

**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG**  
**WORK SESSION AGENDA - DRAFT**  
**September 11, 2023 @ 5:30 PM**  
**Public Access Virtual via live stream on the Town's Facebook and YouTube pages**

- |             |  |       |
|-------------|--|-------|
| <b>I.</b>   | <b>CALL TO ORDER</b>   | 1 min |
| <b>II.</b>  | <b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b>  | 1 min |
| <b>III.</b> | <b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>   | 3 min |
|             | a. July 10, 2023 Work Session Minutes  |       |
| <b>IV.</b>  | <b>APPEARANCES</b>   |       |
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flood Barrier Project Update: Joanna Smith, Prince George's County Department of Public Works (15 minutes)</li></ul> |       |
| <b>V.</b>   | <b>OLD BUSINESS</b>  |       |
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Town Legislative Priorities Document 2024 (25 Minutes)</li></ul>   |       |
| <b>VI.</b>  | <b>NEW BUSINESS</b>  |       |
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of Agenda Items for Regular Sessions. Town Administrator (15 minutes)</li></ul>                               |       |
| <b>VII.</b> | <b>ADJOURNMENT</b>   |       |

**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

**July 10, 2023 @ 5:30 PM**

**Public Access Virtual via live stream on the Town's Facebook and YouTube pages  
Video of this meeting is posted on the Town YouTube Channel**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor James called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were Mayor James and Council Members Blount, Brown, McBryde, and Route. Also in attendance were Chief Collington, Code Enforcement Officer Rinehart, Public Works Supervisor Hall, Treasurer Tinelli, Town Clerk Charnovich, and incoming Town Administrator Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth. Mayor James also indicated that State Senator Malcolm Augustine attended the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Council Member McBryde, which Council Member Route seconded. The motion passed 5-0. Mayor James announced that the Town Attorney, Suellen Ferguson, was on her way to the meeting, and she asked that the Town Attorney's schedule be taken into account when she arrived.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**June 12, 2023 Work Session Minutes**

Council Member Blount made a motion to approve the minutes, which Council Member Route seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**APPEARANCES**

**Legislative Update: Tony Perez, LA Perez Consulting**

Mayor James introduced Tony Perez of LA Perez Consulting to provide a state of Maryland legislative update. After the update, Mayor James stated that Mr. Perez would attend a future meeting in coming months to continue the discussion.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**57<sup>th</sup> Avenue Road Work Proposals**

Mayor James summarized this item and asked Public Works Supervisor Hall to go over the proposals. Discussion took place concerning the proposals that were received.

**Flood Barrier Project Update**

Mayor James provided an update on the planning for this project. The Prince George's County Department of Public Works created a flier to be shared with residents in advance of a community meeting to be held at some point in July. The flier would be shared with the residents directly and electronically.

#### **Bladensburg High School Field Construction Update**

Mayor James provided an update on the high school field construction project. Mayor James shared some photos of the construction project.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Housing and Urban Development Cooperation Agreement with Prince George's County**

Mayor James asked Town Clerk Charnovich to summarize this item. The item is on the regular meeting at 7 pm for action consideration.

##### **Proposal from CTC related to cell tower reviews**

Mayor James introduced this item and asked the Town Attorney to provide a report on the topic. Mr. Sean Thompson from CTC Technology and Energy was virtually in attendance to present the proposal. Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson asked questions about the proposal's fee structure. The item is on the regular meeting at 7 p.m. for action consideration.

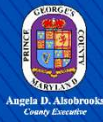
#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Council Member Brown, which Council Member Blount seconded. The motion passed 5-0.



