

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

March 24, 2026

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

4:30 P.M.

NOTE: The recording and transcription of this meeting are available on the County website at www.cecilcountymd.gov

PRESENT: Council Members: Robert Meffley, Al Miller, Donna Culberson and Dawn Branch; Council Manager L. Michelle Henson; Council Executive Assistant Christine Palmer; members of the Administration and members of the public.

Call to Order

President Miller called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and announced that there were four Council Members present which constitute a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council Work Session of March 17, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentations

Andrew Ondish, Deputy Director of Finance

Monthly Review of County Contracts – February 2026

Deputy Director of Finance Andrew Ondish provided the Monthly Review of County Contracts in excess of \$100,000 for February 2026, pursuant to County Charter Section 516.

Deputy Director Ondish reviewed expenses incurred during the month of February 2026, including contracted services under Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), operating software and road maintenance. A copy of the report was reviewed and placed in the record of the minutes.

Councilwoman Culberson noted the large number of bidders for County projects.

Vice President Meffley queried if there are incentives in place regarding early completion of the Glebe Road Bridge Project. Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that incentives were included in the project contract.

Andrew Ondish, Deputy Director of Finance

Training - OpenGov

Deputy Director Ondish expressed appreciation to staff from the Finance and Information Technology (IT) Departments regarding preparation, training and rollout of the new OpenGov software (OpenGov). He stated Accounting Manager Beverly Barren played a key role in training and initiation of OpenGov.

Deputy Director Ondish advised Council that budget data presented during this training session should be considered in draft form. He noted that County Executive Streight is scheduled to present the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Budget to the public on April 1st, adding that the FY27 Budget will be posted on OpenGov after its public presentation and accessible via the County website.

Deputy Director Ondish stated that OpenGov is user friendly and will provide easy access to FY27 Budget information to Council as well as the public, adding that data within the system is updated each evening at 11:00 pm.

Deputy Director Ondish stated that OpenGov provides 3-year budget comparisons on a side-by-side basis.

Deputy Director Ondish stated that traditional budget books will also be provided.

Deputy Director Ondish stated that the FY27 Budget presentation as well as OpenGov access will be shared via social media.

Deputy Director Ondish directed Council through draft Budget pages, providing instruction regarding accessing specific revenue and expense data, worksheets and departmental budgets.

Deputy Director Ondish advised Council that budget presenters have been advised to focus on financial data during upcoming Budget meetings, rather than operations. He added that individual department operations can be presented at subsequent Work Sessions.

Councilwoman Branch queried if prior fiscal year budgets contain the same detail as FY27 within the OpenGov system. Deputy Director Ondish answered in the negative, stating that the prior

budgeting system did provide the level of data input as the OpenGov system. He noted that OpenGov will provide the same level of information for comparison in successive years.

Deputy Director Ondish stated that OpenGov provides Department Directors with the opportunity to initiate their budget process earlier.

Councilwoman Culberson stated the OpenGov system will be easy to maneuver.

Councilwoman Branch concurred with Councilwoman Culberson.

Deputy Director Ondish stated that the Finance team is available to answer any questions at any time.

Director of Finance Raymond Hamm commended Deputy Director Ondish and Accounting Manager Beverly Barren for their efforts, stating that staff training and system implementation were accomplished in a relatively short amount of time.

Director Hamm commended Deputy Director Ondish on his leadership, adding that the Finance team is laying the framework to serve the County for many years to come.

Director Hamm stated the OpenGov system provides transparency for Council members and citizens, providing deep detail and subsequently, a better understanding of each budget item.

Director Hamm commended the OpenGov team for their assistance and quick response to questions.

President Miller expressed appreciation to the Finance team.

State Legislative Update

Council Manager Henson reported that HB0815 regarding elimination of at-large voting and HB0887 regarding Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) grant funds had not crossed over to the Senate. She stated SB0897 regarding amendments to liquor license quotas successfully crossed over to the House.

President Miller noted that HB0460 regarding construction of solar arrays in priority funding areas did not cross over to the Senate.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Henson stated the report was included in Council's meeting packet.

Council Manager Henson reminded Council of the Cecil County's participation in the Maryland 250th Kickoff event on March 28th.

Council Member Items

President Miller stated he attended the Farm Bureau Banquet on March 21st, during which Tommy and Dorris Dill of Maple View Farm were named Outstanding Farm Operation of the Year. He expressed appreciation to the Farm Bureau for the well-attended banquet.

Vice President Meffley stated he attended the Farm Bureau Banquet on March 21st, during which he was able to visit with Mr. Dill.

Adjournment

President Miller requested a motion to adjourn the Work Session.

Councilwoman Branch made motion to adjourn the Work Session, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

President Miller adjourned the work session at 5:34 pm.

President Miller announced that due to the FY27 Budget Meetings, the next Work Session will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 4:30 pm.

President Miller announced that FY27 Budget Meeting #1 will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 4:30 pm in the Elk Room of the County Administrative Building. The session will be livestreamed on the County Council's webpage at www.cecilcountymd.gov

Approved:



L. Michelle Henson
Council Manager



Al Miller, Council President