

October 24, 2023

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, Albert Nickerson, and John F. Price. The meeting convened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Fithian asked the audience to remain standing for a moment of silence. Commissioner Fithian asked that we keep the hostages and innocent people in our prayers.

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

CONSENT ITEMS

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

1. Regular Session Minutes, October 17, 2023
2. Liquor Minutes, October 17, 2023
3. Closed Session Minutes, October 17, 2023
4. Dr. Karen Couch, Superintendent, Kent County Public Schools – Support Letter to Alex Donahue, Executive Director, Interagency Commission on School Construction for the Kent County Middle School Modernization Project

APPOINTMENTS

Maryland Department of Transportation, Consolidated Transportation Program Tour: Commissioner Fithian welcomed Paul J. Wiedefeld, Transportation Secretary, Samantha Biddle, Deputy Secretary, Nora Corasaniti, Deputy Director for State Legislative Affairs, Joe McAndrew, Assistant Secretary for Project Development and Delivery, and Tashad Pinckney, Regional Planner, Transportation Secretary's Office (TSO); Ashish J. Solanki, Director, Office of Regional Aviation Assistance, Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA); Leslie Dews, Deputy Administrator, Maryland Vehicle Administration (MVA); Travis Johnston, Director, Office of Local Transit Support (OLTS), Maryland Transit Authority (MTA); Will Pines, Administrator, Matt Baker, Deputy Administrator for Project Development, Nicole Stafford, Chief of Staff, Mitch Baldwin, Deputy Director of Legislative Services, and Ken Fender, District 2 Engineer, State Highway Administration (SHA); and Joseph Sagal, Executive Director, Melissa Williams of Planning and Program Development, Maryland Department of Transportation Authority (MDTA), for the annual Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) tour.

Mr. Wiedefeld gave a brief overview and discussed the Draft FY2023-2028 Maryland CTP: 2023 State Report on Transportation which details MDOT's six-year capital budget. State Highway Administration (SHA); Planning and Program Development, Maryland Department of Transportation Authority (MDTA); Office of Local Transit Support (OLTS), Maryland Transit Authority (MTA); Maryland Vehicle Administration (MVA); Office of Regional Aviation, Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport and Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA); along with Jeff L. Ghrist, and Jay A. Jacobs, District 36, Maryland State Delegates spoke regarding the County projects. There were no comments offered by the

audience. Discussion took place. The Commissioners thanked MDOT and SHA for their efforts with former and current projects throughout the County.

District 36 Delegation: Senator Stephen S. Hershey, and Delegates Jefferson L. Ghrist and Jay A. Jacobs, spoke regarding the upcoming 2024 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly and listened to the Commissioners' concerns and requests. Jeff Carroll, Mayor, Town of Galena, and David Foster, Mayor, Town of Chestertown gave an overview of the projects each town has been working on and thanked Senator Hershey and Delegates Ghrist and Jacobs for their support.

Kent County Public Schools: Dr. Karen Couch, Superintendent, and Thomas Porter, Coordinator for Accountability and Career and Technical Education, Kent County Public Schools (KCPs) presented a Blueprint for Maryland's Future Implementation update.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was held for the proposed Maryland Law or Legislative Bond Initiative Requests. Public information regarding the hearing and minutes are posted on the County's website <https://www.kentcounty.com/commissioners/meeting-agenda>.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Jim Miller, Director of Human Resources requested approval for a conditional employment offer to the recommended candidate to fill the Human Resources Administrative Specialist I position. Discussion took place. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved the recommended candidate for a conditional employment offer as a Grade 4 position.

Mr. Miller gave an overview of the proposed policy language and process recommendations based on the continuation of retiree health insurance coverage. Discussion took place. Commissioner Price recused himself from voting on this item due to personal conflict. On a motion made by Commissioner Nickerson and seconded by Commissioner Fithian, the Commissioners, by a majority vote, approved the recommended policy language and process recommendations for retiree health insurance coverage and reimbursements, and upon approval, a resolution will be submitted to revise the County's human resources policy to reflect these changes.

LETTER FOR SIGNATURE

On October 17, 2023, the Board unanimously approved a services contract agreement between Kent County and Maryland Family Network (MFN) for the Family Support Center. MFN requested a letter of commitment from each agency that sponsors a family support center. A letter of support and commitment to Laura Weeldreyer, Executive Director, MFN was signed by the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The procedures for public comment were in effect. Testimony was offered by Dr. Couch. KCPS has submitted a request for a legislative adjustment to the state participation rate for the Kent County Middle School project and the final request is for 98% of the funding. KCPS also submitted a capital request for refurbishing both tennis courts at the Kent County High School.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS

A copy of the ARPA Spend Plan outlining the approved expenditures to date was provided to the Commissioners for informational purposes.

CONTINGENCY FUND

The FY2024 Contingency balance as of October 17, 2023, is \$302,013.00. No use of Fund Balance has been requested to date.

At 1:01 p.m., on a motion by Commissioner Nickerson and seconded by Commissioner Price, the Commissioners unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. The Board is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, October 31, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lacey T. Cox
Deputy Clerk II

Approved:

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

October 24, 2023

PUBLIC HEARING

County Commissioners Ronald H. Fithian, Albert Nickerson, and John F. Price were in attendance. Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator; Thomas N. Yeager, County Attorney; Stephen S. Hershey, and Delegates Jay A. Jacobs and Jefferson L. Ghrist were present as well.

Thomas N. Yeager, County Attorney, stated the public notice was duly advertised and read the notice into the record. The procedures for testifying were read and the rules for a public hearing were in effect.

Legislative Bond Initiative Requests

The public hearing commenced at 11:13 a.m. in the County Commissioners' Hearing Room, R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr., Kent County Government Center, 400 High Street, Chestertown, Maryland. The purpose of the hearing was to review and receive comments on the proposed revisions or additions to Maryland law or Legislative Bond Initiative Requests for consideration to the County Commissioners.

Shelley Heller, County Administrator, gave an overview of the State Legislative Proposals and Legislative Bond Initiative process. Ms. Heller stated that proposals were received from Frank Hodges, Home Partnership, Inc., and Thomas A. Herz, Jr., Councilmember, Town of Chestertown.

Mr. Hodges presented a proposal for the Millington Senior Village. A question-and-answer time occurred with the Board, Senator Hershey, and Delegates Jacobs and Ghrist.

Mr. Herz presented a proposal for a Chestertown Heritage Trail. A question-and-answer time occurred with the Board, Senator Hershey, and Delegates Jacobs and Ghrist. Miles Barnard, Architecture, South Fork Studios, Beth Choate, Deputy Director, Center for Environment & Society, and Adam Goodheart Director, Starr Center, of Washington College were also in attendance to give testimony on behalf of the Chestertown Heritage Trail project.

No one signed the testimony log. There were no public comments that were offered by the audience.

Respectfully submitted,

Lacey T. Cox
Deputy Clerk II

Approved:

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

October 24, 2023

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 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 17, 2023.

SPECIAL CLASS C LICENSES

Sultana Education Foundation (SEF) submitted a Special Class C per diem liquor license application for a three (3) day Beer and Wine only fundraiser/music event. The event is scheduled to take place on October 27th from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., October 28th from 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and October 29th from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. During these event dates, SEF will be selling beer and wine at 200 South Cross Street (Chestertown Marina), Chestertown, MD 21620.

The Tolchester Community Association, Inc., submitted a Special Class C per diem liquor license application for Beer and Wine only. They will be holding a dinner event on November 4, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Tolchester Community Center in Tolchester.

All applications were reviewed and met the requirements for an event license approval. There being no objections to the applications, the Board took a vote. On a motion made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the Commissioners unanimously approved both applications as presented during the public hearing.

At 1:01 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, October 31, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lacey T. Cox
Deputy Clerk II

Approved:

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