## Agenda Item Summary Report

<b>Meeting Date:</b> September 11, 2023	<b>Submitted by:</b> Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth
<b>Item Title:</b> Flood Barrier Project Presentation: Prince George's County	
<b>Work Session Item</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>]</b> <b>Council Meeting Item</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>]</b>	<b>Documentation Attached:</b> PowerPoint Presentation
<b>Recommended Action:</b> This is a report for the Council and residents on an update for September 2023.	
<b>Item Summary:</b>  <b>Presenter:</b> Joanna M. Smith – Associate Director DPW&T- OSDM  <b>Background:</b> DPW&T would like to implement a residential flood barrier protection system to prevent flooding in flood-prone locations throughout the county. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Riverdale Park and Bladensburg were examined as potential pilot locations</li><li>• Two (2) locations within Bladensburg were selected as viable sites based on flood frequency and severity, plus a review of Environmental Justice (EJ) scores.</li></ul> <p>Selected sites have known flooding history, most recently storms on Sept. 10, 2020, and Aug. 8-10, 2022.</p>	
<b>Budgeted Item:</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Budgeted Amount:</b> <b>One-Time Cost:</b> <b>Ongoing Cost:</b>	<b>Continued Date:</b>
<b>Council Priority:</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Approved Date:</b>



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive



Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director

## Prince George's County Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T)

### Residential Flood Barrier Initiative

Presentation to: Town of Bladensburg Community

Joanna M. Smith – Associate Director DPW&T- OSDM



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive

## Historic Rain Patterns in DMV Region



Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director

The Data Shows Rainfall Patterns Throughout the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area Are Changing

#### Reagan National Airport

- Daily Rainfall Measurements Exceeding **2¼ Inches** of Rain Has Occurred **Twice a Year**, On Average, Since 2010
- Overall Average is **Once a Year** Since 1941

#### Dulles International Airport

- Daily Rainfall Measurements Exceeding **3.9 Inches** of Rain Has Occurred Once Every **3.35 Years**, On Average, Since 2010
- Overall Average is Once Every **5.75 Years** Since 1960

**THE DEPTH & FREQUENCY OF RAINFALL IS INCREASING... EXPOSING VULNERABILITIES!**





Angela D. Abdulmalik  
County Executive

## Flood Barriers (Recap)



Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director

- DPW&T would like to implement a residential flood barrier protection system to assist in preventing flooding in flood prone locations throughout the county.
  - Riverdale Park and Bladensburg were examined as potential pilot locations
  - Two (2) locations within Bladensburg were selected as viable sites based on flood frequency and severity plus review of Environmental Justice (EJ) scores.
  - Selected sites have known flooding history most recently storms on Sept. 10, 2020 and Aug. 8-10, 2022



Angela D. Abdulmalik  
County Executive

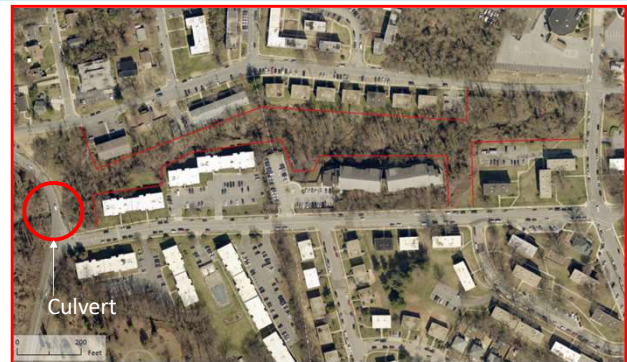
## Flood Barriers (Recap)



Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director

### Quincy Run – 52<sup>nd</sup> to 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue

- EJ Score 0.81
- 14 multi-family units flooded by excessive flows in the creek
- Located within DPIE Floodplain study but not FEMA
- The culvert at 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue will be analyzed to determine if reduction of flooding may be feasible by replacing with higher capacity (i.e. larger culvert)
- Installation of flood barriers along the banks of the creek may prevent excessive flow from impacting the properties
- Approximately 3,560 ft of barrier proposed to be installed along the top bank of the stream



Potential Pilot Location





Angela D. Alford-Medley  
Emergency Coordinator

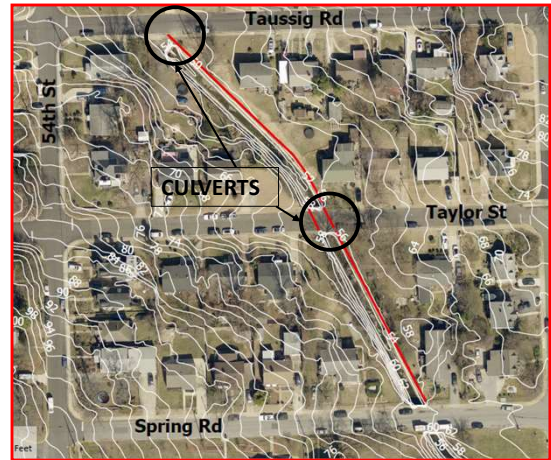
## Flood Barriers (Recap)



Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director

### Edmonston Road Channel – Taussig Road to Spring Road

- EJ Score 0.78
- FEMA Zone AE floodplain and DPIE Floodplain
- Flow is restricted by culverts at Taylor Ave and Taussig Road (see circled locations)
- Culvert at Taussig likely causes surface water elevation to flow into 5409 Taussig Road
- High flows spill out of channel on north side where grade is lower and shallower and into yards at 5411 Taylor St, 5408 Taylor St, and 5416 Spring Road
- Properties on south side of channel are significantly higher than on north side
- Approximately 7,600 ft barrier proposed to be installed



Potential Pilot Location

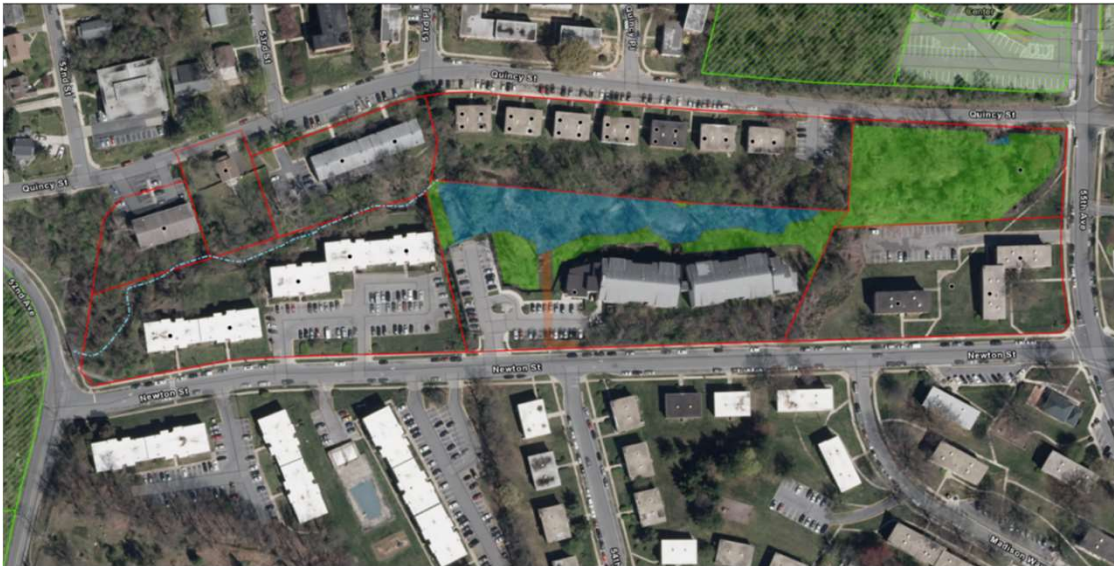


Angela D. Alford-Medley  
Emergency Coordinator


## Quincy St. Channel – RoE Locations



Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director











Angela D. Ahmed-Sheik  
County Executive

## Edmonston Channel – RoE Locations




Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director




Angela D. Ahmed-Sheik  
County Executive

## Preliminary Alternatives



Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director

- Flood Walls – Note that the existing channel will need to be replaced as it must be capable of handling the structural load from the new foundation of the hydraulic flood barrier.
- Improvement of Culvert at Quincy St. and channel improvement – Increasing capacity and conveyance.
- Channel Improvement - Re-design of the channels to a box shaped channel or a U-shaped channel. – Walls would be design to be higher and increase capacity
- Removal of Existing Culvert (s) at Taussig Rd., Spring Rd., and/or Taylor St. – New traffic patterns and dead-end streets.







