

December 17, 2024

A meeting of the County Commissioners of Kent County was called to order at 5:00 p.m., with Ronald H. Fithian, President; Albert H. Nickerson; and John F. Price present.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:00 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Price, seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, and carried unanimously to go into a closed session to discuss two matters. The meeting was closed under the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article § 3-305 (b)(1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals and (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice and (10) To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans.

Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator; Thomas N. Yeager, County Attorney; Bill Mackey, Director, Planning, Housing, and Zoning; Sondra M. Blackiston, Clerk/KATE Manager; and Lacey T. Cox, Deputy Clerk II, were also in attendance.

MATTER NO. 1 PERSONNEL

Topic to be discussed: Appointments and reappointments to a Board(s)/Committee(s).

Reason for closing: Discussion of members and terms are confidential and must be shielded.

Bill Mackey, Director, Planning, Housing, and Zoning (PHZ) presented the Commissioners with information for each Board and Commission and certain members' terms of expiration for discussion. A comprehensive list of appointments with upcoming expirations was offered. Mr. Mackey sought advice from the Board on how to proceed and offered recommendations. The Board offered suggestions for candidates as needed.

Mr. Mackey departed the closed session at 5:26 p.m. All the other persons remained.

MATTER NO. 2: PERSONNEL, LEGAL ADVICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Topic to be discussed: The qualifications and ability of staff to manage the daily operations of a safety facility and the legal opinion of the County Attorney concerning specific options.

Reason for closing: The qualifications and details of staff should be shielded for privacy and legal advice from the County Attorney is private to the public, and specific details should be shielded.

At 5:28 p.m., Jim Miller, Director, Human Resources; Dennis Hickman, Sheriff, and Harry Kettner, Captain, Kent County Sheriff's Office (KCSO), joined the closed session. Discussion took place regarding a public safety issue.

At 6:15 p.m., a motion made by Commissioner Price, seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously adjourned the closed session and took a brief recess.

At 6:19 p.m., the meeting was reconvened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Fithian asked everyone to remain silent for the staff, students, and families affected by the recent tragedy at Abundant Life Christian School in Madison, Wisconsin.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Commissioner Fithian read the Public Notice into the record. The County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Kent County Commissioners' Hearing Room, R. Clayton Mitchell Jr., County Government Center, 400 High Street, Chestertown, Maryland. The agenda for the meeting will be published online at www.kentcounty.com/commissioners/meeting-agenda, 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Citizens are encouraged to participate in the Public Hearing and may offer comments either by attending in person or by submitting written comments. If you require communication assistance, please contact the County Commissioner's Office at (410) 778-4600 and press 4 or visit Maryland Relay at www.mdrelay.org no later than November January 3, 2025. The Public Hearing is scheduled for the purpose of discussing the proposed Code Home Rule 9-2024 Fox Hunting Club Dog Kennel.

CLOSED SESSION, REPORT OUT

Commissioner Price summarized two matters discussed in the closed session.

MATTER NO. 1 PERSONNEL

Discussion took place regarding Board and Committee appointments. The staff was directed to proceed as discussed.

MATTER NO. 2: PERSONNEL, LEGAL ADVICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

A lengthy discussion occurred regarding a public safety issue. No action was taken.

CONSENT ITEMS

On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved all six consent items as presented:

1. Regular Session Minutes, December 3, 2024
2. Liquor Minutes, December 3, 2024

3. Public Hearing Minutes, December 3, 2024
4. Jill Coleman, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Carrie Klein, Director of Public Works – B Ball Diamond renamed “Heroes Field”
5. Ms. Coleman – Stack Sports System and Sports Connect Portal Approval
6. Thomas N. Yeager, County Attorney – Release of Tax Lien, Shore Erosion Control Project Dybul and Claire

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

At 6:26 p.m., on a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously agreed to go into a legislative session.

