

December 20, 2022

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 H. Nickerson, and John F. Price. The meeting convened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Fithian asked the audience to remain standing for a moment of silence for keeping everyone in their prayers, keep sickness away, and everyone to stay safe and enjoy a great holiday. Wishing everyone well.

Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator, and Thomas N. Yeager, County Attorney were also in attendance.

CONSENT ITEMS

On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the following items:

1. Regular Session Minutes, December 13, 2022
2. Liquor Minutes, December 13, 2022
3. Closed Session Minutes, December 13, 2022

PROCLAMATIONS

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Day, January 16, 2023: Commissioner Price read the proclamation for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Day, honoring the memory of Dr. King and his many accomplishments. Dr. King's advocacy for Civil Rights, the Voting Rights Act, and the Fair Housing Act were instrumental in the justice of equality. A march will start at Fountain Park and end at Washington College and the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast will be hosted by Washington College on January 16, 2023, and is sponsored by Chester Valley Ministers' Association, and supported by Minary's Dream Alliance, Inc., and Washington College. Washington College students will be returning early to help serve. This year's emphasis is "We're All In This Together". LaMonte Cooke; Doncella Wilson, and Paul Tue, III, Co-Founders, Minary's Dream Alliance; and Stephanie Brown, Communication and Media Studies, Washington College, were in attendance. For more information contact chestervalleyministersassoc@gmail.com.

Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, January 9, 2023: Commissioner Nickerson read the proclamation for Law Enforcement Appreciation Day for the dedicated police officers who put their lives on the line to keep our neighborhoods safe. These courageous individuals are the first to arrive at an emergency scene and the first line of defense for the public against any threat. Sue Nickerson, President/Executive Director, Maryland Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.), and Joe Nickerson was in attendance and thanked everyone who joined her. Ms. Nickerson accepted the proclamation. Kent County Sheriff's Office personnel in attendance were Dennis Hickman, Sheriff, Harry Kettner, Lieutenant, Stuart Lodge, Lieutenant, Richard Strong, Deputy First Class. Rock Hall Police Department personnel in attendance was Martin Heinfield, Corporal. Maryland State Police personnel was Brandon Strong, Trooper First Class. The Commissioners showed their appreciation for those presently working, those who have worked in the past, and all who have fallen in the line of duty.

APPOINTMENTS

James Saunders and Undra Patrick were in attendance to present information to the Commissioners regarding data centers. Mr. Patrick and Ms. Jamie Williams, Director, Economic and Tourism Development, discussed key data center points of interest. Data Centers collect and house data through interactions with companies and industries. Generally, the power source is self-contained. A typical data center requires 45-200 acres of land to develop, design, and build. Possibly 75-100 new jobs would be generated to operate the facility. Data is collected 24/7. Discussion took place. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Saunders and Mr. Patrick for coming in and relaying the information.

KENT COUNTY LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD (KCLMB)

Rosemary Ramsey Granillo, Director, Kent County Local Management Board (KCLMB), presented an application for a Maryland Connected Devices Program grant application. This grant will provide laptops to 500 low-income Kent County households. If approved, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will provide 500 computers, valued at a total of \$99,375.00 in addition to \$3,000.00 to the County as a stipend for the security and distribution of the laptops: total project value is \$102,375.00. These computers will be distributed over a five (5) month period with the help of local organizations. On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the grant application for the Maryland Connected Devices Program.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

HUMAN RESOURCES/PERSONNEL

Ms. Heller, on behalf of Jill Coleman, Director, Parks and Recreation, presented a request to fill the Facility Monitor vacancy at the salary Grade 2 base. On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the hiring of the individual for the full-time vacant Facility Monitor position in the Parks and Recreation Department, as requested pending successful completion of pre-employment requirements.

Ms. Heller, on behalf of Wayne Darrell, Director, Office of Emergency Services (OES), presented a request to fill a full-time Paramedic vacancy at the salary Grade 6 base. Discussion took place. On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the hiring of the recommended individual for the full-time vacant Paramedic position, in the OES as requested, pending the successful completion of pre-employment requirements.

Ms. Heller, on behalf of Mr. Darrell, presented a request to fill the Emergency Medical Technician - Basic (EMT-B) vacancy at the salary Grade 4 base. On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the hiring of the recommended individual for the (EMT-B) vacancy in the OES as requested, pending the successful completion of pre-employment requirements.

Ms. Heller, on behalf of Bill Mackey, Director, Planning, Housing, and Zoning (PHZ) presented a request to fill the Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist vacancy at the salary Grade 5 base. On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the hiring of the recommended individual for the GIS Specialist vacancy in the Department of PHZ as requested, pending the successful completion of pre-employment requirements.

Commissioner Fithian requested that new employees attend a Commissioners' meeting accompanied by their manager or director. It will give the Board an opportunity to meet and greet new employees.

