

July 14, 2026

A meeting of the County Commissioners of Kent County was called to order at 10:00 a.m., with the following present: Ronald H. Fithian, President, and John F. Price. The meeting was convened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Fithian asked everyone to remain silent in memory of Mr. Dickie Porter, who recently passed away.

Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator; G. Robert Mowell, County Attorney; Lacey M. Townsend, County Clerk; and Roni L. Thomas Deputy Clerk II were also present.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

1. Regular Session Minutes, July 7, 2026.
2. Closed Session Minutes, July 7, 2026.
3. Joanne McNamara, Grants & Contracts
 - State's Attorney's Office Tackling Recidivism with Alternatives, Connections, and Knowledge, Recidivism Reduction Project FY2027 Grant Agreement Funding Acceptance.
4. Dan Mattson, Director, Public Works, Roads Division
 - Change Order Request FY2026 Dixie Land Energy Contract.

SPECIAL REGOGNITIONS

Proclamation, Parks and Recreation Month July 2026: July is Parks and Recreation Month, a time for the Kent County community and our County Commissioners to officially recognize the vital role parks and recreation plays in the lives of those we serve. The Kent County Parks and Recreation Department is essential to building a strong, vibrant community. The department provides accessible spaces for physical activity, family connection, cultural celebrations, education, and inclusive programming that welcomes people of all ages and abilities. This month, we celebrate the benefits these spaces bring and reaffirm our commitment to serving our community through quality parks and recreation opportunities. Jill Coleman introduced her Parks and Recreation staff: Tonya Thomas, Sandy Adams, Haley Walbert, Savannah Welch, Anna Harris, and Greg Welch. Commissioner Fithian read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Jill Coleman and Staff.

APPOINTMENT

Kennedyville Volunteer Fire Company-Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Purchase Assistance: Mark Dixon, President, Kennedyville Volunteer Fire Department, requested assistance in funding a new air compressor to fill oxygen tanks after responding to emergencies. Mr. Dixon provided a quote for the compressor and additional background information on the need for a new compressor. Mr. Dixon stated that a new compressor will cost \$70,000.00, and that the fire

department has raised \$20,000.00 on its own. On motion by Commissioner Price, and seconded by Commissioner Fithian, the Commissioners unanimously approved \$50,000.00 from the contingency fund to fund the purchase of a compressor that will benefit Kennedyville, Galena, Millington, and others throughout the County.

Dr. Chad Rooney, Town Manager, Town of Chestertown-Rail Trail Mowing Request: Dr. Chad Rooney, Town Manager, Town of Chestertown, requested assistance from the County (Public Works) with mowing of the Chestertown Rail Trail, between Mill Street and Morgnec Road. Maintaining this section of the trail is important, but the Town lacks the appropriate equipment to service the area. The Rail Trail is a valued community asset, and County assistance would help ensure it remains safe, accessible, and enjoyable for residents and visitors alike. If County roads could include this segment in the current seasonal mowing schedule, the Town would be very grateful. Carrie Klein, Deputy Director, Public Works, joined Dr. Rooney in the discussion to provide further information. Ms. Klein stated that the County Roads staff has reviewed the scope of work and estimated that this task will require one operator in a Tractor with an A-Boom mower. The Town requested the County donate services to maintain the trail. Ms. Klein stated that the County roads can accommodate the request within their current workload. Ms. Klein provided the Commissioners with the following options to consider: providing maintenance of the Rail Trail as a donated service to the Town, providing maintenance at a cost, or not maintaining the Rail Trail at all. Discussion took place. On motion by Commissioner Price, and seconded by Commissioner Fithian, the Commissioners unanimously approved County Roads' maintenance to assist the Town of Chestertown Rail Trail with the boom mower to trim the trail debris back off the trail, and it will be a donation from the County to the Town.

HILARY SIAKOR-SIRLEAF, WARDEN, KENT COUNTY DETENTION CENTER

FY2027 Mid Shore Behavioral Health Agreement: The FY2027 Mid Shore Behavioral Health (MSBH) Agreement was submitted for approval. The agreement is for mental health services provided by Prime Care, a provider of medical and mental health services to Incarcerated Individuals. Payments for these services are to be made by MSBH in monthly installments, not to exceed \$4,068.58, for a total of \$48,823.00 per year, directly to Kent County for reimbursement of services rendered the previous month. On motion by Commissioner Price, and seconded by Commissioner Fithian, the Commissioners unanimously approved the Mid Shore Behavioral Health Agreement as presented.