Legislative Protocol: Mr. Yeager reviewed the protocol for a legislative session. The legislative bill is submitted for the Board’s introduction and first-read consideration. Mr. Yeager and Mr. Mackey summarized the bill’s intent, provided an overview of the proposed legislative bill, and answered any questions the Board had. Mr. Yeager summarized the options the Board could consider during the legislative process.

1st Read and Introduction – Code Home Rule Bill No. 10-2024 Construction Trades Board

AN ACT to amend the Public Local Laws of Kent County, Maryland, by revising Chapter 73, Building Construction; Chapter 192, Housing Standards; and Chapter 210, (Reserved), in order to create a new board in Kent County, Maryland, specifically, the Construction Trades Board, which will incorporate the existing Board of Electrical Examiners and its members, while adding additional members to represent other trades and industry sectors, and to provide membership for the Board of Building Appeals as may be needed, when an appeal is filed pursuant to the International Building Code. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved introducing Code Home Rule Bill 10-2024 and for the Bill to be scheduled for a Public Hearing.

At 6:29 p.m., on a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously agreed to end the legislative session.

RECOGNITION

Kent County Public Schools (KCPS): Virginia Walls served in the Finance Department at KCPS for fifty-one years. During the recognition, Commissioner Nickerson read a certificate of appreciation into the record and presented it to Ms. Walls, honoring her dedication. Also present at the recognition were Dr. Mary Boswell-McComas, Superintendent; Kreigh Kirby, Accountant; William Poore, Director of Technology; Dan Hushion, Director of Human Resources; Alleesa Stewart, Director of Finance; and Angie Knoll, Support Staff Supervisor.

APPOINTMENTS

KCPS: Dr. Boswell-McComas and Ms. Stewart sought approval for a budget amendment. The Unrestricted Funds Budget Amendment #2 for FY2025 was submitted with a spreadsheet and a memo reviewing the budget changes. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and

seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the FY2025 Unrestricted Funds Budget Adjustment #2 as presented.

Dr. McComas and Ms. Stewart requested approval of the FY2024 Financial Statement Audit. A memo and audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2024, were provided. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the FY2024 Financial Statement Audit for Kent County Public Schools.

Public Works Millington Wastewater Treatment Plant Status Update: Dan String, Senior Project Manager and Water/Wastewater Practice Manager for KCI Technologies, joined Ms. Klein to discuss a project. Mr. String presented a status update on the Millington Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) design process. This update included information on the treatment process design, site plan design, coordination with property owners and developers, land acquisition, and critical area elements that impact land acquisition.

Greenwill Consulting Group: Jonathan Carpenter, Vice President of Government Affairs, and Lesly Feliz, Director of Government Relations of Greenwill Consulting Group, provided an overview of the Legislative Session, elections, progress on ongoing initiatives, and legislation updates. Presentation materials were provided. Dates to remember: January 8, 2025, is the beginning of the Legislative Session, and on January 15, 2025, the Governor will publicly announce the Budget.

PUBLIC WORKS

Local Parks and Playground Infrastructure and Program Open Space Funded Upgrades to Kent County Baseball Fields: Ms. Klein requested approval to continue the Local Parks and Playground Infrastructure (LPPI) and Program Open Space (POS) Grant-funded project for Worton and Toal Parks and to approve the contracts submitted by Long Fence.

- Orem Field (Orem-002): Install one custom backstop, approx. 100 LF x 30' tall straight up with no overhang, totaling \$33,520.00. Install a new homerun fence, approximately 570 LF x 6' tall, totaling \$17,230.00. Install two custom-built baseball dugouts with roof structure and protective fence (field TBD), totaling \$39,850.00. The total price for Orem Field is \$90,600.00.
- Toal Park (Toal-001): Install one custom backstop, approx. 40 LF x 20' tall straight up with no overhang, totaling \$13,894.00. Install two dugout enclosures, each 39 LF x 6' tall. Install two single swing pedestrian gates in the existing fence line, each 4' wide x 6' tall, totaling \$6,395.00. The total price for Toal Park is \$20,289.00.
- Worton Park Fields AA, B, C, and D (Worton-001): Install four custom backstops, each approximately 30 LF x 20' tall straight up with no overhang, totaling \$44,993.00. Install eight dugout enclosures, two at each field, each 38 LF x 6' tall, totaling \$20,994.00. Install a sideline fence on Orem field on both sides of the new backstop, each side 71 LF x 6' tall,

