

MINUTES
BEL AIR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TOWN HALL MEETING
MARCH 2, 2026

The Board of Commissioners Town Hall Meeting was held on March 2, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

PRESENT: Commissioner Paula S. Etting, Chair
Commissioner Steven T. Chizmar
Commissioner Kristien S. Foss
Commissioner Gavin O. Hanley
Commissioner Jakob D. Taylor

IN ATTENDANCE: David Anderson, Media & Public Relations Specialist
Edward Hopkins, Town Administrator
Stephen Kline, Director of Public Works
Michael Krantz, Director of HR & Administration
Lisa Moody, Director of Finance
Charles Moore, Chief of Police
Angela Robertson, Director of Economic Development
Kevin Small, Director of Planning
Elizabeth Thompson, Town Counsel
Jane Sudbrink, Recording Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Etting called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and read the roll call of commissioners.

II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Hanley gave thanks for Lt. Pfarr's and Mr. Small's years of service to the town and wished them well in their retirements. He also prayed for those service members who lost their lives this past weekend as well as those who were wounded.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Chizmar motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion. Mr. Krantz asked for a vote on the agenda. Ayes: Foss, Chizmar, Taylor, Hanley, Etting. Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Foss motioned that the minutes of the Board of Commissioners meetings held on February 10, 2026, open and closed sessions; and February 17, 2026, be approved as submitted. Commissioner Hanley seconded the motion. Mr. Krantz asked for a vote on the approval of the minutes for February 10, 2026, and February 17, 2026. Ayes: Commissioners Foss, Chizmar, Taylor, Hanley, Etting. Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

VI. PRESENTATION

A. Recognition of Lt. Robert Pfarr on His Retirement from the Bel Air Police Department

Chair Etting expressed her appreciation for Lt. Pfarr's service and described him as a valuable asset to the Police Department as the "DUI expert." She wished him luck in his retirement. Chair Etting then read the proclamation aloud. The proclamation detailed how Lt. Pfarr was the agency's first cadet in 1998 assigned to parking enforcement. Over the next twenty-eight years he served in patrol, police training, patrol supervision, administration, and drug enforcement. Lt. Pfarr spent his career making the town safer. In turn, the town remains safe because of law enforcement officers like Lt. Pfarr who got to know the community, cultivated relationships with allied agencies, and developed institutional knowledge. The proclamation declared that March 2, 2026, is a day to celebrate Lt. Pfarr.

Chief Moore described how, since the beginning of his tenure as chief, he always knew that Lt. Pfarr "ha[d] his back" and his loyalty to command staff never wavered. Chief Moore described Lt. Pfarr's passion for being a police officer, as well as his love and commitment to the town and his family. He said Lt. Pfarr effectively balanced his family life with his dedication to the Police Department, ensuring that public service is a family tradition. Chief Moore presented Lt. Pfarr with his retirement credentials and badge.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Town Boundary Annexation Contract

Commissioner Chizmar motioned that the Board of Town Commissioners approve the quote of \$42,500 from FWA, Inc. for survey services associated with annexation efforts to reduce minor unincorporated enclaves within Bel Air. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion.

Mr. Small said that in September 2022 the town entered into a contract with Frederick Ward Associates to review the town boundary and create an official town boundary map. He said that in the course of research, Frederick Ward staff found several instances where pieces of properties within and abutting the town were not annexed into the town. He noted that Maryland law prohibits enclaves and annexation would alleviate these situations. Mr. Small said that \$25,000 was budgeted in FY26 for the annexation clean-up. After further research by Stark & Keenan and Frederick Ward, an updated quote is proposed through an open-end survey contract with Harford County. Mr. Small said the contract is for survey services for nine separate locations to be done over the next ten months.

Mr. Small explained for Commissioner Hanley how the final number, \$42,500, was determined from the original amount of \$25,000. Mr. Small explained for Commissioner Taylor why there is vast disparity between task costs, from \$2,000 to \$7,500. Mr. Small said extra surveying efforts must be done to determine property lines for some of the enclaves. He said there are no more enclaves, but predicted that both Stark & Keenan and Frederick Ward will have more detailed work to do because of jurisdiction complications on some of the properties like Kelly Field. Mr. Small explained for Commissioner Chizmar that Frederick Ward is the most economical vendor because they have already done the background work and another vendor would have to start again from the beginning.

