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2 **TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**
3 **Easton Town Hall**
4 **14 S. Harrison Street**
5 **Council Work Session**
6

7 October 13, 2015
8

9 **PRESENT AT CONVENING.**
10

Mayor Robert C. Willey
Council President John Ford
Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein

Councilmember Pete Leshner
Councilmember Ron E. Engle

1
2 Also in attendance were Town Manager Mr. Robert F. Karge and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf. Attending
3 from Easton Police Department were Chief David Spencer and Master Sgt. Fred Jarrell.
4

5 In attendance from Talbot County was Assistant County Manager/Director of Emergency Services Mr. Clay
6 Stamp, Vice President of Council Mrs. Laura Price, Finance Director Ms. Angela Lane, Deputy Director at
7 Talbot County Emergency Services Mr. Tim McNeal and Mr. Tommy Haddaway from Talbot Emergency
8 Services.
9

10 **CALL TO ORDER.**
11

12 President Ford called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
13

14 **MEETING.**
15

16 President Ford stated that the work session had been scheduled to discuss combined services for dispatching
17 with Talbot County and the Town of Easton. He stated that he had met previously with Talbot County Council
18 President Corey Pack. He stated that the workshop is to get better informed and no decisions would be made
19 tonight but discussion would occur later in Open Session.
20

21 Mr. Stamp introduced parties present from Talbot County.
22

23 Chief Spencer introduced Sgt. Jarrell, Supervisor of dispatchers for the Town of Easton.
24

25 Megan cook joined the meeting at 6:11 p.m.
26

27 Mr. Stamp stated that the county is expanding the 911 center and there is an opportunity to potentially
28 consolidate efforts where all dispatch and emergency calls can go thru one system. He discussed Easton's
29 statistics for calls and stated that Talbot County could bring on Easton's dispatching staff. He discussed the
30 costs associated with the proposal and the financial impact.
31

32 Chief Spencer stated that there has been discussion about putting dispatch together for a number of years. He
33 discussed the lack of ability to recruit qualified dispatch employees and covering shifts when employees are on
34 vacation or sick.
35

36 Mayor Willey stated that the Town should be working hand and hand with the county for emergencies.
37

38 Mr. Stamp stated that he is proud of the good working relationship with the Town and he sees no problem
39 bearing the cost for the CAD system but the cost of the employees is an issue.
40

41 Mr. Karge discussed transferring the employees to Talbot County and then paying for those employees at a flat
42 rate forever. He stated that the proposal doesn't seem to make sense when the other Talbot County
43 municipalities are not expected or being asked to pay. Mr. Karge stated that Easton would be paying salaries to
44 the county with an indirect tax and the Town owes it to the taxpayers to make it fair over the long term not just
45 fair in the short run.
46

47 Mr. McNeal stated that he did not think it is fair to ask the other municipalities to share in the costs when
48 Talbot County has been dispatching for them for ten years.
49

50 Mrs. Price discussed the call volume for Easton and stated that the county will also bear the costs to retrain.
51
52

53 Pros and cons of the proposal were discussed such as confusion when callers call 911.

54
55 President Ford stated that the most important part of the proposal is the improved service to the constituents.
56 He stated that further discussion will occur at the regularly scheduled council meeting.

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58 **ADJOURN.**

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60 At 6:50 p.m., upon motion by Mrs. Cook seconded by Mr. Leshner, President Ford adjourned the work session.

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64 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk