

August 18, 2026

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 was convened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Fithian asked everyone to remain silent for Sherrie Jacobs, Thomas Nelson, and Nick Nickerson, who have recently passed away. Please keep their families in your prayers.

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 seven consent items as presented:

1. Regular Session Minutes, August 4, 2026.
2. Kent Museum, Inc.
  - Turner's Creek Property Lease Request
3. Kent County Public Library
  - Maryland State Library Agency, Certification for Cooperative Local-State Library Aid Programs FY2027
4. Lacey M. Townsend, County Clerk, Office of the Kent County Commissioners
  - Purchasing Approval CivicPlus Software
5. Kent County Local Management Board
  - FY2027 Community Partnership Agreement with Governor's Office for Children - funding from the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund and ENOUGH LMB Capacity Building Grant
6. Dan Mattson, Director, Public Works, Roads Division
  - John Deere 5105M Utility Tractor with Alamo Side Mower
7. Dan Mattson, Director, Public Works
  - Revision to a Prior FY2027 Vehicle Order

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alan Zametkin, Resident of Chestertown, brought to the Commissioners' attention that the Finance Office does not mail notices for delinquent property taxes. Mr. Zametkin asked the Commissioners to consider sending a notice to property owners reminding them that their property taxes are due.

### **APPOINTMENT**

Jeffrey Haley, Chief, and Steve Bisbee, President, Galena Volunteer Fire Company -New Rescue Boat Motor Purchase, Funding Assistance: Mr. Haley and Mr. Bisbee requested financial assistance to purchase a new outboard motor for their 2003 Fire/Rescue Boat. This boat has been a

valuable asset to the citizens of Galena, Kent County, and neighboring Cecil County. It has responded to water rescues, boat fires, structure and outside fires in remote areas along waterways, and numerous other emergencies throughout the Sassafras River, Chesapeake Bay, Chester River, C&D Canal, Elk River, and Bohemia River. After consulting with Jim's Marine of Galena, which has performed most of the maintenance on the boat for many years, recommended replacing the existing motor with a 200-horsepower V6 four-stroke Mercury outboard. Jim's Marine has provided us with a discounted quote for the new motor and installation. They have also generously provided an additional discount and donation totaling \$1,050.00. The quoted price of \$21,976.00 includes the motor, all necessary rigging materials, labor installation, and testing to ensure proper operation. Replacing the motor will improve the reliability, safety, and effectiveness of this important emergency response resource and will benefit not only the citizens of Galena but also residents throughout Kent County and our neighboring counties. A letter from the fire department and a quote for a new motor were provided for the Commissioners' review. On motion by Commissioner Price, and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the use of Contingency Funds to be allocated for the purchase of an outboard motor for the Galena Volunteer Fire Company's Fire/Rescue Boat in the amount of \$21,976.00.

#### **MICHAEL SUTTON, DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES**

Motor Equipment Operator II Vacancy: Mr. Sutton discussed a hiring recommendation for a Motor Equipment Operator II Vacancy. On motion by Commissioner Price, and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved a conditional offer of employment to the recommended candidate at the proposed rate for the identified vacant position.

Recreation Specialist Vacancy: Mr. Sutton discussed a hiring recommendation for the Recreation Specialist Vacancy. On motion by Commissioner Price, and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved a conditional offer of employment to the recommended candidate at the proposed rate for the identified vacant position.

Service Coordinator Vacancy: Mr. Sutton discussed a hiring recommendation for a Service Coordinator Vacancy. On motion by Commissioner Price, and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved a conditional offer of employment to the recommended candidate at the proposed rate for the identified vacant position.

#### **HILARY SIAKOR-SIRLEAF, WARDEN AND ROLAND SHEPPARD, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, KENT COUNTY DETENTION CENTER**

Kent County Detention Center - Prime Care Contract: Kent County is responsible for providing comprehensive medical and behavioral health services to all individuals housed at the Kent County Detention Center. Prime Care Medical, Inc. has served as the County's contracted healthcare provider since July 17, 2023, under the existing Comprehensive Health Services Agreement. Prime Care was recently awarded Contract #RFP-26-006 through a competitive procurement conducted by Cecil County, Maryland. Kent County now seeks to "piggyback" on that competitively bid contract, replacing the current agreement with a new Comprehensive Health Services Agreement effective July 1, 2026. Under the proposed agreement, Prime Care will continue providing medical care and mental health services, adding Medication-Assisted

Treatment (MAT), pharmaceuticals, and related clinical services in accordance with the standards outlined in Contract #RFP-26-006. The new agreement establishes a four-year term ending June 30, 2030, with three optional one-year renewals subject to mutual written agreement. Compensation for the first contract year includes an annual base services fee of \$821,385.82 and an annual MAT services fee of \$74,279.93, with future annual adjustments tied to medical cost indices plus one percent, and not less than three percent per year. On motion by Commissioner Price, and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the updated Prime Care Medical Contract to include the Medication-Assisted Treatment Program and Pharmaceuticals.

