

November 4, 2025

A meeting of the County Commissioners of Kent County was called to order at 6:00 p.m., with Ronald H. Fithian presiding, Albert H. Nickerson, and John F. Price. The meeting was convened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Fithian asked everyone to observe a moment of silence for no particular reason and to keep everyone in their prayers across the country.

Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator, and G. Robert Mowell, County Attorney, were also present.

CONSENT ITEMS

On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved five consent items as presented.

1. Regular Session Minutes, October 28, 2025
2. Liquor Minutes, October 28, 2025
3. Closed Session Minutes, October 28, 2025
4. Rosemary Ramsey Granillo, Director of Kent County Local Management Board – Contract Renewal with the Queen Anne’s County Department of Health for the Healthy Families Mid-Shore Home Visiting Program for \$147,626.00
5. Ms. Granillo, FY2026 Contract with Findlay House Global, LLC, Beyond Your Mental Program for \$82,000.00

KENT COUNTY DETENTION CENTER

At the October 21, 2025, Commissioners meeting, a discussion took place regarding the future of the Kent County Detention Center (KCDC) and the need to create a work session or an agenda item to permit the detention center employees to attend and receive updates and accurate information regarding plans for the facility, incarcerated individuals, and employees. Previously, on August 19, 2025, the Board voted, by a majority, to continue implementing measures to reduce the number of incarcerated persons housed at KCDC and other cost-saving measures.

Each Commissioner offered the pros and cons of current operations and future plans. A lengthy discussion occurred. In attendance from KCDC were Director of Operations Corey Sheppard; Captain Steve Wallace; Sergeant Chuck Dobson; Sergeant Kermit Burrell; Correctional Officer (CO) Clarence Johnson; CO Angela Norfleet; Corporal Eric Pinkett; and CO/Administrative Assistant Monaca Stickland. Pat Merritt, Chief Finance Officer, Office of Finance, was also present for the discussion. Due to unforeseen circumstances, personnel from the Kent County Sheriff’s Office were unable to attend the meeting. Attendees were invited to ask and answer questions about the operations at KCDC. Kevin Stickland, a resident of Kent County, also offered information relevant to the discussion. Ms. Merritt provided estimated costs; however, more information and further review of expenses are needed to advance the discussion.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Proposed 2026 Meeting Calendar: Shelley Heller, County Administrator, reported that by the end of 2025, the Commissioners will have held thirty-five (35) regular meetings, three (3)

special work sessions, and eight (8) budget work sessions, totaling forty-eight (48) meetings/sessions. The scheduling model adjusts the meeting schedule to accommodate conference weeks and holidays. The proposed 2026 calendar follows the same model and will make the necessary adjustments to ensure meeting consistency. Budget work sessions will be added when the dates are available to staff. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the 2026 Meeting Schedule as recommended.

Amendment to Lease for the Board of Elections, 135 Dixon Drive: The County continues exploring options for relocating the Board of Elections. The Commissioners previously approved the Ninth Amendment to the Kent County Board of Elections Lease with KRM-GSM, LLC., on May 13, 2025, granting a six-month extension. Both parties wish to extend the lease term by one year. From January 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026, Monthly Rent: \$3,862.50; From July 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026, Monthly Rent: \$3,975.00. Additional Rent: For 2025: Common Area Maintenance (CAM): Monthly: \$142.50; Property Tax (PTAX): \$21.00 per month. Discussion took place. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the Tenth Amendment to the Lease with KRM-GSM, LLC for the Board of Elections, as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The procedures for public comment were in place. John Massey, a resident of Kent County, asked a question regarding the solar tax for both personal and commercial property.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS

The Commissioners received a copy of the final ARPA Spend Plan report.

CONTINGENCY FUND

The FY2026 Contingency Fund balance as of October 28, 2025, is \$292,386.00. The use of Fund Balance was \$91,953.00.

At 7:55 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, November 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sondra M. Blackiston
Clerk

Approved:

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

November 4, 2025

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, G. Robert Mowell, 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, October 28, 2025.

SPECIAL CLASS C LICENSE

The Maryland Ducks Unlimited submitted a Special Class C (Per Diem) liquor license application to sell beer only for a Sporting Clay Fundraiser on November 7, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Hopkins Hunting and Sporting Clays, 13003 Turners Creek Road, Kennedyville. The application was provided for review. No comments were received either in support of or in opposition to the application. On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the Special Class C (Per Diem) liquor license application for Maryland Ducks Unlimited.

PUBLIC HEARING PROTOCOL

Commissioner Fithian waived the reading of the public hearing protocols. The rules for a public hearing were in effect.

HONK HONK, LLC TRADING AS BETTY'S BAR, CLASS D, BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE

The hearing commenced at 6:04 p.m. G. Robert Mowell, County Attorney, read the public notice into the record. Notice, an application has been made by Members Andrew Kuechler, Emmett Duke, and Katelyn Boardman, representing Honk Honk, LLC, for a Class D, Beer, Wine, and Liquor License on the premises known as Betty's Bar, 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. The hearing was duly advertised.

Mr. Mowell administered the Oath to Bonnie S. Pearsall, Inspector, Kent Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement (KATE), Andrew Kuechler, Member of Honk Honk, LLC, and anyone else wishing to testify.

Mr. Mowell stated that a legal review of the application for a Class D, Beer, Wine, and Liquor License had been completed. Inspector Pearsall informed the Commissioners that the applicants had met all the requirements for approval of the application, except for pending background check results for two members. Staff recommended approval of the application with

contingencies. Mr. Kuechler presented his plans for the establishment. The Commissioners discussed the business and its location. No other 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 the Class D, Beer, Wine, and Liquor License for Honk Honk, LLC trading as Betty's Bar, contingent upon the receipt of fingerprinting results for two members. The public hearing concluded at 6:07 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice: an application has been made by Member Javier Colon Algarin, representing Trackside Bar & Grill, LLC, for a Class D, Beer, Wine, and Liquor License on the premises known as Trackside Bar & Grill, 406 Back Street, Millington, MD 21651, 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 November 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., at which time any exceptions to the application will be heard.

At 7:55 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Nickerson, seconded by Commissioner Price, and the Commissioners unanimously approved adjourning the meeting. The Board is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, November 18, 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