including one single swing pedestrian gate 4' wide x 6' tall, totaling \$7,335.00. Install two custom-built baseball dugouts with roof structure and protective fence (field TBD), totaling \$39,850.00. The total price for Worton Park is \$113,172.00.

All procurement is secured via the State Sourcewell Contract. The total proposal amount is \$224,061.00, which is within the grant-funded budget for this project. The project is 100% LPPI grant-funded, 90% POS grant-funded, and 10% County-funded. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved Long Fence Orem-002, Toal-001, and Worton-001 contracts for \$224,061.00, to be funded by existing Local Parks and Playground Infrastructure (LPPI) and Program Open Space (POS) grants at Worton and Toal Parks.

POS Funded Upgrades to Worton Basketball Courts Fields: Ms. Klein sought approval of a price quote from Musco Sports Lighting, LLC, to install a Total Light Control (TLC) light structure system for LED technology on the two basketball courts at Worton Park. All procurement is secured via State Sourcewell Contract. The total proposal amount is \$73,041.00, which is within the grant-funded budget for this project. The project is funded by 90% of the POS grant and 10% of County funding. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved Musco Sports Lighting price quotes 231341 and 231341A in the total amount of \$73,041.00, to be funded by an existing Program Open Space (POS) grant at Worton Park.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS

Ms. Klein requested approval of the following:

1. Water and Wastewater Division - Worton WWTP: The current press has been in service since 2011 and is out of service and in need of replacement. Dewatering is required to meet standards for disposal at the Mid Shore landfill. George Miles & Buhr, LLC (GMB) is currently under contract to prepare plans, specifications and bid documents for an installation contract of the dewatering equipment based on the equipment purchased. Separate bidding of the equipment purchase, a significant cost of the entire project, allows the design to be based explicitly on this equipment instead of other potential equipment designs. It also eliminates contractor markup costs. The Department requested that GMB continue working on this project to provide bidding and construction administration. The County will be able to provide daily onsite reviews of the progress of installation work. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved Work Assignment No. 5 to George Miles & Buhr, LLC, under a current IDIQ master contract to provide bidding and construction administration services for \$43,877.00 for the installation of replacement dewatering equipment at the Worton wastewater treatment facility. Funding for the work is to be obligated from ARPA funds.

2. Water and Wastewater Division - Convert Control and Alarm Communication Providing Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA): The County is expanding its fiber internet

services, and the Division is working to upgrade the remote sewer pump stations. These stations will switch from unreliable cellular communication to more dependable fiber connections for monitoring alarms and operations. In the past, staff had to visit each pump station to check its performance. Cellular service is often weak in remote areas, and there is limited data for alarms. With fiber service, the Division can monitor conditions in real time. This upgrade will allow some stations to operate remotely, enabling quick responses to potential overflows. The fiber network has grown, making it possible to convert more stations. Currently, there are twenty-six (26) stations in the County. Once this project is complete, seventeen (17) of these stations, or 65%, will be connected. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved to award the contract to Marino Industrial Systems and Services as the most qualified and experienced contractor for \$26,525.00 to provide connections to convert seven (7) remote pump stations from cellular communication to fiber network communication. In addition, on a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved awarding a change order to Think Big under an existing contract in the amount of \$31,350.00 to extend fiber from the street as required for each pump station. Funding for the purchase is to be obligated from ARPA funds.

