they might have support for the project. He said he would be happy to make himself available to visit with residents of the community who are affected by this. He said the March 30th deadline was something they set in their best judgement to give themselves enough time to repurpose, but, if they push it into the first week of April, he does not think anybody is going to lose a lot of sleep over that. He said they could revisit this after those questions get answered on April 2nd, to which Mr. Dodd responded, with all due respect, he does not think two weeks is going to be enough to give Council that information to fall on one side of the fence or the other. He said this was thrown in their lap at the last minute, and it is difficult to subscribe to making a deal under pressure. He said it is very hard to do that because they are looking at the citizens, they have to think about them, and he has been hearing that people on the Westside do not want this facility in their back yard. He clarified, they did not mention the prerelease for the ladies, but they do not want the Opioid Command Center there. Mr. McCain said he disagrees with that because he has had two or three individuals contact him from the Westside who are very much in favor of this. He said, besides that, he thinks it is very admirable of Mr. Schuh to be willing to get these questions answered, and they cannot ask for any more than that. He said, just as it was said about some of the other topics, over time they were able to get things resolved, so this will give them two weeks to dig into this deeper rather than just to say today they are not going to do this when Mr. Schuh is offering to push back that deadline and give a chance to answer the questions he has heard today. He said Mr. Schuh just heard these questions today, but now he is willing to give Council ample time to respond back, so, with that said, he would like to see them table this until the next meeting. He said there is no harm and no foul. Mr. Hastings seconded the motion to table. Mr. Cannon said he is going to put a caveat on that, and would like to table this until April 16th because, if Administration is going to have a Public Hearing, he would guess it has to be advertised, and two weeks is not going to give them enough time to advertise it properly, if they would be willing to accept that. Mr. McCain asked if they can all keep the doors open until the 16th, to which Mr. Schuh responded, he thinks so. There being no further discussion, on motion by Mr. McCain and seconded by Mr. Hastings, Resolution No. 59-2019 was unanimously tabled until April 16, 2019.

Mr. Cannon addressed Mr. Schuh and said he really appreciates the work he did a year ago as County Executive of Anne Arundel County. He said, unsolicited, Mr. Schuh sent him the entire opioid

intervention program that Anne Arundel County has so they could look at that, and he distributed that in Wicomico County. He thanked him very much for doing that, and said he is doing great work, and he appreciates that. Mr. Schuh thanked Mr. Cannon for his attention on this issue.

Robert Taylor, Council Attorney

Legislative Bill 2019-01: 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 sections for rabies vaccinations, rabies tags, and dog licenses. Mr. Taylor said this is, basically, housekeeping. He said the fees that are recited for everything except the breeder's license are the same fees as everything that are currently in force. He said the reason the breeder's license is inserted, and that is new, is because in their revision of the Animal Ordinance last year they included a breeder's license with the fees to be set by Council. He said they will also notice in there the cross-references to the sections of the new Animal Ordinance are changed somewhat from the old, and that is the housekeeping part of it. Mrs. Hurley said the next step is a Public Hearing, which they can have on April 16th at 10:00 a.m. There being no further discussion, on motion by Mr. Dodd and seconded by Mr. Kilmer, Legislative Bill 2019-01 was unanimously introduced.

Steve Roser, Internal Auditor:

Resolution No. 57-2019 – Accepting the Audit Report on Solid Waste Inventory. Mr. Roser said the Auditors performed a scheduled review of Solid Waste inventory controls and procedures. He said they coordinated with PKS, the external auditors, in the process. He said the objectives were to evaluate controls and adherence to controls. He said, in the process, they mapped the procedures and evaluated all of the controls, and the conclusion was satisfactory, which is the highest rating on their familiar 3-point scale, and he thinks the Public Works personnel should be commended for the successful conversion to a new, more robust system of tracking inventory. There being no further discussion, on motion by Mr. McCain and seconded by Mr. Kilmer, Resolution No. 57-2019 was unanimously approved.

