

June 29, 2021

A meeting of the County Commissioners of Kent County was called to order at 10:01 a.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 two recent tragedies, the collapsing of a condo building in Florida, and a hot air balloon crash in New Mexico; and may we keep former Commissioner William Pickrum and his family in our thoughts as he is laid to rest today at Arlington National Cemetery.

Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator was also in attendance.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commissioner Fithian read an adoption notice. Code Home Rule 8-2021 Agricultural Advisory Commission, AN ACT to amend Chapter 172, Agriculture Advisory Commission, of the Code of Public Laws of Kent County, Maryland, by amending the text to change the appointment requirements, revise the process for filling vacancies, clarify the functions of the Commission and its required reporting, and identify procedures related to recusal, quorum, and the efficacy of voting in different scenarios. This legislation was adopted on June 15, 2021, with amendments; and the provisions of this Act shall take effect on July 30, 2021.

Commissioner Mason read a notice announcing all County offices will be closed on Monday, July 5, 2021, in observance of Independence Day.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

1. Regular Session Minutes, June 22, 2021
2. Liquor Minutes, June 22, 2021
3. Closed Session Minutes, June 22, 2021
4. Shrewsbury Parish, Raffle Only, October 2, 2021

APPOINTMENTS

Darius Johnson, Executive Director, accompanied by Lani Seikaly, President, Ed Minch, Vice President, Kathy Appel, Treasurer, and Jonathan Chace, Secretary, Kent Attainable Housing, Inc. shared a presentation on the agency. Mr. Johnson discussed the mission and vision of Kent Attainable Housing, services provided to the community, a need to focus on breaking the poverty cycle, partners, resources, progress, and challenges. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Johnson for the well-informed presentation. Commissioner Fithian inquired about a previous County housing initiative through Interfaith Housing. Bill Mackey, Director, Planning, Housing, and Zoning stated he will research the former program. Commissioner Fithian also mentioned ways the County may be able to assist the efforts of Kent Attainable Housing.

Phil Cicconi, Mary Etta Reedy, accompanied by Barbara Fancher, and Carolyn Sorge, Members, Commission on Aging presented the Kent County Commission on Aging (COA) Senior Needs Assessment 2021. Ms. Reedy stated the COA surveyed seniors to identify the most pressing needs of Kent County's older population. The COA plans to organize and expand senior services to avoid overlaps and identify gaps in services by coordinating and connecting existing and potential service providers. Mr. Cicconi indicated financial literacy is lacking not only in seniors but young persons as well. Ms. Reedy and Mr. Cicconi concluded by noting the goal is to improve the quality of life for Kent County seniors. Commissioner Fithian stated transportation needs for seniors continues to be an ongoing issue and requested a work session be scheduled with outside agencies to collaborate on putting a plan together.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Wayne Darrell, Director, Emergency Services presented the Next Generation 911 Special Construction Contracts with AT&T. Mr. Darrell stated AT&T is requesting approval and signature of two (2) Special Construction Contracts to begin installation of the Next Generation 911 IP network. The Contract for the primary 911 center located at 104 Vickers Drive is in the amount of \$151,475.00, and the Contract for the back-up 911 center located at 709 Morgnec Road is in the amount of \$153,675.00. Both Contracts are fully funded through the Maryland 9-1-1 Board. On motion by Commissioner Fithian and seconded by Commissioner Jacob, the Commissioners unanimously approved the Special Construction Contracts with AT&T to install Next Generation 911 IP networks for Vickers Drive 911 center in the amount of \$151,475.00, and the Morgnec Road 911 center in the amount of \$153,675.00.

PLANNING, HOUSING, AND ZONING

Mr. Mackey presented an Amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement with Maryland Environmental Service (MES) for Stormwater Management (SWM) Review. The County is responsible for the technical review of SWM designs that are proposed on submitted plans and permits for projects within unincorporated areas. During FY2021 MES has been performing the County's professional SWM reviews. While the County is still in the hiring process for an engineer, an amendment to the contract with MES was proposed, this amendment will have MES continue to review SWM for six (6) months. Staff recommends approval. Discussion took place. On motion by Commissioner Fithian and seconded by Commissioner Jacob, the Commissioners unanimously approved the Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement between Kent County, Maryland, and the Maryland Environmental Service.

