

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, August 31, 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 8/31/2023. Present: County Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr., County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, County Commission President David J. Caporale, County Administrator Jason Bennett. Excused: County Attorney Lee Beeman.

3. Approval of Agenda

County Commission President added one additional item to the consent agenda as Item 8I - Addendum and MOU with Lodge 144 Fraternal Order of Police Allegany County Patrol and Judicial Division - State's Attorneys Office Investigator. **Motion: Amend, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: Creade V. Brodie, Jr.. Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., David J. Caporale, William R. Atkinson. No: None. Abstain: None.**

4. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes

Upon Motion made by County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, seconded by County Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr., and duly carried, the Minutes from the previous public business meeting were approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

5. Presentations

6. Public Hearing

7. Action Agenda

- A. Fairgrounds Racetrack Promoter Agreement - **Jason Bennett, County Administrator**
An agreement with Mountain Maryland Ventures, LLC. for them to do two race dates in this calendar year between September 15th and November 15th at a rate of \$500 a night. They will then have two one year options at a newly negotiated rate after that. **Motion: Approve, By: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Seconded: William R. Atkinson. Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., David J. Caporale, William R. Atkinson. No: None. Abstain: None.**
- B. Approval of FY2024 Other Public (O.P.) Roads Cost-Sharing Assistance - **Dan DeWitt, County Engineer**
The 50-50 Other Public (O.P.) Roads Program was established to provide assistance with road improvement projects for residents who live on public roads that are not otherwise maintained by the Allegany County Department of Public Works. Total eligible County share of the received project requests is equal to \$74,500. The projects recommended are for the following roads:
Craig Lane
Cherry Blossom Lane
Forest View Drive
Shale Barren Trail
Martz Lane
Duck Hawk Drive, Duck Hill Drive, and Teal Drive (submitted together for consideration)
Motion: Approve, By: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Seconded: William R. Atkinson. Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., David J. Caporale, William R. Atkinson. No: None. Abstain: None.
Administrator Bennett then acknowledged and thanked Dan DeWitt, County Engineer, for all his hard work on the Roads program.

8. Consent Agenda

Upon Motion by County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, seconded by County Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr., and Motion carried, the Board of County Commissioners approved and adopted the Consent Agenda as recommended by the County Administrator.

- A. UPMC Maintenance Agreement for Health Department
Allow UPMC to provide maintenance services for the County-owned portion of the Health Department for \$10,000 annually.
- B. Willowbrook Health Center Condominium And UPMC Service Agreement
A joint maintenance on the Health Department building as the County agreed to many years ago. This is a renewal of that contract that cost the County approximately \$100,000 annually.
- C. Approval of the FY 2024 Program Open Space Annual Plan
As presented by Adam Patterson on August 10, 2023, this plan includes 17 total projects totaling \$993,039.90 in funds.
- D. Approval of Homelessness Solutions Program Grant Agreement For SFY 2024/FFY 2023
Grant is in the amount of \$343,156. Human Resource Development Commission (HRDC) will receive \$256,665; the Family Crisis Resource Center will receive \$30,626; the Allegany County Department of Social Services will receive \$15,865; and the HRDC Youth Program will receive \$40,000.
- E. Approve Purchase of 2022 F250 Pickup for Maintenance Division
Cost is in the amount of \$55,734 from Timbrook Chrysler in Cumberland. This will be for work taken on by the Department of Economic and Community Development in the FEMA building.
- F. RFP - Printing Services for 2024 Visit Mountain Maryland Destination Guide
Request for Tourism to accept formal bids from September 1, 2023 through September 21, 2023 for printing services.
- G. Washington Street Library Roof Renovation - Bid Award

Bid Award for Washington Street Library Roof Renovation to the low bidder, J&A Gray Co., Inc. in Ridgeley, WV, for the amount of \$48,972.00, and authorize the Commissioners to sign the related documents.

- H. Community Promotion Request for the 2023 Heritage Days Festival Request from the Historical Society in the amount of \$1,000.
- I. Addendum and MOU with Lodge 144 Fraternal Order of Police Allegany County Patrol and Judicial Division - State's Attorneys Office Investigator (Item was added at the start of BOCC Public Meeting) Addendum and MOU between the Allegany County State's Attorney, Allegany County Commissioners, Allegany County Sheriff, and Lodge 144 of the FOP in which all parties are agreeing to add the position of State's Attorney Office Investigator and allow that work to continue under the State's Attorney's guidance under the Sheriff's purview.

9. Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet: No one signed up to speak.

10. Reports

A. County Administrator

- The Tax & Utility Office is beginning preparations for a substantial software upgrade later this fall. In order to complete the initial updates needed, the office will be closed on Friday, September 15th and Monday, September 18th. During this time, no in-person, self-service, or telephone inquiries/payments can be accepted, as the systems will not be accessible.
- The FCC Affordable Connectivity Program offers up to a \$30 per month credit on your internet bill. There are many ways to qualify for this assistance - if you, or your child or dependent are enrolled in government programs like Medicaid, SNAP, WIC, or others, or, based solely on your household income. Enrollment at a (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision school offering free breakfast/lunch also qualifies. Allegany County is estimated to have about 47% of eligible household enrolled, and we are looking to get more people enrolled to take advantage of this. Program also includes a one-time discount on the purchase of a computer. Visit getinternet.gov to apply.
- The Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation is urging Marylanders to consider whether they may be eligible to receive a homeowners' or renters' property tax credit. The deadline to file for both tax credits is October 1, 2023. You can find more information on their website at dat.maryland.gov.

B. County Attorney

11. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Atkinson -

- Mentioned that the County just rolled out a new employee training platform and is happy to offer a new virtual employee training platform for our 500+ employees. We believe that employee training is not only essential but also empowering for both individuals and the entire organization.
- Spoke about having a very successful trip to the Maryland Association of Counties Conference a few weeks ago. Ourselves, along with a few department heads, attended the conference where we were able to brainstorm and learn from fellow Maryland County Government leaders, while also connecting

with members of the Governor's Cabinet. Some key sessions attended by staff were on The Effects of Kirwin, Sick Leave Law, and Budget Outlooks. Also, had a booth at the Taste of Maryland reception, where we served Western Maryland Lemonade to nearly 1,000 attendees.

- Recognized ACM in the audience and congratulated them on signing a partnership agreement with other colleges/universities in the region to collaborate on workforce programming, which is excellent news for our local students and the future of economic growth in our area.
- Mentioned Allegany County is in contest for USA Today 10 Best Places to Visit this Fall. There are just 4 days left to go in the contest. Rankings are currently taken offline for the final week, but going into it we were teetering at 1st or 2nd place. Let's keep voting, and hope that we come out on top. You may vote once per day, from each individual device. For a quick link to vote, visit the County or Tourism facebook page or website.

Commissioner Brodie -

- Echoed that they did have a good MACo conference and thought it was very unique that at the Government Officials' Breakfast, the Governor stopped by and spent most of his time talking with them.
- Recognized and welcomed Chuck Ternent, Chief of Police, City of Cumberland.

Commissioner Caporale -

- Echoed Commissioner Atkinson's sentiment about the Kirwan Blueprint.
- Wished everyone a safe and happy Labor Day.

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, September 7, 2023, 5:00 PM

13. Adjournment