



David J. Caporale, President
William R. Atkinson, Commissioner
Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Commissioner
Jason M. Bennett, CPA, Administrator
T. Lee Beeman, Esq, Attorney

Public Business Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 8, 2023 - 5:00 PM

*Allegany County Office Building, 701 Kelly Road, Allegany Room 100
Cumberland, Maryland 21502*

WE ASK THOSE CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD TO REGISTER ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET AND CONDENSE THEIR COMMENTS TO FIVE MINUTES OR LESS. THIS WILL ALLOW AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE WISHING TO COME FORWARD TO HAVE A CHANCE TO SPEAK. WE WILL CONDUCT OUR MEETING IN AN ORDERLY FASHION AND ASK THAT EVERYONE WISHING TO SPEAK FIRST BE RECOGNIZED BY THE PRESIDENT, COME TO THE MICROPHONE, AND GIVE HIS OR HER NAME AND ADDRESS PRIOR TO THEIR COMMENTS.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

2. Call to Order & Roll Call

The regular meeting of the County Commissioners of Allegany County was held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Allegany Room 100, 701 Kelly Road, Cumberland, at 05:00 PM on 6/8/2023. Present: County Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr., County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, County Commission President David J. Caporale, County Administrator Jason Bennett, County Attorney Lee Beeman.

3. Approval of Agenda

Items 8.G. and 8.H. were added to the Consent agenda by Commissioner Atkinson.

4. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes

Motion: Approve

By: Creade V. Brodie, Jr.

Seconded: William R. Atkinson

Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale

No: None

Abstain: None

5. Presentations

6. Public Hearing

7. Action Agenda

A. Reserve \$10 Million in Fund Balance for Future Projects, Resolution 23-22 - **Jason Bennett, County Administrator**

Administrator Bennett explained that during FY 23, Allegany County received a large one-time increase in income tax revenue. The Finance Department is requesting that the Allegany County Commissioners take action to reserve \$10 million in the fund balance that can only be used for a large scale capital project that would benefit the County for generations. Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson. Seconded: Creade V. Brodie, Jr.. Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale.

8. Consent Agenda

Motion: Approve, By: Creade V. Brodie, Jr.. Seconded: William R. Atkinson. Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale.

A. Request for Tax Abatement of Delinquent Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes Covering Years 2001-2023

Request for Tax Abatement of delinquent real estate and personal property taxes for the years 2001 through 2023. The total tax abatement request for real estate taxes is \$40,771.04 and mostly represents properties acquired through tax sale foreclosures and collection of taxes is not foreseeable. The total tax abatement for personal property taxes is \$50,750.67 and represents old delinquencies for businesses that have been closed and collections are not obtainable.

B. Gate Project Purchase Order for the 911 Joint Communications Center

The Primary Public Safety Answering Point 9-1-1 Center is located in Constitution Park and has one remotely operated gate. This project will upgrade the second gate at the top of the facility to also be remotely operated. The project itself is fully funded through the Maryland 9-1-1 Board.

C. Approval of Certifications and Assurances for the Transit Division, Resolution 23-23

Approval of assurances to the Maryland Transit Administration of Maryland in conjunction with its application for state financial assistance for the Statewide Special Transportation Assistance Program, (SSTAP) and for Large Urban funding.

D. Rules & Regulations Governing Employees of Allegany County, Resolution 23-20 - Job Descriptions & Purchasing Procedures

Approval of job description for the position of Mechanic I for the Transit Division, Bridge and Traffic Control Maintenance Foreman for the Roads Division as a Grade 106, and the revision of Purchasing Procedures,

E. MPO - CAMPO - Administrative Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 7, Resolution 23-21

The Maryland Department of Transportation and the Allegany County Department of Public Works prepared and adopted the Transportation Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2022 – 2025. There are two new projects to be added to the current TIP., encompassed in Amendment 7.

F. Approval of Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant Agreement for Allegany County Multimodal Transportation Study and Publication of Corresponding Request for Proposal (RFP)

Allegany County was awarded \$50,000.00 from the ARC in matching funds to conduct a study and strategic plan to be added as an addendum to the current five-year plan to address public transportation in the County. Allegany County Economic Development has committed \$6,000 of the matching funds, and the remainder is coming from other sources. Approval of the acceptance of this grant, and to approve the publication of the RFP for the study, which will be ready next week.

G. Great Allegany Passage Trail Sculpture MOU

MOU with Bill Dunlap to outline maintenance responsibilities related to a sculpture he is donating to be placed upon the GAP trail.

H. Operations & Maintenance Agreement with LaVale Lions Foundation, Inc.

LaVale District Park Recreation Area MOU with the LaVale Lions Organization.

9. Public Comment

Dan Williams - asked if Code Enforcement Officer Ed Stanley would take a look at a property near the Castle in Mt. Savage. Someone with numerous campers and lots of items junking up his property.

10. Reports

A. County Administrator

Administrator Bennett congratulated Leadership Allegany! graduates from the county: Lee Beeman, Kristi Liller, and Adam Strott.

B. County Attorney

County Attorney Lee Beeman updated the Commissioners on the topic of Short Term Rental Tax. With the help of Tourism and few other folks, they have identified a way to move forward in collecting tax on Air BnB type rentals. This tax will be collected by the broker platform without putting the burden on the property owners. This tax will be paid by the person renting the property, not the owner of the property. This is a way to collect what would be the "hotel/motel tax" if staying in a hotel.

Attorney Beeman also mentioned that the Leadership Allegany class of 2023 graduated yesterday, and he thanked the Commissioners for sponsoring his participation in the program.

11. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Atkinson updated residents regarding ways to be notified by the county on various topics. Under the PR & Communications category of our website, there is a page titled "Communications Hub." Here you can sign up for the various alerts you want to receive. Options include:

- "NOTIFY ME" sends email OR text alerts when website updates are made, news items are added, jobs opportunities are posted, meeting & agendas are added, bid postings go live, and more. Enter your email address, then select all categories that interest you.
- EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS are available from the Department of Emergency Services using the app NIXLE. Sign up to receive announcements of important information (e.g., warnings of natural disasters, public safety and transit alerts) sent to you through email or text message.
- The SHERIFFS OFFICE also has an app that provides the community with the latest alerts, news, information, and resources. App users can submit crime and drug tips, see a list of wanted fugitives, search a map of sex offenders in Allegany County, search the list of inmates in the county correctional facility, and sign up for inmate change of status notifications. This app is NOT intended to be used to report emergency situations.

Commissioner Brodie mentioned that there was no rain at DelFest, and says he heard attendance was strong. Pleased to see another successful year.

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, June 22, 2023, 5:00 PM

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:12 PM.