

**Open Work Session  
January 3, 2017  
2017 General Assembly Session**

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Delegate Carl Anderton came before Council. He said he wanted to let Council know what he is hearing and what he may need from Council as we move forward this winter. He said the big priority for him is still highway user revenues. He said this County is short nearly \$50 million since the cut was made, Salisbury is about \$7 million and about a million or so between Delmar and Fruitland. He said so you are looking at nearly \$60 million taken away basically by a pen stroke of the budget back in 2009. He said it is an interesting thing because the Governor is fully committed to restoring it, and the legislature wants to restore it, but it does not seem to be – the dots are not connecting quite right. He said they are going to look into that a little more this year than they have before because they are starting to kind of figure this out. Delegate Anderton continued he said in regards to sprinklers, Senator Mathias and Delegate Sample-Hughes are going to be resubmitting their bill from last year. The bill passed the Senate and it was up for final passage on the House floor, but when the clock strikes midnight in Annapolis during Session, whatever you are doing stops. He said it was on the board and before they could call the vote, it hit zero and it went away. He said so the sprinkler bill will be back, and he is sure that they will be asking for some type of endorsement or help from the County with the sprinkler presentation this year. He said the Governor really came through with the BAT System Repeal in putting it back where it belongs in the critical areas instead of across the entire peninsula. Mr. Cannon asked what kind of resistance do you think that will have, to which Delegate Anderton responded he hopes he is wrong, but what he is hearing is that somebody is going to try and submit a bill to put it back into place. If that happens, they are going to need a lot of help. He said they are going to need some numbers to signify the importance of anything they can do to help make it easier for somebody to live out their dream and build a home. Mr. Cannon said the reality of it was, it was established through regulation, not legislation. Delegate Anderton said, since it was done through regulation, it can be changed by the Governor as well. If it is done through legislation, then it has to be changed by legislation. They were able to lobby successfully to allow it to be done through the regular process. It is much easier to have one person change something and succeed whether it is positive or negative as opposed to getting it through two legislative bodies. Delegate Anderton said that is something they are definitely going to be keeping their eye on. Delegate Anderton further said, in regards to agriculture, our poultry, our farmers, he said there will be some legislation proposed once again this year. He said he has heard the usual suspects, the Poultry Litter Management Act, the Chicken Tax, then he heard some discussion in the hallways about the State stepping in with zoning or a State enacted

moratorium. Delegate Anderton said the budget, in addition to highway user revenues, he knows the Governor is going to try to do an increase. He said they will fight really hard to make sure it stays in the budget this year, as opposed to last year. He said last year it was during deliberations between the House and the Senate, there was some money taken and reallocated. He said that they are going to try, and hopes that does not happen this year as well. He said in regards to Perdue Stadium, it is his understanding that the last piece of that funding is in the budget. They will have a conversation with the Maryland Stadium Authority about the Civic Center, as he knows that the Council has some plans and some ideas for some things that need to be done there. He said they are constantly keeping the County's initiatives and projects in mind, so when something does come up it will be an easy recall to say we have been talking about this for a year now; instead of starting from scratch. He said school construction; West Salisbury is underway and people are already talking about other schools that he represents like Beaver Run, Delmar and Fruitland. He said the more conversations we can have with folks, he has come to learn, the better it is when you actually need something done because people can recall it rather quickly. Mr. Dodd said what he found interesting about the fire sprinkler bill is that California was the only state in the union that had that ordinance, that law, and then Maryland came up and forced it on the local jurisdictions. Delegate Anderton said, it is one of those things that was done before him. From what he has heard, there were some counties in the state who had done it back in the 90's, and they kind of looked at it as a success for them, so they went ahead and pushed it statewide and it is here now. Mr. Dodd said and it is the counties they say dictate what the world districts do. Delegate Anderton said it is those counties sometimes you are right; sometimes you are wrong. He said sometimes we are pretty successful, but they are going to see if they can do something to offset, meaning the goal with most folks he has spoken with is homeownership. People want to have a place to establish roots and they are going to make sure that is as affordable as possible. He said the County did a great thing with the impact fees. He said he knows the Governor set up a program that helps the priority funding areas about 20% of the geography of the County for this, particularly for 2017, with some down payment assistance and using the repeal of the impact fee as leverage against that. He said hopefully this year some folks that are moving into the urban core will be able to take advantage of that, but they have to do something for folks who want to live out on Nanticoke Road or out in the country. Mr. Kilmer said there are some counties that have community college collective bargaining and others that pushed to make that statewide, which will really hurt Wor-Wic and some of the colleges, Chesapeake College, and the rural ones. He then asked what Delegate Anderton is hearing about that. Delegate Anderton said he expects to see that bill again this year and is hoping they can continue to hold it at bay until the economy catches up to allow for it to happen. He said it is not something they will be able to stop forever, but perhaps long enough so that the

County can absorb it. He said he did not think collective bargaining is a bad idea but you should be in the position economically where you can truly negotiate and not have to rob Peter to pay Paul, for lack of a better term. He said it is sometimes difficult to explain the economy on the lower shore, especially in Wicomico, to his colleagues who live in Montgomery County and Howard County. Delegate Anderton said it is two different worlds financially speaking, but they are getting there as they are starting to understand it. He said they think the entire Eastern Shore is like Ocean City and northern Worcester County and that is not the case. He said we are making great strides. We have an awesome Governor who is really taking care of us on the shore.