Angela D. Alvarado  
Emergency Coordinator

## Potential Concerns



Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director

### Potential Community Concerns:

- Additional easement
- Removal of trees
- Removal of fences, trees, sheds, and other property owners' features (patios, flower beds, etc.)
- Traffic Patterns/ Dead-End Streets
- Lack of view due to higher channel walls



Angela D. Alvarado  
Emergency Coordinator

## Renderings of Potential Flood Barriers



Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director



**Flood Barrier at Residential Home**

**Flood Barriers activate as waters start to rise.**

**Barriers up during flood event**



Angela D. Alsharada  
County Executive

## Regulatory Constraints



Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director

### Potential Regulatory Constraints

- *Once work is completed with efforts to reduce costs, these efforts will start.*
  - *FEMA – The downstream end of the Edmonston Channel at the flood control structure is within a FEMA AE flood zone.*
  - *MDE Wetlands & Waterways – Permit submittal and review may take 9 months to 1 year. Edmonston Channel and Quincy Run are both perennial streams.*
  - *USACE – Permit submittal and review may take 9 months to 1 year.*
  - *DPIE – Review is unknown but expected to be long in duration considering a floodplain will be impacted.*
  - *MNCPPC – Environmental and Natural Resources impact reviews may take 6 to 9 months. Mitigation Planting Plan will be required.*



Angela D. Alsharada  
County Executive

## Next Steps



Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director

- Preparation of Joint Right-of-Entry Forms
- Obtain Right of Entries and Notice of Intent – **Needed for Field Assessment**
- Complete Field Investigations (Survey, Geotechnical, and Utility Designation)
- Develop Alternatives
- Evaluate, present, and select alternative
- Develop budget for approval
- Develop MOU between Prince George's County and Town of Bladensburg
- Develop final scope of work for solicitation
- Plan and hold initial community meetings
- Develop project notifications accessible to the Town's demographics



Angela D. Alvarado  
City Manager

## Preliminary Timeline & Funding



Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director

- FY24 – Advertise Design-Build Project
  - Due to the additional effort required for the feasibility, it is anticipated that the work will need to span an additional 6-9 months.
- FY25/26 – The design and construction would occur over a two-year period.
- Funding options include and will be pursued through the State Revolving Fund based on EJ scores and DPW&T will also pursue FEMA grants.
  - Design Funding – ARPA funds will be explored as an option.
  - Construction Funding – Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program (CFMGP)



Angela D. Alvarado  
City Manager

## Cost - Preliminary



Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director

- Cost for Flood Walls – will be developed once Field assessment data is complete.
- Culvert replacement construction cost approximately \$800K to \$1.7 M depending on size. ( Design \$150K to \$310K)
- Natural channel length of 'restoration' or maintenance is about \$800/LF. Max length of channel work would be 1,600 lf. (Design \$230K)
- Engineering Design cost is universally between 15- 18% of total construction costs.
- Conservative estimation for budgeting purposes is recommended the upper end of 18%.
- Contingency at this level is typically 30% of total construction



Angela D. Ablesmeida  
County Executive

## Additional Opportunities to Explore



Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director

The consultant identified structures (multi-family and single family) that had opportunities for dry floodproofing. These would also utilize hydraulic lift gates or other equivalents. The County and Town would need to determine a path to proceed with this work or engage the community individually.

### D WATERPROOF WINDOWS & DOORS

COMPLEXITY	COST	APPLICABILITY	LONGEVITY	PERMITS	CONTRACTOR
1	A				
2	B	ALL HOMES	VARIABLE STRATEGY	NOT REQUIRED	NOT REQUIRED
3	BBB				

#### OVERVIEW

Property owners and residents can either waterproof existing windows and doors by improving the seal (following the content in Materials & Considerations below) or purchase floodproof windows and doors and have them installed by a professional. Additionally, you can purchase door flood barriers and deploy them before a flood to protect your home (see Residential Flood Barriers).

#### HOW COULD THIS HELP?

By floodproofing your windows and doors you can better prevent water from entering your home through leaky windows or doors. Improving the seal on your windows also leads to less air leakage and thus lower electric bills.