3. Water and Wastewater Division - Worton WWTP: The operating staff at the plant have determined that it is necessary to replace power, process, and control wiring within the plant to improve the reliability of the treatment process. The wiring was initially installed with the previous plant expansion, with the wiring bundled and pulled through conduit or in trough runs, making it challenging to identify and repair individual lines. The proposed contract will run new wire in its dedicated conduit or run and abandon the existing wiring. The wiring will extend throughout the plant-influent building, influent pump station, aeration tanks, and digesters. New junction boxes will be installed at the reconnection points. Nickle Electrical Company provided a proposal for \$45,500.00. Marino Industrial Systems and Services provided a second proposal in the amount of \$42,980.00. Marino has provided SCADA repairs for the Division for several years and is familiar with the facilities. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the awarding of the contract to Marino Industrial Systems and Services as a qualified bidder in the amount of \$42,980.00 to replace digital and analog process control wiring at the Worton Wastewater Plant. Funding for the contract is to be obligated from ARPA funds.

4. Final ARPA Project Funding Distribution: In 2022, the County was awarded \$3,766,777.00 for projects that qualify for the use of grant funds from the Federal government under the ARPA. One of the conditions of the act was that the funds had to be obligated by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026, to avoid rescinding any unused funds. The Commissioners prioritize funding to improve the County's water and sewer infrastructure. The Department has worked diligently for two (2) years to develop, design, construct, and complete these projects. Due to the time involved in starting and completing significant projects (feasibility study, design, permitting, bidding, and construction) and inflation, the Department had to rely on budget estimates to obtain approval from the Commissioners to allocate ARPA funds and proceed. Over time, as projects were completed, actual costs could be used to determine the status of available funds for other projects that were utilizing all the funds within the deadlines. The County has designated funding for twenty-five (25) projects, including thirty-nine (39) approved fund allocations (29 for water/wastewater projects). The exhibit presented

identified the actual costs spent on completed projects and the remaining ongoing projects with contracted funds obligated by the Commissioners before December 31, 2024, to fully utilize the awarded grant amount. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved project funding adjustments for the obligation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for \$3,766,777.00, as presented in the Exhibit.

LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

Shelley Heller, the County Administrator, is seeking approval for a contract with Findlay House Global (FHG) on behalf of Rosemary Ramsey Granillo, the Director of Kent County Local Management Board (KCLMB). This \$97,000.00 contract aims to implement the "Beyond Your Mental" peer mentoring program between Kent County High and Middle School. The agreement includes funding for a part-time coordinator position through KCPS. FHG will pay KCPS to employ this coordinator, ensuring that the program is fully integrated within the school community while still benefiting from the coaching and supervision provided by FHG staff. Previously, KCLMB contracted with FHG in FY2023 and FY2024 to facilitate a youth-led design process that ultimately led to the development of "Beyond Your Mental." On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the FY2025 Beyond Your Mental Contract with Findlay House Global.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Ms. Coleman gave a departmental update on the following:

- POS: Received approval of FY2026 Budget funds from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources of approval for Edesville Park Playground.
- Lions' Club Christmas Basket Assembly: The Lions Club, 4-H Club Members, Washington College, students, and numerous organization members volunteered to assemble baskets of toys and food for local families.
- Elks Lodge Hoop Shot: Parks and Recreation hosted the ELKS Lodge Hoop Shot for the second year.
- Fall 2024 Programs/Events: Programs offered – Elementary After School Care (all 3 locations); Silver Sneakers Club; Senior Nature Hikes; Kids Night Out; Kids Care; Fall Adult Softball League; Ping Pong; Pickleball; Platform Tennis; Co-Ed Youth Indoor Volleyball; FREE Facility Access Card for all incoming Freshman; Jr. Wrestling Open Mat Nights; Punt, Pass & Kick competition; FitFam Playtime; Drop-in Indoor Adult Basketball & Soccer; Trail Challenge; Washington College Basketball & Softball Clinics; and CPR First/Aid Training Course. Staff attended numerous Trick or Treat events at local Public Schools and Kent County Agencies.
- Facility Access Cards: fifty-two (52) cards were given to freshmen.
- Fall Programming Statistics -September – November:
 - 182 new memberships & 89 renewals
 - Fall Co-Ed Softball League – 5 teams, 1 more than last fall.
 - Youth Basketball League – 105 participants

