

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**Betterton, Chestertown, Galena, Kent County, Millington, and Rock Hall**

*COG Clerk: Caitlyn Smith | Phone: 410-648-5151 ext. 303 | Email: csmith@townofgalena.com*

**MINUTES**

The Kent County Council of Governments (COG) met on January 25, 2023, via hybrid meeting at Galena Town Hall. Meeting was called to order at 12:20pm.

Those present were: Jay Jacobs (Delegate), Albert Nickerson (County Commissioner), Bill Mackey (Director of Planning, Housing, and Zoning), Dawson Hunter (Economic Development), Jamie Williams (Economic Development), Harry Marcy (Betterton Council Member), Donald Sutton (Betterton Mayor), Tom Herz (COG Chair & Chestertown Council Member), Jose Medrano (Chestertown Council Member), Bob Resele (Rock Hall Town Manager), Dawn Jacobs (Rock Hall Mayor), John Carroll (Galena Mayor), Tyler Carpenter (Galena Council Member), Caitlyn Smith (Galena/COG Clerk), Audrey Erschen (Galena Grants & Tech coordinator).

**MINUTES** – The minutes of the November 16 2022, meeting were approved as presented.

**REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Kent County Commissioner – Albert Nickerson**

- Kent County is in the works of hiring a lobbyist to assist with county concerns during this upcoming legislative session
- Kent County is working with Millington on their Waste Water Treatment Plant project and working to determine next steps

**Kent County – Jamie Williams, Bill Mackey**

- 3 projects were approved for funding by the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund: Millington WWTP, Worton water/sewer extension, and a new entrance to Chestertown business campus off of 301
- Jamie saw a listing in Chesapeake College's brochure for a WWTP training
- Bill Mackey reported that the task force completed putting recommendations together

**MAYORS' and COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS**

**Betterton—Mayor Sutton reported:**

- Finished paving for tennis courts & Basketball courts, will cure over winter and paint in spring
- Moving forward with stone work project on bayside
- Experiencing sewer plant issues
  - Mayor Carroll of Galena stated Galena's treatment plant faced similar issues in the past and solved the problems with specific chemicals during colder months.

### **Chestertown – Council Member Herz**

- Chestertown very concerned with the amount of pass through traffic and is working with SHA to figure out travel volume – would like Galena’s help with this as well
- Actively working on tax differential questions, meetings to be in February 2023, send an email to Tom Herz to be included in these meeting schedules.
- Chestertown’s ARPA task force is in their final phase of determining where to spend remaining ARPA funds.

### **Galena – Mayor Carroll**

- Currently working to re-do their town website
- Working with an outsourced consultant to assist with bringing other items back in house and up to date technologically such as updating accounting systems, new website, high tech equipment
- Bioswale installation is complete
- RFP has been sent out for bike path concept plan, Galena was approved for \$160,000.00 grant
- Looking for a part time maintenance person
  - Betterton is also looking for a part time maintenance person, it was suggested that if Betterton is still having trouble finding someone, perhaps Galena and Betterton could hire the same person, increasing their hours as desired.
- Galena has been holding Emergency Preparedness Plan meetings with local organizations and businesses to discuss what resources and volunteer assistance is available in the event of a natural disaster.

### **Rock Hall – Mayor Jacobs**

- Major sewer line repairs needed
- Trying to find an established 501 C3 to take care of all town artifacts
- Town hall will be placed for sale and new building will be purchased or rented for town hall and town police
- Rock Hall started their comprehensive plan update

### **MML Updates – MML President Elect John Carroll**

- ESAM Dinner January 31<sup>st</sup> at Fishermans Inn
- June Conference classes are being planned, a preview of classes will be available in March or April
- Current legislative session going on
  - Looking to increase HUR funding
  - Discussing housing concerns
  - Working to create police accountability boards at the town level for where applicable.

### **Old Business – See general discussion**

### **General Discussion – Delegate Jay Jacobs, 36<sup>th</sup> District**

- For direct requests from the municipality, reach out to Delegate Jacobs or the delegation as a whole
- If Kent County is involved or will be affected by any requests, Delegate Jacobs, will want to ensure the County is okay with the request prior to taking any further actions.
- For funding requests, have requests sent in before September
- Legislation requests can be brought up at any point in time by calling Delegate Jacobs, Senator Hershey, or both.
- Delegate Jacobs suggested inviting the entire delegation to the September COG meeting to discuss any issues, concerns, or questions.

**New Business**

- Scott Boone will be making online space for COG Agendas, recordings, and meeting minutes to be posted publicly to comply with Maryland’s open meeting acts by posting these items 24 hours prior to meeting times.
- It has been suggested that rather than taking each individual issue to legislation, to group similar town issues together and go as one body. Tom, Tyler, and John will be working to put an executive summary of municipal concerns together.
- Mayor Jacobs reported a couple concerns that she wanted to revisit:
  - When town officers issue tickets, the town does not receive any of the revenue but is instead losing money when the town must pay for an officer to go to court for any tickets being contested. What can be done to ensure the town gets atleast a portion of this revenue?
  - Towns should be allowed to request payment/financial coverage for town employees doing repairs themselves rather than having to pay a third party to complete work from the HUR funds.
  - Bay Restoration Fund money is due at the end of each quarter on the 30<sup>th</sup>, BRF should be due 45 days AFTER the quarter has ended to give towns a chance to actually collect the funds to in turn be paid.

The next COG meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 12pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 pm with no objections.

---

Tom Herz, President



---

Caitlyn Smith, COG Secretary