#### MATERIALS & CONSIDERATIONS

Required putty knife, acrylic caulking sealant, several rings.  
**Considerations for installation:**  
 • Remove all old sealant with putty knife.  
 • Wipe areas where you will apply new sealant with a dry rag.  
 • Wait for the area to dry which may take up to 24 hours.  
 • Apply a thin bead of caulk along the edges of the window frame.  
 • Keep window dry (with tarp/cover) until sealant fully dries.



Image: Home Floodproof Windows, Floodproofing.com



Image: Slender Door Flood Barriers from Floodproofing.com

### F FLOOD VENTS

COMPLEXITY	COST	APPLICABILITY	LONGEVITY	PERMITS	CONTRACTOR
1	B	PROPERTIES WITH NON-LIVING SPACE (NOT BOTTOM LEVEL) IN THE FLOODPLAIN	10-15 YEARS	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
2	BB				
3	BBB				

#### OVERVIEW

While floodproofing strategies prevent water from entering your home, flood vents allow water to safely pass through your home. Flood vents are openings in the foundation wall that are below the BFE to allow for water to automatically flow in and out during storm events. These vents allow flood waters to enter and exit the structure so that water rises and falls at the same rate inside and outside the building. Flood vents protect houses and buildings during floods by equalizing water pressure and keeping your home's foundation safe during floods. When flood vents are used, water-resistant materials must be used below the BFE.

#### HOW COULD THIS HELP?

Flood vents are considered a highly effective measure to reduce flood damage. They are low-cost and have limited maintenance requirements. Additionally, properly installed and situated flood vents can pay for themselves by reducing your flood insurance premium.

#### MATERIALS & CONSIDERATIONS

Homeowners should ensure that the vent installed open automatically during a flood. Flood vents may be grilles,



Image: Floodproofing.com

vents, or hinged panels that automatically open in both directions.

#### MAINTENANCE

Required maintenance is relatively limited.

### F DRAIN BACKFLOW PREVENTER

COMPLEXITY	COST	APPLICABILITY	LONGEVITY	PERMITS	CONTRACTOR
1	B	HOMES WITH BASEMENTS	7-10 YEARS	NOT REQUIRED	NOT REQUIRED
2	BB				
3	BBB				

#### OVERVIEW

A drain backflow preventer is essentially a check valve at the base of various drains, which opens and closes depending on the flow of water. The device typically includes a mound, floating device that is pushed upward by backflow during heavy rain or flood events. The device seals the drain to prevent water from entering and falls again when the backflow begins moving away from the home.

#### HOW COULD THIS HELP?

The drain backflow preventer is a relatively simple and inexpensive way to keep sewer backflow from entering your home through floor drains, showers, tubs, toilets, and sinks at the basement level. It can also serve to prevent sewer gas and pests from entering your home. While they can prevent minor backflow events, they can fail if there is excessive pressure on the device.

#### MATERIALS & CONSIDERATIONS

Required: Device of your choice, string, and screwdriver.

#### Considerations for installation:

- These devices can be installed by the homeowner, but it is recommended that a licensed plumber be considered.
- There are several types of drain backflow preventers. Consult with a plumber to find the right one(s) for the size and pressure of the pipes in your home.

Additionally, temporarily blocking drains or pipes mean that backflow will then move to the next lowest device, so other additional strategies may need to be considered.

#### MAINTENANCE

Have your drain backflow preventer inspected once a year. To minimize issues and ensure effectiveness during flood events, it is helpful for you to inspect the valve once every three to four months. While wearing protective gloves and goggles, clean the valve and flush it with one gallon of water to remove debris and prevent clogging. Periodically place a few drops of oil or grease on the float rod and check to ensure the pin moves freely.