Mr. Krantz asked for a vote on the approval of the town boundary annexation contract. Ayes: Foss, Chizmar, Taylor, Hanley, Etting. Nays: None. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Verizon Wireless Contract

Commissioner Taylor motioned that the proposal from Verizon Wireless for cellular service totaling 130 units combined for the Town of Bel Air and the Bel Air Police Department for funds authorized not to exceed \$75,383.10 be approved by the Board of Town Commissioners. Commissioner Chizmar seconded the motion.

Mr. Krantz said the Town of Bel Air issues cellular devices to multiple employees in the town and Police Department, including handheld devices and modems in public safety vehicles. He said these devices are critical for day-to-day communications and in emergency situations. Mr. Krantz said a contract was obtained with Verizon through competitively bid pricing using the General Services Administration Federal Supply Service Contract for 130 units.

Mr. Krantz elaborated that there are 37 active lines of service for Administration, Finance, Economic Development, Planning, and Public Works. He said there are 77 active lines of service for the Police Department for a total of 114 active lines. Mr. Krantz added that the town pays for active lines only so the authorization allows for additional lines of service if necessary.

Mr. Krantz asked for a vote on the Verizon Wireless contract. Ayes: Foss, Chizmar, Taylor, Hanley, Etting. Nays: None. Motion carried 5–0.

C. Purchase of 2025 Maverick Truck for Technology Department

Commissioner Hanley motioned that the proposal from Plaza Ford, Inc. for a 2025 Maverick in the amount of \$28,815.00 be approved by the Board of Town Commissioners. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion.

Mr. Krantz said this contract is for the purchase of a new vehicle to replace the 2005 Chevrolet Uplander. He noted that although the Uplander has only 57,935 miles, its age, reliability concerns, and the operational demands of the Technology Department necessitate a replacement vehicle. Mr. Krantz explained how the vehicle is essential for the day-to-day operations of the Technology Department. He said the department provides onsite technology support at multiple town buildings and facilities, and the vehicle is used to carry sensitive IT hardware for upgrades. It is also used to take hardware to be disposed of or recycled.

Mr. Krantz said this contract is a piggyback on a price agreement between Harford County and Plaza Ford, Inc. He said the original amount budgeted for the vehicle was \$38,000. He estimated that the Uplander will net between \$1,500 and \$3,000 at auction. Mr. Krantz added that there will be an additional future charge for the purchase of a cap or shell to be installed on the open bed of the truck. He said a soft cover will cost around \$1,000 while a shell will be between \$3,500 and \$4,000.

Chair Etting said her only concern with the purchase is to ensure that the back of the truck is secure from weather and possible theft. She said she preferred a permanent shell. Mr. Krantz noted that the Technology Department does not store equipment in the truck; it is only used for transport. Mr. Krantz explained for Commissioner Hanley why he determined that the town no longer needs a minivan and why the truck is more economical and practical. He told Commissioner Hanley that the vehicle would be used almost daily between town buildings and it is not appropriate for staff to use personal vehicles for

equipment transport. Commissioner Chizmar agreed that the cap should be weather tight with a lock for security.

Mr. Krantz asked for a vote on the purchase of a 2025 Ford Maverick truck for the Technology Department. Ayes: Foss, Chizmar, Taylor, Hanley, Etting. Nays: None. Motion carried 5–0.

D. Reappointment to the Cultural Arts Commission

1. Natalie Weeks

Commissioner Foss motioned that the reappointment of Natalie Weeks to the Cultural Arts Commission for a term of three years, effective immediately, be approved by the Board of Town Commissioners. Commissioner Hanley seconded the motion.

Ms. Robertson said Ms. Weeks is a valued member of the commission who has served for a number of years. She said Ms. Weeks has a level-headed approach when voting on expenses and art projects. She noted that Ms. Weeks also has a strong arts background and a vast knowledge of the local arts community.

Mr. Krantz asked for a vote on the reappointment of Natalie Weeks to the Cultural Arts Commission. Ayes: Foss, Chizmar, Taylor, Hanley, Etting. Nays: None. Motion carried 5–0.