Mr. Mackey presented an Agreement for Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funds in the amount of \$1,332,475.00. Mr. Mackey stated on March 30th the Commissioners adopted Resolution 2021-03 to Authorize the Application for Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) Funds to Provide For Rental Assistance By Subrecipient Maryland Rural Development Corporation. The grant request for \$1,332,475.00 has been awarded. The Agreement with Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development sets forth terms and conditions for the receipt of the funds. The County contracted with Eleventh House Solutions to manage and administer the grant. Mr. Mackey explained the ERAP grant provides

substantial funding for assistance to those in the County impacted by the COVID pandemic. Staff recommends approval. Discussion took place. On motion by Commissioner Fithian and seconded by Commissioner Jacob, the Commissioners unanimously approved and signed the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) Grant Agreement.

Commissioner Mason inquired on the progress of the Comprehensive Rezoning Update (CRU) and its Task Force. Mr. Mackey stated questionnaires have been sent to citizens, resulting in many concerns and ideas. The process may take longer than projected. The Commissioners and Mr. Mackey discussed options to keep the Task Force on track.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator, on behalf of Shelly Neal-Edwards, Director, Kent County Department of Social Services (KCDSS), presented a request to appoint two (2) applicants to the KCDSS Advisory Board. On motion by Commissioner Jacob and seconded by Commissioner Fithian, the Commissioners unanimously approved the suggested nominations for the Kent County Department of Social Services Advisory Board. The Board appointed Catherine Boyer-Sterling and Sara Cunningham, both for a three (3) year term with an expiration date of June 30, 2024.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Ms. Heller, on behalf of Pat Merritt, Chief Finance Officer, Office of Finance, reported the Kent County Public Library FY2022 Electronic Transfer Schedule totaling \$713,899.00 was signed by Commissioner Mason on June 22, 2021. The library has opted to receive twelve equal payments of \$59,491.59 throughout the fiscal year.

LETTERS FOR SIGNATURE

At their June 22nd meeting, the Commissioners appointed James Reihl to the Public Landings and Facilities Board to fill an unexpired term ending June 30, 2025. A formal appointment letter was presented for signature.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The procedures for public comment were in effect. The public was invited to participate. No comments were received from citizens.

CONTINGENCY FUND

The FY2021 Contingency Fund balance as of June 15, 2021, is \$392,907.00 and the use of fund balance total is \$72,723.00.

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At 11:31 a.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Jacob, seconded by Commissioner Fithian, and the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. The Board is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sondra M. Blackiston
Clerk/KATE Manager

Approved:

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

June 29, 2021

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

Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator, was present in person.

CONSENT ITEM

On motion by Commissioner Fithian and seconded by Commissioner Jacob, the Commissioners unanimously approved Consent Item #2 - Liquor Minutes, June 22, 2021.

SPECIAL CLASS C LICENSES

Ms. Blackiston reviewed the following Beer and Wine Special Class C License applications made by The Arc of Central Chesapeake Region:

1. July 3, 2021, for an event being held at Fresh Start Food and Garden, 21318 Sharp Street, Rock Hall
2. July 17, 2021, for an event being held at Rock Hall Landing Marina, 5657 Hawthorne Street, Rock Hall
3. August 14-15, 2021, for an event being held at Fresh Start Food and Garden, 21318 Sharp Street, Rock Hall
4. October 9, 2021, for an event being held at Fresh Start Food and Garden, 21318 Sharp Street, Rock Hall

There being no objections, on motion by Commissioner Fithian and seconded by Commissioner Jacob, the Commissioners unanimously approved the four (4) Special Class C Licenses as presented.

There being no further business to claim their attention, the Board adjourned and agreed to meet again on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Sondra M. Blackiston
Clerk/KATE Manager

Approved:

P. Thomas Mason, President

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The County Commissioners
of Kent County, Maryland