Image: Drain Vent



Angela D. Ablesmeida  
County Executive

## Local Cooperation



Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director

- The following issues will require local cooperation:
  - Design Funding – Shared costs between County and Bladensburg, 75%-25% respectively – **to be evaluated based on feasible alternatives**
  - Notice of Intent and Right of Entry for survey, utility location, site investigation etc.
  - Coordination with residents
    - Joint public meetings
    - Meetings accessible to “non- English” speakers
  - Easements (construction and maintenance)
    - Once alternative is selected and design in underway







Angela B. Anderson  
County Executive



Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director

# QUESTIONS





## Agenda Item Summary Report

<b>Meeting Date:</b> September 11, 2023	<b>Submitted by:</b> Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth
<b>Item Title:</b> Legislative Priorities 2023 - 2024	
<b>Work Session Item</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Council Meeting Item</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Documentation Attached:</b> Draft Document -Legislative Priorities 2024
<b>Recommended Action:</b>  Staff recommends reviewing and approving the legislative priorities to provide our legislative affairs consulting team.	
<b>Item Summary:</b>  The Town yearly develops a list of legislative priorities to share with our county, state, and federal delegation. Attached is a revised draft document that encompasses many of the goals and priorities of the Town.  As part of the work session, Council members are asked to provide additional feedback so that staff can finalize the document and make changes for the adoption at the Town Council Meeting.  Staff will be available to answer any questions on the document.	
<b>Budgeted Item:</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Budgeted Amount:</b> <b>One-Time Cost:</b> <b>Ongoing Cost:</b> part of operations	<b>Continued Date:</b>
<b>Council Priority:</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Approved Date:</b>

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Town of Bladensburg, Maryland

September 11, 2023



### County Matters:

#### Land Use for Bladensburg

This is a continued request to assist in coordinating discussions with county and state representatives to discuss drafting legislation to give the Port Towns more say in planning and zoning decisions.

The municipalities must be able to provide input into the zoning issues impacting our communities. The municipalities have very little participation in the planning and zoning decisions affecting our Towns. We understand this is a legislative matter and are asking to be a part of the development discussions in the early stages so we can better assist the County in meeting the needs of our residents. We are currently working with MNCPPC on the Port Town Sector plan but ask that the overall zoning process be more inclusive.

#### Small Cell Legislation Authority

The municipalities have passed local ordinances to regulate the aesthetics and placement of the 5G Small Cell Towers. We were notified Prince George's County was proposing legislation to regulate the placement of the Small Cell Towers.



The Municipalities were not asked for input on the County's proposed legislation. As a municipality, our primary concern is that the County's legislation does not supersede the authority of the local jurisdictions. The County and municipalities must have common language in our ordinances to avoid conflict.

#### Anacostia Dredging

This has been an ongoing issue, and we have asked for assistance in advocating with the PGC Department of Environment, Corps of Engineers, State representatives, and other applicable agencies to identify funding to dredge the Anacostia River.

The Waterfront is one of the region's greatest assets. It is vital to the Port Towns' goal of providing a superior quality of life for those living and working in the area and attracting capital investment to our communities. Identifying funding to dredge the Anacostia on an ongoing basis will improve the ability to develop the river as an Economic asset for the Port Towns and to provide recreational opportunities for our residents and visitors to our communities.

**Call-A-Bus** – Expand and actively partner in funding opportunities to improve the Call-A-Bus service to improve the mobility of seniors and disabled residents. The Town has advocated for improving the Call-A-Bus service over the last several years. We currently partner with Colmar Manor to provide services to our residents. This service is a quality of life for some of our most vulnerable residents, and transportation is becoming increasingly expensive. For many of our residents, the Call-A-Bus service is their only mode of transportation to doctors' appointments and other critical services.

### **Wayfinding Signage**



The Town needs the County's assistance in facilitating and identifying funding to implement a Wayfinding signage program with the M-NCPPC. Installation of a Wayfinding signage program will help direct visitors to transit stops, recreational assets, and historic attractions. Having unified signage will also enhance the marketing and promotion of the Port Towns as a place to visit, live, and do business. M-NCPPC completed an Economic Analysis study in 2022, but engaging with the Planning Department's Division of Community Development Team in Placemaking would be helpful to the Town and the other Port Towns.

### **Organized Retail Theft Assistance**

We have started to work with the County on this emerging issue, but this requires a multi-phased approach to enforcement and interventions. Major retailers are leaving urban areas due to high rates of retail shrinkage. We recently met with the local Save A Lot owner on the issues he expressed with Councilwoman Ivey at her meeting in early September.

