

October 8, 2024

A meeting of the County Commissioners of Kent County was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following present: Ronald H. Fithian, President, Albert Nickerson, and John F. Price. The meeting was convened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Fithian asked the audience to remain standing for a moment of silence for the recent passing of Mary Fisher, a longtime physical education teacher at Kent County Public Schools who was dedicated to public service and served on many local boards and committees. And the State of Florida as residents are bracing for Hurricane Milton.

Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator, was also present.

PROCLAMATION

Edna D. Cox Day in Kent County, October 8, 2024: The Commissioners extended their best wishes and congratulations to Edna D. Cox on her 105th birthday. They declared October 8, 2024, as Edna D. Cox Day in Kent County. Ms. Cox has lived her whole life in Kent County. She and her Husband helped with many Senior Program initiatives. She is an avid member of the Rock Hall American Legion Ladies Auxiliary and attends the Amy Lynn Ferris Center regularly. Commissioner Fithian read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Ms. Cox.

APPOINTMENTS

Maryland Department of Transportation, Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) Tour: Commissioner Fithian welcomed Paul J. Wiedefeld, Transportation Secretary, Samantha Biddle, Deputy Secretary, Nora Corasaniti, Deputy Director for State Legislative Affairs, Kari Snyder, Regional Planner, Drew Morrison, Senior Policy Advisor for Planning and Project Development, Annaliese Van Saun, Senior Director of Public Affairs/Chief Public Information Officer, Transportation Secretary's Office (TSO); Ashish J. Solanki, Director, Office of Regional Aviation Assistance, Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA); Leslie Dews, Deputy Administrator Field Operations and Rhashad Johnson, Director, Field Operations, Maryland Vehicle Administration (MVA); Travis Johnston, Director, Office of Local Transit Support (OLTS), Maryland Transit Authority (MTA); Will Pines, Administrator, Ken Fender, District 2 Engineer, Nicole Wojciechowski, Chief of Staff, Ray Moravec, Director of Planning and Preliminary Engineering, and Derrick Sexton, Regional Planner, Regional and Intermodal Planning Division (RIPD), State Highway Administration (SHA); and Bruce Gartner, Executive Director, Melissa Williams, Director of Planning and Program Development, Maryland Department of Transportation Authority (MDTA), for the annual CTP tour.

Mr. Wiedefeld gave a brief overview and discussed Draft FY2023-2028 Maryland CTP: 2023 State Report on Transportation, which details MDOT's six-year capital budget. State Highway Administration (SHA); Planning and Program Development, Maryland Department of Transportation Authority (MDTA); Office of Local Transit Support (OLTS), Maryland Transit Authority (MTA); Maryland Vehicle Administration (MVA); Office of Regional Aviation, Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport and Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA); along with Maryland State Delegates from District 36, Jay A. Jacobs, Jeff L. Ghrist, and Steven Arentz, who spoke in reference to County projects. The audience offered no comments. Discussion took place. The Commissioners thanked MDOT and SHA for their efforts with former and current projects throughout the County.

District 36 Delegation: Senator Stephen S. Hershey, and Delegates Jay A. Jacobs, Steven Arentz, and Jefferson L. Ghrist, spoke regarding the upcoming 2025 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly and listened to the Commissioners' concerns and requests. The Board requested support to continue legislative efforts to increase the State's cost share for constructing a new middle school.

Mayor and Council: James Cook, Mayor of Rock Hall, gave an overview of the projects the town has been working on and thanked Senator Hershey and Delegates Ghrist and Jacobs for their support.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Shelley L. Heller shared an announcement. The Public Hearing and Work Session scheduled for October 8, 2024, and October 29, 2024, have been canceled. The deadline to submit proposals for the Legislative Bond Initiative (LBI) requests has passed, and no proposals were received.

CONSENT ITEMS

On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved all three of the following items as presented:

1. Regular Session Minutes, October 1, 2024
2. Liquor Minutes, October 1, 2024
3. Dan Mattson, Director, Public Works – Roads Division – FY2025 State-Aid Program Data Sheet, State Aid No. 29-000S (25) for Various Roads Surface Treatment \$65,241.00 in State Aid Funds; total cost is \$81,551.25, including a County share of \$16,310.25

PUBLIC WORKS

Courthouse Remediation: Mr. Mattson has provided a working proposal for repair and remediation efforts related to a recent flooding incident at the Kent County Courthouse. This proposal may change due to the inclusion of remediation associated with recent air quality testing and final approval by the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT). The current proposal amounts to just under \$36,000.00. This figure is expected to increase based on additional work needed by the air testing report. All costs are anticipated to be covered by the insurance claim, and work subject to the claim will not proceed until LGIT approves.

The final quote and LGIT's approval are tracked so the County can sign off on the project's approval. However, the timing did not allow the final quote to be submitted in time to be heard at the Commissioners' meeting. Due to the total amount of the proposal, the County Commissioners needed to authorize it. The Commissioners will not likely hear the finalized and approved document until October 22, 2024. Staff would like to proceed more quickly with repair/remediation efforts. A copy of the recently received air quality report was provided.

Public Works requests that the County Administrator be given approval authority for this

proposal to expedite the effort. A discussion followed. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously agreed to grant the County Administrator approval authority for a proposal prepared by PBI Commercial related to remediation and repair work at the Kent County Courthouse pending approval by the Insurance Company, and the costs are covered except the \$5,000.00 deductible.

Discussion took place regarding tree removal, site preparation, and groundbreaking ceremony at the new Emergency Management Services location site, beach tennis courts at Worton Park, and the Millington Senior Center groundbreaking on November 1, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The procedures for public comment were in effect. No comments were received.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS

The Commissioners were provided with a copy of the ARPA Spend Plan outlining the approved expenditures to date for informational purposes.

CONTINGENCY FUND

The FY2025 Contingency balance as of October 1, 2024, is \$308,865.00. The FY2025 use of Fund Balance is \$105,307.00.

At 7:30 p.m., on a motion by Commissioner Nickerson and seconded by Commissioner Price, the Commissioners unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. The Board is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sondra M. Blackiston
Clerk/KATE Manager

Approved:

Ronald H. Fithian, President
The County Commissioners
of Kent County, Maryland

October 8, 2024

The Board of License Commissioners met today with the following present: Ronald H. Fithian, presiding, Albert H. Nickerson, and John F. Price.

Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator, was also present.

CONSENT ITEM

On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved Consent Item #2 - Liquor Minutes, October 1, 2024.

SPECIAL CLASS C

The Chestertown Rotary Club submitted a Special Class (Per Diem) liquor license application to sell beer and wine during their annual Soup & Sip fundraiser. The event is scheduled from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on October 26, 2024, at the Chester River Yacht and Country Club (CRYCC). On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the Special Class (Per Diem) liquor license application for the Chestertown Rotary Club.

The Betterton Still Pond Lions Club submitted a Special Class C (Per Diem) liquor license application to sell beer and wine during a fundraiser. The event is scheduled from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Betterton Volunteer Fire Company Hall on November 9, 2024. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the Special Class (Per Diem) liquor license application for the Betterton Still Pond Lions Club.

At 7:30 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Nickerson, seconded by Commissioner Price; the Commissioners unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. The Board is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Sondra M. Blackiston
Clerk/KATE Manager

Approved:

Ronald H. Fithian, President
The County Commissioners
of Kent County, Maryland