Mr. Joe Holloway said he has been reading in some of the papers from the Annapolis area about revenue shortfall. He then asked Delegate Anderton what he is hearing about that, to which Delegate Anderton responded, it is true, but it is one of those things that from what he has read and understands, is when they make spending projections, they go with the highest number, and sometimes that it is not what really happens. He said it is kind of like when he wants to lose weight and instead of losing 30 pounds, he loses 3, so he overshot his estimate a little bit. He said he thinks that is what happens in these committees. He said he is expecting a little bit of an adjustment this year in spending, which is okay, but we also have to remember the Governor has reduced some fees and some tolls. Mr. Joe Holloway said there is only one way to control spending and that is to control how much you give them to spend.

Mr. Joe Holloway said the other thing he wants to talk about is the Board of Education. They are looking for a guarantee or something to get their current project off the ground, and he thinks the County is looking for a letter from the State, kind of a guarantee that the funding will be there. He said he applauds the County Executive for not bringing that to Council without some kind of guarantee. Mr. Joe Holloway then asked is there any chance of getting the State to move on that, to which Delegate Anderton responded, they can certainly look into it. If somebody from the Executive's office gives him some marching orders, they will run up there and see if they can get something. He said the State will either say yes or they will say no, and if they say no, they will ask why. Mr. Joe Holloway said he does not think the County should be making a bridge loan without some kind of guarantee. Delegate Anderton said he understands. He said he knows the school is a priority at the State level, so he does not see it being something too far out of reach that they could not do.

Mr. Cannon said he had read there was a Justice Reinvestment Act. He then asked Delegate Anderton how he thinks that is going to play out. Delegate Anderton said he thinks it is a great start; it is going to be something that will be liquid for a while, hopefully forever. It will be constantly adjusted, but he thinks that instead of just throwing somebody behind bars, we need to give them an

opportunity to be a real member of society. He said it is by the grace of God that he is sitting at this table and not at some table up the street. He thinks that we should not be just housing people as we should be getting them ready to come out into society and give them a second chance. Mr. Cannon said he thought that made sense from a cost savings method here as far as really redirecting funds from the actual jails and incarceration to some type of method of recovery. It made a lot of sense. Delegate Anderton said, no, absolutely, along those lines there is going to be a big emphasis on the opioid issue here on the shore, so we are going to need help trying to support that legislation. Whatever is proposed that we get our hands on, that is a benefit for us on the shore. We know we cannot arrest our way out of it, that does not work. We have to find a way to collaborate publicly and privately together to get folks treatment. He said he thinks then maybe the best way is to make sure somebody has a job. If you are busy working, it is less time you have hanging out. He said that is a whole other level, and we are constantly looking at ways to improve and make ourselves a great place to live and a great place to hang out and play and grow and build your family, but we have to become more attractive to people who want to start a business, people who want to expand, people who want to relocate. That is the key, he thinks relocation. He said we are so close to Delaware and Virginia and we need to make sure that we are able to compete on all sides. Mr. Cannon said we really appreciate Delegate Anderton for taking the initiative to meet with Council. We always work through MACO and many of the initiatives he is aware of but there are times when Wicomico County itself has its own interest. Mr. Cannon said during the past year there was a lot of communication back and forth where he received calls from Delegate Anderton asking what Wicomico County thinks about a particular bill that is trying to get through Annapolis. He said it is always good to get feedback because we do not always know exactly what individual bills are going to impact us locally and with Delegates and Senators in Annapolis, they sort of communicate those warnings. Delegate Anderton said, that is always a big plus when they can send letters of support. Mr. Cannon said and, if needed, testimony. Delegate Anderton said absolutely, and he thinks that this is just kind of the next evolution that is coming in ahead of time saying this is what he is hearing. Things will be happening, as you remember from last year, really quick. He said usually he is calling out of breath running requesting a letter that he needed two days ago. He said the County has been great, every one answers the phone any time he needs anything.

Signatures on next page.

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John T. Cannon, President



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Larry W. Dodd, Vice President, District 3

\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_  
Ernest F. Davis, District 1



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Marc Kilmer, District 2

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John B. Hall, District 4



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Joe Holloway, District 5



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Matt Holloway, At-Large



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Laura Hurley, Council Administrator