## **State Legislation:**

### **Bostwick House funding**

The Bostwick House is a historic house located in the Town of Bladensburg. Over the years, the Town has been fortunate to receive grant funding to help with stabilizing the structural integrity of the building. The interior of the house needs restoration to allow the Town to utilize the home for tours, attract visitors, and to have the ability to host events and meetings. To fully restore this historic treasurer, the Town





will need to seek other sources of capital investment to cover the total costs associated with restoring a historic structure.

**Current Bond Bill Fund Actions:** The Bond Bill funding is being implemented on some stabilization projects. These projects will address the house's structural integrity so that we can get funding to complete all repairs and get the house to a functional state. Our team is working with the Aman Trust on putting together Bid Packages for the \$500,000 that has been allocated.

### **New Town Hall**



The Town of Bladensburg does not meet the community's needs and staffing of our essential functions. A new Town Hall facility is needed to encompass more space for: Resident use, featuring a visitor's center, job training center, the Town's police department, administrative staff, council, and possibly the Fire Department.

The Town has limited community space for resident functions, meetings, job training, computer lab, etc. In addition, we have very little room for growth as it relates to our staff. Our facilities are dated and would benefit from more energy-efficient and sustainable construction.

**Current Bond Bill Funding Actions:** Over the last year, the Town engaged in some predevelopment work and will issue an RFQ to start the process of this fund so that we can get this project off the ground. We will utilize current Bond Bill funds this year. We will be working with our newly appointed Economic Development Consultant on integrating the site for the overall redevelopment of the Town.

### **Police Accountability (Law Enforcement Bill of Rights)**

Latitude needs to be given to local jurisdictions in the disciplinary process to address officers' misconduct. A reporting system must be available at all levels for the complaints files and final resolutions. The Town seeks a legislative fix allowing community input and transparency.

### **Trails System**

Capitalize on the community asset of the Bladensburg Waterfront Park & Trail System to attract residents & visitors. Assist with identifying and reaching out to the appropriate agencies/legislatures to advocate for installing pedestrian safety improvements to the Trail system. Enhanced safety features will encourage more residents to use the trails to bike to

and from work and to take advantage of the trails as a recreational asset. Not only will this improve the health and well-being of our residents, it will aid in reducing the carbon footprint in the Port Towns. (Local bill/funding need possible)

### **Bladensburg Community Center:**

The Town would like some assistance in facilitating discussions with the appropriate county and state representatives to help advocate for the expansion of the Bladensburg Community Center & identify funding to conduct a feasibility study of the current and future space needs.

The Bladensburg Community Center is an essential recreational asset for our communities. The Center offers multiple fitness and sports programs, summer camps, after-school activities, and classes designed to improve the quality of life for residents of all ages. The Center also serves as a community gathering location for social interaction and educational opportunities.

Due to limited space, the Bladensburg Community Center cannot expand its programming and meet the area's growing needs. Expanding or building a new facility will improve the overall quality of life and provide essential programs and services needed in the Port Towns. (Bond Bill legislation)

### **Peace Cross Traffic Management Plan**

The Town requests assistance facilitating discussions with SHA and other State and Federal officials on improving pedestrian & bicycle infrastructure at the Peace Cross Intersection. This intersection is a point where three major roads converge, and both pedestrian and vehicle traffic are subject to potentially life-threatening situations daily.

This area is adjacent to the Bladensburg Waterfront Park, a major recreational asset of the Port Towns. A study is needed at this intersection to help identify alternatives to safely move pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles. Additionally, a discussion was held to identify a visually aesthetic guardrail to protect the Peace Cross from vehicle accidents. (This will require a multi-year effort.)



### **MEA Weatherization Funding**

The funding from the MEA program assists low to moderate-income homeowners with rehabilitation through energy-saving measures. The recent changes to apply for MEA funding have made it more difficult for the Port Towns to compete for funding as a

collaborative unit, forcing homeowners to rely on a nonprofit not located in the region to assist with upgrading their homes.