KRM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Ms. Heller, on behalf of Jesse Parks, President, KRM Development Corporation, presented a lease amendment for the Kent County Health Department at 125 S. Lynchburg Street, Chestertown, MD. The current lease expires on December 31, 2022. The eighth amendment to the lease by and between KRM-PCO, LLC and the County Commissioners provides an extension of the lease. The term of the lease is from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2027. Discussion took place. On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the lease proposal as presented.

KENT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ms. Heller, on behalf of Valerie Overton, President, Board of Library Trustees, advised there will be two vacancies on the Board as of December 31, 2022. One member wishes to serve another term, and one candidate was recommended to fill the other vacancy. These vacancies were created by the resignations of current members. Discussion took place. On a motion by Commissioner Price, seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved reappointing the existing member and appointing the newly recommended candidate to serve on the Board of Library Trustees. The Commissioners reappointed John Murphy for an additional five (5) year term and appointed Alexandria Baker as a new member for a five (5) year term. The Commissioners also signed a thank you letter to Ms. Overton for her years of service as a trustee and president.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, SHORE REGIONAL HEALTH

Ms. Heller, on behalf of Ken Kozel, CEO, University of Maryland Shore Regional Health, advised a letter of support from the Commissioners was requested. University of Maryland Shore Regional Health intends to file a Certificate of Need application with the Maryland Health Care Commission seeking approval to replace the existing Easton hospital on Washington Street with a new regional medical center located on Route 50 near the Talbot County Community Center. On a motion by Commissioner Price, seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved and signed the letter of support as drafted.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Ms. Heller reported there is a work session scheduled for two matters on January 10, 2023, a Comprehensive Rezoning Task Force discussion at 2:00 p.m. and a Blueprint Funding, also known as the Kirwan Project, discussion at 2:30 p.m. Commissioner Price has spoken with and invited Michael Waal, Dr. Karen Couch, Gary Fellows, and the three members from the Kent Forward Team to participate in the Kirwan Project discussion. Commissioner Fithian invited Brian Matthews and Charles Athey. Commissioner Nickerson mentioned that he would have a list of invitees to include and would provide it to the staff as soon as possible.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Yeager advised the Commissioners the Court granted the request to dismiss the election lawsuit against Kent County.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The procedures for public comment were in effect. Mr. Michael Waal, Kent County resident, asked for more information regarding the size of the data centers. Discussion took place. Mr. Waal provided information regarding the Kirwan Project. Discussion took place.

Commissioner Fithian advised he spoke with Frank Hodgetts, who is working with the Town of Millington regarding the senior housing project. Mr. Hodgetts must submit an application before the end of December and should know its status sometime in March of 2023. Commissioner Fithian requested a letter of support be sent to Mr. Hodgetts as soon as possible. On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved signing and sending a letter of support once the details are finalized.

Commissioner Price asked Mr. Yeager for an update on the ongoing compliance issue to remedy the Daisy Drive property in Millington. Mr. Yeager gave an update as requested.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Kent County Environmental Operations Division: Kent County residents may drop off computer equipment and Christmas Trees for free at the Nicholson Drop-off center, 23750 Larney Nick Road, Chestertown, MD on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS (ARPA)

A copy of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spend Plan outlining the approved expenditures to date was provided to the Commissioners for informational purposes.

CONTINGENCY FUND

The FY2023 Contingency balance as of December 13, 2022, is \$288,209.00, and the FY2023 use of Fund Balance is \$35,966.00.

At 7:22 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, January 10, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sondra M. Blackiston
Clerk

Approved:

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

December 20, 2022

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, and Thomas N. Yeager, County Attorney, and Bonnie S. Pearsall, Inspector, Kent Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement, were also present.

CONSENT ITEM

On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved Consent Item #2 - Liquor Minutes, December 13, 2022.

SPECIAL CLASS C LICENSE

Thomas N. Yeager, County Attorney stated Galena Volunteer Fire Company (GVFC) has applied for a Beer, Wine, and Liquor Special Class C Multiple Event License to cover twelve (12) events for the 2023 calendar year. The application was reviewed and met the requirements to be approved for a multiple event license. Part of those requirements includes providing a list of events scheduled to take place throughout the year. This practice helps track the number of permitted events allowed throughout the year. Staff recommends approval. There being no objections, on a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the application as presented.

KENT ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT- KATE

Bonnie S. Pearsall, Inspector, Kent Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement reported that the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) has delegated the power to enforce laws regarding the sale of tobacco products to the Inspector. The County receives grant funding to implement the Tobacco Enforcement Program. KCHD awarded \$11,000.00 for the FY2023 service agreement. Educational materials need to be provided and two compliance checks are required for each licensed establishment along with any follow-up action necessary if a citation is issued. Inspector Pearsall has completed educational training with twenty-nine retailers. Discussion took place. On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved to accept the service award and approve the FY2023 Tobacco Enforcement Memorandum of Understanding.

There being no further business to claim their attention, the Board adjourned and agreed to meet again on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 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