- Youth Wrestling Program – 72 participants
- Youth Indoor Volleyball – 16 participants
- Fall Festival- 220 people attended
- College Sports Clinics – 50 participants
- Rentals – KCCC 20 rentals, Parks 12 rentals
- Santa Letters – Received 127 letters
- Projects in Collaboration with the Department of Public Works
 - Renaming the remaining two ball fields
 - Multi-Purpose Sand Courts at Worton Park
 - Sensory Path at Work Park
 - Sensory Panels in the playground area and install benches around the walking trail at Worton Park
 - The Community Center kitchen was painted
 - Ball Wall at Worton Park was painted
 - Lifeguard Bench will be installed at Betterton Beach in the Spring
 - Weed Control at Turner’s Creek
 - Working with Washington College on the Turner’s Creek and Toal Park projects
- New at the Community Center:
 - Photos of all the Kent County Parks are now displayed
 - New Logo for Parks and Recreation

PLANNING, HOUSING, AND ZONING

Mr. Mackey requested contingency funds to support a Washington College intern in mapping the fire hydrants in Rock Hall. This is part of the ongoing program to provide valuable data for the towns and other agencies. The student would work ten (10) hours per week for twelve (12) weeks during the Spring 2025 academic semester. The Department would provide supervision by a planner and peer-to-peer mentoring by the County’s GIS specialist. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved \$2,448.00 of contingency funds for the proposed Washington College internship project.

Mr. Mackey and John Carroll, Mayor of Galena, presented a waiver request. On November 6, 2024, the Town of Galena forwarded its 2024 Annexation Proposal for County review, requesting a waiver of the five-year rezoning rule. On December 5, 2024, the Planning Commission met to review the proposal. A letter of recommendation from the Planning Commission was provided to the Board. The Town of Galena held its public hearing on this matter on December 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Discussion took place. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved granting a waiver of the five-year rezoning rule for the 2024 Town of Galena Annexation Proposal.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Shelley Heller, County Administrator, on behalf of Lindsay Blume, the Court Administrator, and Sherise Kennard, Circuit Court Clerk for the Circuit Court of Kent County, submitted a request regarding a security project. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for

Security Goods and Services, not exceeding \$100,000.00 between the Administrative Office of the Courts on behalf of the Circuit Court for Kent County and the County Commissioners, has been submitted for reference E24-0010-25K. The Court has been informed that reimbursement for this project has been awarded through the Security Grant. The Court wishes to proceed with improvements to the existing security system, including CCTV and access control. A contract proposal from Atlantic Security for \$36,985.00 for this project has been submitted for the Board's consideration. Atlantic Security installed and services all aspects of the Court's access control and camera systems. The service is only available from the vendor and is the sole source. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved to accept the contract proposal as presented with Atlantic Security.

On July 9, 2024, the Board approved the proposal for the Board of Elections lease agreement, either as submitted or with necessary amendments. William Albright from KRM Development finalized the month-to-month lease renewal for the office space currently used by the Kent County Board of Elections. The seventh amendment to the lease at 135 Dixon Drive was approved on August 13, 2024. The eighth amendment to the lease was submitted for approval. The County continues exploring options for relocating the Board of Elections to the former Worton Elementary School. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved signing the Eighth Amendment to the Kent County Board of Elections Lease with KRM-GSM, LLC.

Peter P. Rice, III, Executive Director of Echo Hill Outdoor School (EHOS), requested a letter of support. A letter was drafted to Nicole Carlozo, Section Chief, Waterfront and Resource Planning, Chesapeake and Coastal Service, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, in support of EHOS's shoreline restoration project. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved to sign the support letter.