### **Homeowner Assistance**



With the ending of APRA funding, the Town needs some assistance with identifying rehab programs for homeowners. Identifying possible incentives for first-time homeowners will increase home ownership and result in more families locating in the Port Towns. Equally important is matching affordable housing programs and services to help existing homeowners stay in their homes longer and age in place.

### **Organized Retail Theft Assistance**

We have started to work with the County on this emerging issue, but this requires a multi-phased approach to enforcement and interventions. Major retailers are leaving urban areas due to high rates of retail shrinkage. This poses a problem for grocery, drug stores, and big box retailers that hinder economic development and growth. This requires local and state legislative interventions on how law enforcement treats some thefts and how we can identify and detain certain shoplifters.

### **Economic Development Opportunities:**

#### **Façade Improvements Program**

Assist and support the Town as we seek and identify state resources to facilitate façade improvements to our aging strip malls. Over the years, we have identified and asked for resources to provide aesthetic improvements for small businesses and our commercial centers that will attract investment and increase retail options for the Port Towns, ensuring economic sustainability for future generations. In 2022, MNCPPC completed a study of Economic Opportunities.

Over the last year, we have sought economic development advice and issued an RFP for a Town Consultant so that we can pinpoint and identify specific opportunities for the Town.

### **Port Towns Redevelopment**

We need assistance identifying incentives to attract capital investment to encourage redevelopment of the Port Towns. Identifying and advocating for incentives to attract developers and capital investment is critical for the continued growth of the Port Towns. Our communities' economic sustainability depends upon redevelopment opportunities and new mixed-used residential projects to attract new residents, create jobs, and provide an

exceptional quality of life. (This may also cross into some County legislation/funding opportunities.)

### **Small Business Growth**

Again, with the ending of ARPA-era funding, we need assistance with identifying state resources to help facilitate small business growth in this challenging environment. Strengthening the small business sector is an integral part of Port Town's economy and will help to increase the diversity of businesses in our communities. Assisting with identifying resources to provide events, classes, and workshops will encourage new business growth in the Port Towns.



### **Bladensburg Internal Operations:**

**Quality of Life** – Assist with identifying funding to facilitate a branding/marketing campaign to help define the Port Towns' identities and to promote the benefits of living, working, and visiting the area. Better defining the identity of the Port Towns will lead to increased awareness of the benefits of living, working, and visiting the area. A strong identity will also strengthen the ability of our partners to attract resources, resulting in better and improved services and programs for our residents.





## Agenda Item Summary Report

<b>Meeting Date:</b> September 11, 2023	<b>Submitted by:</b> Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth
<b>Item Title:</b> Town Administrator Review of Council Items	
<b>Work Session Item</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Council Meeting Item</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Documentation Attached:</b>
<b>Recommended Action:</b>  This item is to provide a brief overview of the items that will be featured during the regular Town Council meeting	
<b>Item Summary:</b> The Town Administrator will provide a quick overview of the following items for the Town Council.  <b>FINANCIAL BUSINESS</b> A. Request for reallocation of funding and make a donation to Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department to purchase a vehicle. B. Request for reallocating funding from the ARPA Business Program to fund a Town Beautification Team that will concentrate on the Commercial Corridor. C. Request to designate Speed Camera proceeds to fund a Special Assignment Team for the Police Department in the amount not to exceed \$510,000 in FY 2024. D. Request to designate Speed Camera proceeds to fund the purchase of equipment not exceeding \$150,000 for surveillance towers and other mobile accessories.  <b>NEW BUSINESS</b> A. Approval to allow the Town Administrator to execute a one-year contract Amendment with Charles P. Johnson and Associates (CPJ) for on-call Engineering Services. B. Approval to allow the Town Administrator to execute a contract with High Street Strategies for Economic Development Consulting Services. C. Approval to allow the Town Administrator to execute a contract with Monarch Butterfly for on-call Grant Writing Services. D. Approval of the Town of Bladensburg's Legislative Agenda for 2023-2024	
<b>Budgeted Item:</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <b>Budgeted Amount:</b> <b>One-Time Cost:</b> <b>Ongoing Cost:</b>	<b>Continued Date:</b>
<b>Council Priority:</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Approved Date:</b>