

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY

WORK SESSION MINUTES

September 9, 2025

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

4:30 P.M.

NOTE: The recording and transcription of this meeting are available on the County website at www.ccgov.org/council.

PRESENT: Council Members: Rebecca Hamilton, Al Miller, and Dawn Branch; Council Manager L. Michelle Henson; Council Assistant Christine Palmer; members of the Administration and members of the public.

Call to Order

President Miller called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm and announced that there were three Council Members present which constitute a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilwoman Hamilton, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council Work Session of September 2, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Maryland 250 – Cecil County Tourism Manager Sandy Turner

Tourism Cecil County (Tourism) Manager Sandy Turner stated Tourism's goal of promoting every aspect of Cecil County's history and its relation to the State of Maryland's commemoration of the United States' 250th anniversary in 2026 (MD250), adding that Tourism invited Cecil County Towns and local organizations to participate in the event. She noted that Tourism's website is routinely updated to promote County-wide events and related activities.

Manager Turner stated Cecil College will participate by displaying student artwork and conducting lectures, adding that the Cecil County Historical Society and Mount Harmon Plantation are also planning commemorative events.

Manager Turner requested that all MD250-related activities be forwarded to Tourism for inclusion on that department's website.

Request for Proposals – Health and Dental Insurance Coverage Contracts – Deputy Director of Finance Andrew Ondish, Director of Human Resources Sally Dulin, Benefits Administrator Sandy Biggs

Deputy Finance Director Andrew Ondish stated that the County's Health, Dental and Pharmacy plans are up for renewal. He stated that a comprehensive review team, led by Director of Human Resources Sally Dulin and Benefits Administrator Sandy Biggs issued Requests for Proposals (RFP), reviewed subsequent responses and interviewed potential contractual providers. He noted that the 3-year contracts will commence January 1, 2026.

Benefits Administrator Biggs stated the Health Plan includes improved coverage for pregnancy-related care, adding that updated information will be provided to all staff.

Deputy Director Ondish stated that the County's Health & Pharmacy Plan will change to Aetna and the Dental Plan will change to United Concordia.

Deputy Director Ondish stated the 3-year contract will result in savings of approximately \$1 million per year to the County, adding that the new plans offer either the same or improved services for participating employees.

Monthly Review of County Contracts – July 2025 (County Charter Section 516) – Director of Finance Raymond Hamm, Deputy Director of Finance Andrew Ondish, Purchasing Manager Connie Kamit

Deputy Director of Finance Andrew Ondish provided the Monthly Review of County Contracts for July 2025. A copy of the report was placed in the record of the minutes.

Deputy Director Ondish provided a synopsis of vendor activity noted on the report, including the status of associated contracts.

Councilwoman Hamilton queried why the Detention Center was billed by two natural gas providers. Purchasing Manager Kamit stated that the service lines that come into the facility are owned and operated by different companies, resulting in separate billings.

Councilwoman Hamilton requested the inclusion of contract or reference numbers as well as individual departments and expense code in the report for cross-reference.

President Miller queried if Election Board staff were County employees. Deputy Director Ondish answered in the negative, stating Election Board staff are State employees but the County reimburses the State for a percentage of their wages.

Director of Finance Raymond Hamm noted that the County realizes expenses that meet the \$100,000 threshold but payment does not come from taxpayer funds, stating that these expenses and payments will be publicly provided to Council. He listed the referenced expenses and funding sources, including replacement of law enforcement weapons which is funded via seized and relinquished assets related to drug enforcement; purchase of Tasers for all Officers which is funded by the School Bus Patrol Camera Program; and software for 911 Center Dispatch staff, which is funded in full via the State 911 Board due to the efforts of Director of Emergency Services Pat Campbell.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Henson stated the report was included in the Council's meeting packet.

Council Member Items

No Council Member Items were noted.

Adjournment

President Miller requested a motion to adjourn the Work Session.

Councilwoman Branch made motion to adjourn the Work Session, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

President Miller adjourned the work session at 5:37 pm.

The next County Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 4:30 pm in the Elk Room of the County Administrative Building. The session will be livestreamed on the County Council's webpage at www.ccgov.org/council.

Approved:



L. Michelle Henson
Council Manager



Al Miller, Council President