Jennifer Hizer, Assistant Director for Government Grants and Sponsored Programs for Washington College, requested a letter of support for the development of the Food Entrepreneurship and Agricultural Sustainability Technologies (FEAST) initiative at the Innovation Plant. A letter was drafted to the Maryland Department of Commerce. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved to sign the letter of support as presented.

DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNATURE

Water and Wastewater Division: Sewer Agreements: The Division of Water and Wastewater Services received a request for an additional 0.5 Sewer Allocation for a single-family lot located at 9220 N. Bayview Avenue in the Tolchester service area at Tax Map 035C Parcel 0881 owned by Patrick and Lori McLaughlin. An additional 0.5 sewer allocation is available at this location and was approved by the Commissioners on 9/24/2024. On November 19, 2024, the Commissioners approved an additional one-fifth sewer allocation for the property at Tax Map 20 Parcel 52. Elizabeth and Bryan Williams signed the Public Works Agreement. The Commissioners signed the above-mentioned agreements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The procedures for public comment were in effect. No one from the audience offered comments.

CONTINGENCY FUND

The FY2025 Contingency balance as of December 3, 2024, is \$139,273.00. The FY2025 use of Fund Balance is \$105,307.00.

At 8:01 p.m., on a motion made by Commissioner Nickerson and seconded by Commissioner Price, the Commissioners unanimously approved adjourning the meeting. The Board is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sondra M. Blackiston
Clerk

Approved:

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

December 17, 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; Thomas N. Yeager, County Attorney; and Bonnie S. Pearsall, Inspector; Kent Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement were 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, December 3, 2024.

PUBLIC HEARING PROTOCOL

Mr. Yeager read the public notice into the record. Notice an application has been made by Members David Blake Eason, Sr., David Blake Eason, Jr., and Randall Neil McLennan, representing Riley's Mill Ale Works, LLC, for a Class D, Beer, Wine, and Liquor License on the premises known as Riley's Mill Ale Works, which shall authorize the holder thereof to keep for sale and to sell Beer, Wine, and Liquor at the place therein described, for on-premises consumption, or elsewhere. A hearing on the application will be held in the County Commissioners' Hearing Room, R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr. Government Center, 400 High Street, Chestertown, MD, on December 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at which time any exceptions to the application will be heard. The hearing was duly advertised.

Mr. Yeager reviewed the public hearing protocols and administered the Oath to applicants David Blake Eason, Jr., and Randall Neil McLennan; Sondra M. Blackiston, Clerk/Kent Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement (KATE) Manager, Bonnie S. Pearsall, Inspector, KATE; and anyone wishing to testify. The rules for a public hearing were in effect.

RILEY'S MILL ALE WORKS, CLASS D, BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE

The hearing commenced at 6:32 p.m. Mr. Yeager stated that a legal review of the application for a Class D, Beer, Wine, and Liquor License was completed. Mr. Yeager noted that the applicants have applied for a business license but have not had one issued yet. If the Commissioners decide to approve the application, it would have to be contingent upon the applicants providing a copy of a valid business/trader's license to the Commissioners' Office. The applicants have met all the requirements to be considered for a license. The County has met all the advertising requirements required for the public hearing. Inspector Pearsall reviewed the staff report and recommended approval. Mr. McLennan and Mr. Eason, Jr., overviewed the applicants' business plan. Discussion took place. No comments were offered in favor of or in opposition to the application. There being no objections, on a motion by Commissioner Price, seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved to close the Public Hearing at 6:38 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the Alcoholic Beverage License Application for David Blake Eason, Sr. (Member); David Blake Eason, Jr. (Member); and Randall Neil McLennan (Member); Riley's Mill Ale Works contingent upon receiving a copy of a valid business/trader's license.

At 8:01 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, January 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.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