

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 February 15, 2023, via hybrid meeting at Galena Town Hall. Meeting was called to order at 12:07pm.

Those present were: Bill Mackey (Director of Planning, Housing, and Zoning), Dawson Hunter (Economic Development), Harry Marcy (Betterton Council Member), Tom Herz (COG Chair & Chestertown Council Member), Bob Resele (Rock Hall Town Manager), John Carroll (Galena Mayor), Tyler Carpenter (Galena Council Member), Justinian Dispenza (Galena Council Member), Sarah Merrell (Galena Council Member), Caitlyn Smith (Galena/COG Clerk), Audrey Erschen (Galena Grants & Tech coordinator).

MINUTES – The minutes of the January 15 2023, meeting were approved as presented.

REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Kent County –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— Harry Marcy reported:

- Finished paving for tennis courts & Basketball courts, will cure over winter painting will begin soon, pickleball court will also be made
- Moving forward with stone work project on bayside

Chestertown – Council Member Herz

- Actively working on tax differential questions, meetings to being 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. Suggestions have been made and awaiting Council approval.
- Bill Ingersol has retired, position is open.
- Strategic plan is posted on Chestertown’s website for review. Suggestions welcome.

Galena – Mayor Carroll

- RFP has been sent out for bike path concept plan, Galena was approved for \$160,000.00 grant
 - 1 RFP received, well below grant amount and indicated engineering could be included in grant amount as well and was approved through MDOT
- Galena is actively working with speed sign company to fix 2 speed signs and reinstall. Also working with the Sheriff to determine best times for police presence.
- 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 shared interest in sharing a maintenance person with Betterton and discussing logistics and future goals for new hire.
- Had some sewer issues pop up around town and town hall that needed repair.
- Dogwood Festival will be upcoming

Rock Hall – Town Manager Resele

- Planning and Zoning still working on Comprehensive Plan
- Improvements being made at the beach including a boardwalk, chairs, benches, picnic tables and grills
- Submitted an application for 3 pump station replacements for approx.. 2.6 million dollars
- 1.6 miles of sewer main that may need replacement, looking for funding
- ENR (Enhanced Nutrient Reduction) project going well, looking to begin upgrade soon.
- Conversation meeting scheduled for February 26th which is a open house type meeting for residents to update them on the repairs and expenses of water and sewer lines.

MML Updates – MML President Elect John Carroll

- Mayors Conference upcoming
- In the process of purchasing a headquarters for MML in downtown Annapolis
- President retreat will be planned and will need assistance with housing ideas in and around Galena.
- 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.
 - Discussing issues regarding major sewer repairs

Old Business – See general discussion.

General Discussion – Council Member Tyler Carpenter

- LAR reports to be submitted by October and ideally planning would begin December and January prior.
- The next couple meetings we need to set time aside to discuss
- Organize mandatory meetings to vote in May to create a legislative team to meet throughout the summer to continue LAR reporting conversation and have a second mandatory meeting to review reports put together prior to submission.
- Discuss issues with other municipalities at the June Conference in Ocean City

New Business

- Still working with Kent County to get COG website up and running
- Working with Caralisa to create COG logo
- Considering inviting “interns” or college students with an interest in government that may be able to assist in

The next COG meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 12pm.
Meeting to occur @ Galena Town Hall (or Betterton) with Betterton providing lunch.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 pm with no objections.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caitlyn E. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and 'S'.

Tom Herz, President

Caitlyn Smith, COG Secretary