### **JOANNE MCNAMARA, DIRECTOR, GRANTS AND CONTRACTS**

Approval for use of Opioid Restitution Funds: Kent County receives Opioid Restitution Funds through the national opioid settlement, which are held separate and apart from County funds in a Special Revenue Fund. Use of these funds are governed by the terms of the opioid settlement agreements, which specify that funds may only be used for authorized purposes related to the treatment, prevention, or mitigation of harms from the opioid use epidemic. Kent County receives grant funding from the Maryland Office of Overdose Response (MOOR) to support costs related to the provision of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) medical services in the Kent County Detention Center, a program mandated and required by law, and which provides treatment for opioid use disorder amongst our incarcerated population. As the County has closed out its grant period that was aligned with the FY2026 fiscal year period, the MOOR office determined that a portion of our contractual costs with the University of Maryland Medical Center to provide MAT telemedicine and telecounseling services were not reimbursable with their grant funds. This has resulted in a shortfall of \$5,268.19 between the expenses incurred to provide MAT services to incarcerated individuals at the Kent County Detention Center and the grant funds available for reimbursement of these expenses. Ms. McNamara requested use of the County's Opioid Restitution Fund to cover the balance of those costs. This is an allowable use of funds under the terms of the opioid settlement agreement, and the ORF Advisory Committee has unanimously recommended use of ORF dollars for this purpose. On motion by Commissioner Price, and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the use of County Opioid Restitution Funds to supplement the balance due of \$5,268.19 for the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) services in the Kent County Detention Center.

### **G. ROBERT MOWELL, COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Report out of Comments on Power Plant Research Program's Proposed Standard Distributed Generation Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (DGPCPN) Siting and Design Requirements: In the late evening of August 3, 2026, the County became aware that the Public Service Commission was soliciting comments on DGPCPN Siting and Design Requirements, with a deadline to submit by August 4, 2026. The County Administrator, Director of Planning, Housing, and Zoning, and County Attorney prepared a response on behalf of the Commissioners, encouraging the return of control to local jurisdictions and raising procedural concerns. The Commissioners were approached individually and did not deliberate regarding the letter, but signed a copy on behalf of the County on August 4, 2026, which was filed with the Public Service Commission. This was an administrative function regarding established policy, and therefore not subject to the Open Meetings Act. Discussion took place.

Resolution 2026-16-Conveyance of Prestwick Subdivision Roads - Muirfield Drive, Turnberry Court, and Prestwick Drive: Prestwick-Kent, L.L.C., approached the County to transfer ownership of the roads in the Prestwick subdivision known as Muirfield Drive, Turnberry Court, and Prestwick Drive. Public Works has inspected the roads and found them to be in acceptable condition. Discussion took place. On motion by Commissioner Price, and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 2026-16 to Adopt Roads in the Prestwick Subdivision as presented.

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

Maryland Department of the Environment, Water and Science Administration, Notice of Publication of Permit Decision: On July 29, 2026, the Water and Science Administration issued Water Appropriation and Use Permit No. KE2025S005(01) to Daniel McHenry to appropriate and use an annual average of 48,000 gallons of water per day(gpd) and a maximum daily withdrawal of 648,000 gallons for crop irrigation at the Daniel McHenry farm. Water is to be withdrawn from one intake on Morgan Creek. The site is located at 11653 Augustine Herman Highway, Kennedyville, Kent County, Maryland. After examination and consideration of the documents received and evidence in the application file and record, the Administration has determined that the application meets the statutory and regulatory criteria necessary for issuance of the Water Appropriation and Use Permit. The notice received from the Maryland Department of the Environment is attached for review.

### **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 July 21, 2026, is \$ 323,800.00. 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.

At 6:36 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, August 25, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lacey M. Townsend  
County Clerk

Approved:

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

August 18, 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 Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the Liquor Minutes of August 4, 2026.

### **SPECIAL CLASS C LICENSES**

The Williams Group, Beer & Wine, August 22, 2026: The Williams Group applied for a Special Class C Per Diem Alcoholic Beverage License for Beer & Wine for their Evening of Fun & Music located at 25367 Lambs Meadow Road, Worton, MD 21678. On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the application by The Williams Group for a Special Class C Per Diem Alcoholic Beverage License for Beer & Wine for August 22, 2026.

Chestertown Tea Party Festival, Inc., Beer and Wine, September 12, 2026: Chestertown Tea Party Festival Inc. applied for a Special Class C Per Diem Alcoholic Beverage License for Beer and Wine for the Chestertown Jazz Festival at Wilmer Park, 399 S. Cross Street, Chestertown, MD 21620. On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the application for the Chestertown Tea Party Festival Inc. for a Beer and Wine Special Class C Per Diem Alcoholic Beverage License for September 12, 2026.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

On a motion by Commissioner Price, seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved to go into a Public Hearing. The hearing commenced at 6:04 p.m. The rules for a public hearing were in effect.

### **DKD LLC, DBA POP'S CHESAPEAKE SMOKEHOUSE CLASS B, BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR**

Mr. Mowell stated that an application was submitted for a Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor License for DKD LLC, Pop's Chesapeake Smokehouse, 14020 Augustine Herman Hwy, Georgetown, MD 21930. The hearing was duly advertised in the Kent News on July 30, 2026, and August 6, 2026.

Mr. Mowell administered the Oath to Bonnie S. Pearsall, Inspector, Kent Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement (KATE), and Member Paul Benkert, representing DKD LLC, Pop's Chesapeake Smokehouse, and anyone else wishing to testify.

Inspector Pearsall informed the Commissioners that the applicants met all requirements for Board consideration and that the County Attorney had reviewed the application. This application will remain contingent until the applicant provides proof of a Fire Marshal inspection confirming the establishment's maximum capacity. The establishment also needs a food service license, which cannot be issued until the fire marshal's inspection is completed. Mr. Benkert provided an overview of how the establishment would operate and the services they were looking to provide. Discussion took place. Commissioner Price welcomed Mr. Benkert and his business to the County. No other comments were offered in favor of or in opposition to the application.

On a motion by Commissioner Price, seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the application of DKD LLC, Pop's Chesapeake Smokehouse Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor License contingent upon the receipt of a Fire Marshal's Inspection Report and a Food Service License.

On a motion by Commissioner Price, seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved to go back into regular/open session. The public hearing concluded at 6:09 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the Maryland Department of Health, Human Services Agreements Annual Report.

At 6:36 p.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, August 25, 2026, at 10:00 a.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