Resolution No. 58-2019 – Amending the Annual Audit Plan for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019 to Include an Auto Lease Audit. Mr. Roser said the Auditors were asked to perform a cost-benefit analysis for automobile leases. He said they determined that a simple present value analysis of lease payments compared to retail purchasing price would likely not paint a complete picture, so they, therefore, recommend the addition of the attached scope and objectives to their Annual Audit Plan. Mr. Kilmer said, if they are going to get into these sort of agreements, he thinks it would be good to know what they are getting into, and what the savings are. Mr. Holloway said it is his understanding they are not even using the fuel rings anymore on the new lease vehicles, to which Mr. Roser responded, they have not done any work pursuant to this audit to this point. He said they have not done any work on the fuel system recently, but they have on their schedule a follow-up of the fuel system in which they would like to understand the new proposed WIC system that some of the Departments are using. He said they are waiting for implementation to the point where it can generate some statistical data so that they will have something to analyze there. He said the main thing they will look at when they start taking a look at this system to see how it works is the internal controls, and they will compare the internal controls for the new system to the ones in the existing system, which are the fuel rings, as mentioned. He clarified, that is a separate project, and it is not on the backburner, but they are just waiting for data. There being no further discussion, on motion by Mr. Hastings and seconded by Mr. Kilmer, Resolution No. 58-2019 was unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

There were no Public Comments.

Council Comments:

Mr. Holloway said he was reminded by Reverend Perdue this morning to be sure and mention that April 6th is Plow Days, and everybody on the Council is invited. He said it is for the general public, it is free, and there is a lot to see there and is usually a nice day, for the most part. He said it is on Mt. Hermon Road near Airport Road.

Mr. Dodd said last week he and Mrs. Hurley attended a joint hearing in Annapolis on the Kirwan Commission, and they were running late, so they had to leave, but they did get to hear part of it. He said he wishes they could have been there the entire time. He said after that he attended the Open House and Ribbon Cutting at the Delmarva Shorebirds, and Mr. Hastings and Mr. Cannon ended up coming there. He said it was good to see them there, it was a great turnout, and the facility looks awesome. He said April 11th is the first game.

Mr. Dodd said this past Saturday most of the Councilmembers attended the Wicomico County Farm Bureau's 89th Annual Banquet in Sharptown, and that was a big event too. He said he also got an invitation for the Fruitland Chamber of Commerce Easter Parade on April 6th, and he was asked to extend the invitation to all the Councilmembers, so anybody who is interested can get registered. He said he thinks Hebron has one that same day.

Council President Comments:

Mr. Cannon recognized Wicomico County Board of Education member Mr. John Palmer and Sheriff Mike Lewis in the audience, and he thanked them for being there. He said it was very good to see Sheriff Lewis in the White House. He said whether someone likes this president or does not like this president, the fact that they have a Wicomico County Sheriff in the Oval Office with the President of the United States, they really appreciate his representation for this County.

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Dodd, seconded by Mr. Holloway, and unanimously approved, the Legislative Session was adjourned to go into Open Work Sessions followed by Closed Work Sessions pursuant to the General Provisions Article, Section 3-105(b)(7)(10) to discuss the Wicomico County Narcotics Task Force Operations, and to consult with legal counsel to determine legal position on charter provisions.

The Wicomico County Council met in a Closed Work Session on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at approximately 11:45 a.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; Levin Hitchens, III, Assistant Internal Auditor.

The purpose of the first Closed Work Session was to discuss the Wicomico County Narcotics Task Force Operations as the County Council determined it would constitute a risk to the public, or to public security if discussed in an Open Session. No formal action was taken.

On motion by Mr. Dodd, seconded by Mr. Holloway, and unanimously approved, the Closed Work Session was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m. The legal authority for the Closed Work Session is General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b)(10).

The Wicomico County Council met in a Closed Work Session on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at approximately 12:00 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 Hitchens, III, Assistant Internal Auditor.

The purpose of the Closed Work Session was to consult with legal counsel to determine legal position on charter provisions. No formal action was taken.

On motion by Mr. Dodd, seconded by Mr. Holloway, and unanimously approved, the Closed Work Session was adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m. The legal authority for the Closed Work Session is General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b)(7).



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