VIII. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Cecil-Harford County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League is offering its annual scholarship opportunity to local high school seniors through its essay on the importance of municipal government to the community. Applications must be submitted by May 1 for the chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship. The “Down the Rabbit Hole” exhibition opens on March 4 at the Harford Artists’ Association gallery in the armory marketplace. The exhibition runs through April 18 with an opening reception on March 14. The next blood drives at the armory held by the American Red Cross will be on March 4 and March 11. The annual Chocolate, Brew, & Wine Tour hosted by the Downtown Alliance will be on March 7. It features a pub crawl through downtown Bel Air with samples of beer, wine, and sweets at local eateries as well as discounts at retail stores and restaurants. The Hays House Museum will feature “Let’s Get a Good Night’s Sleep” on March 8, which is part of a series on life in Harford County in days gone by. The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra will perform “Overcoming Adversity Through Music,” a memorial concert to those who lost their lives during the Nazi Holocaust, on March 8 at Bel Air High School. The Planning Commission will meet on March 5. The Appearance and Beautification Committee will meet on March 9. The Tree Committee will meet on March 11. The Economic and Community Development Commission will meet on March 12. The Board of Town Commissioners will meet on March 10 and March 16. This Sunday, March 8, is Daylight Savings Time.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phil Raub, 21 N. Reed Street, said that as a member of the Planning Commission, he would like to publicly thank Mr. Small for his years of dedicated service to the town and the Planning Commission. He said Mr. Small consistently provided good guidance and he expressed his appreciation for Mr. Small. Mr. Raub then informed the board that his current term on the Planning Commission ends on June 23. After twenty years of service, he told the board and the directors that he will not seek reappointment to the

commission. Mr. Raub said it is “time to let younger thinking in” and this time frame will allow his successor to gain experience before development regulations and the comprehensive plan are revisited in 2027. Mr. Raub said it has been his pleasure to serve the town and thanked the board and staff.

John Stump, 523 E. Broadway, said that everyone in attendance understands that a budget is more than a spreadsheet. He declared that it is a statement of priorities, and decisions are made about what matters the most. Mr. Stump said that public safety is a core responsibility, and is one of the few responsibilities where decisions are tested not in meetings or reports, but in real moments involving real people. Mr. Stump questioned what value one should place on ensuring that when someone calls for help or is in a crisis, a professional officer is there immediately to address that need. He said that response time is a definite indication that there is order over escalation. He said the emergency response is important and the community deserves it. Mr. Stump said that the town has the ability to reduce unnecessary risk for the people it serves. He noted that every vote sets conditions for today and for years to come. Mr. Stump said the “future is now” and approving two new police officers in the FY27 budget is a practical, measured, and forward-looking step that supports public safety while instilling community confidence.

X. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Commissioner Taylor commented that Mr. Raub has had a career serving the town and he thanked him for his many decades of service. He said that when he was running for commissioner, he very much appreciated Mr. Raub’s wealth of knowledge and perspective.

Commissioner Foss thanked Mr. Stump and said she appreciated his love for the town and his support of the Police Department. She commented that she remembered fondly when Mr. Raub served on the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Foss said Mr. Raub is an incredible, wonderful gentleman and she thanked him for all that he has done for the town. She also thanked Mr. Small for his service to the town.

Commissioner Chizmar echoed his colleagues’ sentiments. He was grateful for Mr. Raub’s years of support to the town and commented that Mr. Raub has given much more than he has received. Commissioner Chizmar also thanked Mr. Small for supporting the town and said it has been an honor to work with him over the past three years.

Chair Etting congratulated Mr. Small on his upcoming retirement and thanked him for his input, assistance, and help. She said Mr. Raub is a stalwart of the community and thanked him for the decades of his life that he has given to the town.

Commissioner Hanley thanked Mr. Raub for his service to the town and wished him the best. He commented on Mr. Small’s professionalism during Planning Commission meetings and said he was impressed by his work. Commissioner Hanley said he is continuing to work on the resolution regarding the district courthouse move.

XI. CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Taylor motioned to move the meeting into closed session. Commissioner Taylor read the reasons for the closed session as listed below. Commissioner Hanley seconded the motion. Mr. Krantz asked for roll call: Ayes: Commissioners Foss, Chizmar, Taylor, Hanley, Etting. Nays: None. Motion

carried 5–0. Chair Etting said the meeting would not return to open session. The meeting closed at 7:46 pm.

A. This portion of the meeting will be closed under the provisions of the Maryland Open Meetings Act General Provisions Art. §3-305(b)(7).

B. Topics of Discussion:

1. To Consult with Counsel to Obtain Legal Advice Regarding the Harford Mall Development Project.

C. Reasons for Closed-Session Discussion of Above Topics

1. Because public discussion of confidential information and legal strategies can compromise the attorney-client privilege and inhibit the ability of the public body to receive candid and uninhibited legal guidance.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Taylor motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

APPROVED: March 17, 2026

Signature on file
Paula S. Etting, Chair
Board of Town Commissioners

Signature on file
Michael L. Krantz, Town Clerk