MICHAEL SUTTON, DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES

Correctional Officer I Vacancies (2): Mr. Sutton discussed a hiring recommendation for the Correctional Officer I Vacancies (2). Warden Siakor-Sirleaf joined Mr. Sutton to provide any further information that was requested. On motion by Commissioner Price, and seconded by Commissioner Fithian, the Commissioners unanimously approved a conditional offer of employment to the recommended candidates.

Law Enforcement Officers Pension System Report for Emergency Medical Services: Pete Landon, Director, Office of Emergency Services, joined Mr. Sutton to provide an overview of the

Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPS) Report for Emergency Medical Services. In fiscal year 2026, the Commissioners approved an actuarial study for LEOPS to consider having the County's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) employees, including paramedics and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) B's, participate in the LEOPS pension plan. The plan is a richer plan with a reduced number of years to reach full retirement. This means LEOPS costs more than the plan for which most of our employees are eligible. However, with some of our neighboring jurisdictions' EMS participating in LEOPS, the goal is to remain competitive and to allow the recruitment and retention of the most qualified medical professionals possible. The actuarial study was conducted by Bolton. A summary of their report was provided for review. Discussion took place. On a motion by Commissioner Price, and seconded by Commissioner Fithian, the Commissioners unanimously approved to continue the official application process with the state to ascertain if we qualify to be entered into the state LEOPS retirement program for 2028 for the Paramedics and EMT-Bs.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Code Home Rule 3-2026 - Community Reinvestment and Repair Commission
-Public Hearing Notice: AN ACT amending Chapter 15 Community Reinvestment and Repair Commission, Section 15-7 Duties; grant process; allocation process; use of funds and Section 15-8 Reporting. For the purpose of permitting the Community Reinvestment and Repair Commission to administer the grant distribution process, authorizing more than one distribution per calendar year, and making the reporting requirements consistent with state law. By repealing Chapter 15 Community Reinvestment and Repair Commission, Section 15-7 Duties; grant process; allocation process; use of funds, and Section 15-8 Reporting, and reenacting Chapter 15 Community Reinvestment and Repair Commission, Section 15-7 Duties; grant process; allocation process; use of funds, and Section 15-8 Reporting with amendments. A hearing will be held on July 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr., Kent County Government Center, 400 High Street, Chestertown, Maryland. The agenda for the meeting will be published online 24 hours in advance of the meeting at <https://www.kentcounty.com/government>. Citizens are encouraged to participate in the public hearing process. If you require communication assistance, please contact the County Commissioners' Office at (410) 778-4600, Ext. 4 or visit Maryland Relay at www.mdrelay.org no later than noon on Friday, July 17, 2026.

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 June 23, 2026, is \$ 390,000.00. No use of the Fund Balance has been requested to date.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The procedures for public comment were in place. No comments were made.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Fithian mentioned the progress of the Millington Senior Housing project. He would like to discuss the project's progress during a future meeting.

Commissioner Price provided information regarding the upcoming Kent County 4-H Fair. It is scheduled to take place from July 15 – 18, 2026.

At 10:35 a.m., on a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Fithian, the Commissioners unanimously approved adjourning the meeting. The Board is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lacey M. Townsend
County Clerk

Approved:

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

July 14, 2026

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

Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator; G. Robert Mowell, County Attorney; Bonnie S. Pearsall, Inspector, Kent Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement; Lacey M. Townsend, County Clerk; and Roni L. Thomas, Deputy Clerk II, were also present.

CONSENT ITEM

On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Fithian, the Commissioners unanimously approved both consent items as presented:

1. Liquor Minutes July 7, 2026.
2. Kent Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement
-Kent County Health Department Memorandum of Understanding for Tobacco Enforcement Program

MINARY'S DREAM ALLIANCE, BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR, SPECIAL CLASS C, BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE

Minary's Dream Alliance submitted a Special Class C (Per Diem) Alcoholic Beverage License for a BBQ & Crab Feast on July 19, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 9155 American Legion Road, Chestertown, MD 21620. On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Fithian, the Commissioners unanimously approved the Special Class C (Per Diem) Alcoholic Beverage License for Minary's Dream Alliance for July 19, 2026, as presented.

At 10:35 a.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Price, seconded by Commissioner Fithian, and the Commissioners unanimously approved adjourning the meeting. The Board is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lacey M. Townsend
County Clerk

Approved:

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