



Town Council MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 31, 2025 - 4:30 PM
Council Chambers, Easton Town Office
14 S Harrison Street

4:30 Workshop: Town Council and County Council

Mayor Megan JM Cook
Council President Frank Gunsallus
Ms. Maureen Curry
Mr. Don Abbatiello
Mr. David Montgomery
Rev. Elmer Davis

Also present was the Acting Town Manager, Mr. Alan Lowrey, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch, and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.

Present from the County: Chuck Callahan, Lynn Mielke, Kaesha Haythe, Clay Stamp, Pete Leshner, Cassandra VanHooser, Micah Risher, and Susan Moran. Deputy County Manager Jessica Morris joined the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

From Easton Utilities: John Horner, Kurt Fuchs Ryan Snow, and Scott Warner were also present.

4:30 PM: Call to Order by President Gunsallus.

At 4:28 p.m., President Gunsallus called the meeting to order.

US Dept of Commerce Public Works & Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant.

Ms. VanHooser discussed the US Dept of Commerce Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant. She stated this is a joint effort.

She gave a brief overview of what the grant is and why they are submitting an application..

Ms. VanHooser stated that EDA Grants are an assistance grant especially for regions facing significant challenges. She stated that communities can apply throughout the year. Ms. VanHooser stated they plan to have the application ready when the opportunity comes along.

Mr. Horner, President & CEO of Easton Utilities, stated it is their responsibility to make sure all the utilities get to the hospital. He stated the scope of the project is approximately 20 million dollars. He stated the maximum EDA Grant they can pursue is 3.5 million dollars. Mr. Horner stated they need to make sure there will be 700 new jobs. He stated that the scope cannot start until they are awarded the grant.

It will encompass the installation of a water main, pump station and force main. Mr. Horner stated that the temporary electric is on site to feed the construction trailers. Rt 662 is underway. The transformer has a 65 week lead time after ordering. awarded. The water has been provided. There is a temporary force main from Talbot County that is operational.

Cassandra stated that it is an economic grant.

She discussed high quality jobs in the aeronautical industry.

Ms. VanHooser stated that the timeline for the EDA grant must be February 2028 when they plan to open the campus. They will be addressing Talbot County and Town of Easton. The recipients must give a report every three years for ten years.

Ms. VanHooser stated that the more you improve the facilities, the more you will attract jobs.

Ms. VanHooser stated that this must benefit surrounding counties as well.

Mr. Horner stated that the property values around the hospital have risen due to foreseeable progress around the hospital.

Mr. Scott Warner discussed the EDA Grant. He stated the beneficiary will be the hospital. . He discussed the flexibility.

Mr. Horner discussed possible rate increases and primarily grant funding that will share costs.

Ms. Curry asked about the distribution of funds. It was discussed that the hospital will receive, and 1/3 will be for the EU substation.

Ms. VanHooser stated they are seeking a letter of support from the council.

Adjournment.

At 5:13 p.m., President Gunsallus adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk