

October 4, 2022

A meeting of the County Commissioners of Kent County was called to order at 6:02 p.m. with the following present: P. Thomas Mason, President, Ronald H. Fithian, and Robert N. Jacob, Jr. The meeting convened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Mason asked the audience to remain standing for a moment of silence for the Florida residents and public officials that will have to deal with the destruction caused by Hurricane Ian.

Thomas N. Yeager, County Attorney, was also present.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Thomas N, Yeager, County Attorney, read the Notice into the record. The County Commissioners of Kent County do hereby provide the required public notice pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, Local Government Article § 10-312 that the real property known as 172 Sassafras Street, Millington, MD 21651 just north of Millington, formally known as the Millington Elementary School property, is no longer needed for public use. The County intends to sell the property. Notice will be published in three successive weeks: 10/13/22, 10/20/22, and 10/27/22.

Discussion continued regarding the allocation agreement and the deed. A further dialogue will take place at the October 11, 2022, meeting.

CONSENT ITEMS

On a motion by Commissioner Fithian and seconded by Commissioner Jacob, the Commissioners unanimously approved the following items:

1. Regular Session Minutes, September 27, 2022
2. Liquor Minutes, September 27, 2022
3. Mike Moulds, Director, Public Works
Memorandum of Understanding regarding Monarch Butterfly Waystation at Worton Park
4. Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company, Raffle Only, October 5 – December 17, 2022

PROCLAMATIONS

October is Suicide Prevention Month: Commissioner Fithian read the proclamation. For All Seasons would like to bring awareness and understanding to the unfortunate circumstances of suicide. They provide resources to people who may be able to prevent this from happening to others. Leslie Sea, Board of Directors President, was in attendance to accept the proclamation on behalf of For All Seasons. Ms. Sea gave a brief overview of support provided to Spanish and English-speaking community members across the Eastern Shore regardless of their ability to pay. There are six locations in five counties on the Eastern Shore. For All Seasons offers a hotline #410-820-5600 and a website, <https://forallseasonsinc.org/> for additional support.

White Cane Safety Day, October 15, 2022: Commissioner Jacob read the proclamation. The National Federation of the Blind- Maryland, would like to bring awareness to the campaign. Every blind citizen of our County has the right to carry, demonstrate, and symbolize the ability to achieve a full and independent life and the capacity to work productively in competitive employment.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Paul R. Rickert, Area Extension Director, University of Maryland Extension (UME) accompanied the new Ag Agent, Dr. Dwayne Joseph for an informal meet and greet. Dr. Joseph is from St. Lucia. Dr. Joseph received his bachelor's degree in biology from Grambling State University in Louisiana, and attended Clemson University, South Carolina, receiving his master's degree and P.H.D in Plant Science. Recently, Dr. Joseph attended the University of Maryland, Upper Marlboro for a post-doctoral fellowship. Dr. Joseph started working for the UME) in early July 2022 and is excited to start programming in Kent County as he has done in surrounding counties. Further discussion took place.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Marty Hale, Director, Human Resources, on behalf of Mike Moulds, Director, Public Works presented a hiring recommendation for the Motor Equipment Operator II vacancy in the Environmental Operation Division. This position is at the recommended (Grade 3) annual salary. Mr. Hale summarized the hiring recommendation suggested by the staff. On a motion by Commissioner Jacob and seconded by Commissioner Fithian, the Commissioners unanimously approved the recommended candidate as requested. Any hiring recommendation is pending the successful completion of County pre-employment requirements.

Commissioner Fithian requested clarification on the County hiring policy regarding relatives/personal relationships at work. Discussion took place.

LETTERS FOR SIGNATURE

Two (2) citizen interest forms were received and forwarded to the appropriate Board and/or Committee. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation by a letter acknowledging the receipt of each interest form.

At the Commissioners' September 27, 2022, meeting it was decided to deny the request of Reverend Monique Upshur Davis, Holy Trinity AME Church for a waiver of one water and wastewater allocation fee. A response letter addressed to Reverend Upshur Davis, informing her of the denial of her request was submitted for the Commissioners to sign.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The procedures for public comment were in effect.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Free County-sponsored event: Penny Young-Carrasquillo, Grants Manager, Kent County, will hold a free grant workshop “Roadmap to Grant Funding”. Anyone interested is invited to attend the workshop on October 28, 2022, from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Kent County Community Center. A flyer was attached.

The Commissioners received a copy of the Maryland Department of Transportation’s, 2022 Local Resource Guide announcing that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) was signed into law by President Biden on November 15, 2021. The Guide offers information on discretionary grant programs that are available.

The Commissioners received a correspondence dated September 12, 2022, from William Pines, PE, Executive Director, Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) serving as a reminder that the Customer Assistant Plan is set to end on November 30, 2022. The Plan provides a civil penalty waiver grace period to pay unpaid tolls.

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 September 27, 2022, is \$316,484.00, and the FY2023 Use of Fund Balance total is \$16,794.00.

CLOSED SESSION, PERSONNEL

At 6:47 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Fithian, seconded by Commissioner Jacob, and carried unanimously to go into closed session. The meeting was closed under the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article § 3-305 (b) (1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

Marty Hale, Director, Human Resources; Thomas N. Yeager, County Attorney; Sondra M. Blackiston, Clerk/KATE Manager; and Tonya Thomas, Deputy Clerk II were also in attendance.

PERSONNEL

Topic to be discussed: To consider a written personnel request submitted to the Board for their review.

Reason for closing: A personnel request is private, and all details of the request must be safeguarded.

Mr. Yeager offered advice concerning a process. Three correspondences were submitted for the Board's information. The Commissioners and staff discussed a personnel matter.

At 7:36 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Jacob, seconded by Commissioner Fithian, and carried unanimously to adjourn the closed session and reconvene in open session.

OPEN SESSION, PERSONNEL

Commissioner Fithian summarized the Commissioners and staff discussed a personnel issue in the closed session. On a motion by Commissioner Fithian, seconded by Commissioner Jacob, the Board by a majority vote, agreed with a course of action and for staff to carry out the directions. Commissioner Mason was the opposed vote.

At 7:38 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Fithian, seconded by Commissioner Jacob, and the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. The Board is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sondra M. Blackiston
Clerk/KATE Manager

Approved:

P. Thomas Mason, President
The County Commissioners
of Kent County, Maryland

October 4, 2022

The Board of License Commissioners met today with the following present: P. Thomas Mason, presiding, Ronald H. Fithian, and Robert N. Jacob, Jr.

Thomas N. Yeager, County Attorney, was also present.

CONSENT ITEM

On a motion by Commissioner Fithian and seconded by Commissioner Jacob, the Commissioners unanimously approved Consent Item #2 - Liquor Minutes, September 27, 2022.

SPECIAL CLASS C LICENSES

The Tolchester Community Association, Inc., submitted a Special Class C (Pier Diem) liquor license application for Beer and Wine Only. They will be holding a spaghetti dinner event on October 8, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Tolchester Community Center in Tolchester. There being no objections, on a motion by Commissioner Fithian and seconded by Commissioner Jacob, the Commissioners unanimously approved the application as presented.

The Sgt. Preston Ashley American Legion Auxiliary submitted a Special Class C (Pier Diem) liquor license application for Beer Only. They will be holding a Bike Fest on October 16, 2022, from Noon to 6:00 p.m. at the Rock Hall Bulkhead in Rock Hall. There being no objections, on a motion by Commissioner Fithian and seconded by Commissioner Jacob, the Commissioners unanimously approved the application as presented.

KENT ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT (KATE)

Thomas N. Yeager, County Attorney provided an update on two licensed establishments. Roopa Dusia, President, Siddhivinayak, Inc., trading as Galena Liquors, and Rumit H. Dusia, President/Treasurer, Huriom Petroleum Corporation, Inc., trading as Galena Mini Mart, were both operating out of compliance. Administrative Hearings were held on August 23, 2022, for failure to obtain a trader's license. Both hearings were extended for 30 days. On September 21, 2022, both establishments provided a copy of a valid trader's license. Mr. Yeager notified both establishments in writing that the matter was considered closed, and the hearings scheduled for September 27, 2022, were canceled.

There being no further business to claim their attention, the Board adjourned and agreed to meet again on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Sondra M. Blackiston
Clerk, KATE Manager

Approved:

P. Thomas Mason, President
The County Commissioners
of Kent County, Maryland