

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, September 21, 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 04:59 PM on 9/21/2023. Present: County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, County Commission President David J. Caporale, County Administrator Jason Bennett, County Attorney Lee Beeman. Excused: County Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr.

3. Approval of Agenda

County Commission President David J. Caporale added one additional item to the Consent Agenda as Item 8L - Allegany County Library Board of Trustees Appointments

4. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes

Upon Motion made by County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, seconded by County Commission President David J. Caporale, and duly carried, the Minutes from the previous public business meeting were approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

5. Presentations

A. Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation - Becki Clark, Allegany County Local Behavioral Health Authority Director

Shared remarks and statistics on suicide in the State of Maryland, and also informed the Public about "988" being the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. This support offers 24/7 call, text, and chat access to trained crisis counselors. Ms. Clark then invited the community to join the Never Forgotten Suicide Prevention and Memorial Walk this Sunday, September 24, 2023 from 1 to 3pm at Rocky Gap. She then thanked the Commissioners for their support in promoting National Suicide Prevention Month.

Commissioner Caporale then read and presented Ms. Clark with an official Proclamation of September 2023 as Suicide Prevention Month in Allegany County.

6. Public Hearing

- A. Solid Waste Management Plan Revision: Addendum of new facility for Geocycle LLC - **Adam Strott, Economic Development Specialist**

Geocycle, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of global Swiss-based conglomerate "Holcim", is launching a new advanced recycling facility located at a county-owned property on 17300 Barton Park Drive. In order to secure their permits from the Maryland Department of the Environment, the County must update their Solid Waste Management Plan to include the facility, as is required by Section 9-511 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. This must include a public hearing, a notice of which was posted to the Cumberland Times News on August 28th, 2023. Mr. Strott then opened the hearing for public comment. There was no public comment on the subject of the public hearing, however, there was comment about the procedure.

7. Action Agenda

- A. Approval for MDE Loan in the Amount of \$1,526,408.00 on Behalf of LaVale Sanitary Commission for Water Portion of Locust Grove Project, Resolution 23-27 - **Jason Bennett, CPA, County Administrator** Maryland Department of the Environment loan on behalf of LaVale Sanitary Commission - costs for the water portion of the Locust Grove Project Allegany County is required by MDE to be the responsible party for the LaVale Sanitary Commission's loan from MDE for the LaVale water portion of the Locust Grove project.

Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: David J. Caporale. Yes: David J. Caporale, William R. Atkinson. No: None. Abstain: None.

- B. Annual Reapproval of Property Tax Credit for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 - pursuant to Tax Property Articles §9-302(b)/§9-302(c)/§9-302(f) for the entities listed below. - **T. Lee Beeman Jr., County Attorney**

- Frostburg Lions Club, Inc.
- LaVale Lions Foundation, Inc.
- Cumberland Cultural Foundation
- Allegany County Agricultural Expo
- Carver Community Center, Inc.
- The Lions Center for Rehabilitation and Extended Care, Inc.
- Allegany County Animal Shelter Management Foundation, Inc.
- Western Maryland Scenic Railroad Development Corp.
- Cumberland Economic Development Corporation
- United Brotherhood of Carpenters Local 1024
- Western Maryland Central Labor Council
- Cumberland Outdoor Club

Board of County Commissioners to grant property tax credits pursuant to **Property Article §9-302(b)**, for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 for the following entities:

- Frostburg Lions Club, Inc.
- LaVale Lions Foundation, Inc.
- Cumberland Cultural Foundation

- Allegany County Agricultural Expo
- Carver Community Center, Inc.
- The Lions Center for Rehabilitation and Extended Care, Inc.
- Allegany County Animal Shelter Management Foundation, Inc.
- Western Maryland Scenic Railroad Development Corp.
- and Cumberland Economic Development Corporation;

and grant property tax credits pursuant to **Tax Property Article §9-302(c)** for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 for

- United Brotherhood of Carpenters
- Local 1024
- and Western Maryland Central Labor Council

and grant property tax credits pursuant to **Tax Property Article §9-302(f)** for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 for

- Cumberland Outdoor Club.

Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: David J. Caporale. Yes: David J. Caporale, William R. Atkinson. No: None. Abstain: None.

- C. FEMA Lease Renewal at 11601 PPG Road, Cumberland, MD - Board of County Commissioners to Approve a New 10-Year Lease and Additional 5-Year Option with the General Services Administration for the FEMA Cumberland Logistics Center to begin October 1, 2023 - **Jeff Barclay, Economic Development**

Allegany County currently leases the property at 11601 PPG Road, Cumberland, MD to the General Services Administration for the FEMA Cumberland Logistics Center. GSA approached the County about a full service lease. The proposed lease will supersede the current lease with a new 10-year term with an additional 5 year option to begin October 1, 2023.

Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: David J. Caporale. Yes: David J. Caporale, William R. Atkinson. No: None. Abstain: None.

- D. Sierra Hygiene Clark Associates, Inc. - Board of County Commissioners to approve \$130,613.38 reimbursement from the Revolving Building Fund for equipment certifications at Frostburg Business Park - **Jeff Barclay, Economic Development**

Sierra Hygiene has capital investments of \$8 million dollars in equipment and \$7 million in building construction and has added 22 employees as a result of their second building project. Allegany County Department of Economic and Community Development would like to reimburse for the vertical converting UL certification of equipment at the Sierra Hygiene facility located at 11201 Hoffman Hollow Road, SW in the Frostburg Industrial Park. This would allow the manufacturing equipment to meet UL and City of Frostburg standards.

Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: David J. Caporale. Yes: David J. Caporale, William R. Atkinson. No: None. Abstain: None.

- E. Award of Public Bid - Multimodal Transportation Study and Strategic Plan - **Adam Strott, Economic Development Specialist**

At a previous meeting, a grant agreement with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) was approved. ARC, along with Local Management Board, the city of Frostburg, the city of Cumberland, and Allegany county have aggregated \$100,000 to put towards a strategic plan that will help move forward transportation in the County. The bid is being awarded to Whitman, Requardt and Associates,

LLP. of Baltimore, MD for the sum of \$99,850.00.

Commissioner Atkinson pointed out that because this project is partially funded by a grant, there were certain stipulations that had to be followed.

Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: David J. Caporale. Yes: David J. Caporale, William R. Atkinson. No: None. Abstain: None.

- F. Award of Public Bid - Development of Market Rate Housing on County Owned Land, the Former Allegany High School Site - **Adam Strott, Economic Development Specialist**

Award a bid for the redevelopment of roughly 12.7 acres located at the former site of Allegany High School in Cumberland, MD into new, market-rate housing. There were three bids in total. A review committee made up of city and county officials has selected Texas based developer D.R. Horton whose Capital Division office is located in Edgewater, MD. Mr. Strott also mentioned that he believes there are additional opportunities for the other two bidders.

Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: David J. Caporale. Yes: David J. Caporale, William R. Atkinson. No: None. Abstain: None.

8. Consent Agenda

Upon Motion by County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, seconded by County Commission President David J. Caporale, and Motion carried, the Board of County Commissioners approved and adopted the Consent Agenda as recommended by the County Administrator.

- A. Acceptance of MD 9-1-1 Funding for RapidSOS in the amount of \$60,760.00
This is a program for the 911 phone system and will be fully funded by the 9-1-1 Board.
- B. Acceptance of MD 9-1-1 Funding for DATAMARK Indoor Mapping Project in the amount of \$234,439.00
This is a GIS project to collect and create indoor floorplans for schools, government buildings, and special interest facilities. This will be fully funded by the 9-1-1 Board.
- C. Acceptance of Plans Required in Order to Receive Community Development Block Grants
The County was awarded \$350,000 in CDBG funding for the design of the Oldtown Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and another \$350,000 for the Archway Station Recovery House. A signed Minority Business Plan, and a signed Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Plan are required in order to receive these funds.
- D. Agreement with Maryland Environmental Services in the amount of \$22,500 for Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal Event
This event will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2023 at the Allegany County Fairgrounds and will allow residents to properly dispose of materials which cannot be normally disposed of or recycled in the County.
- E. Borden Tunnel Lining Restoration Project - Request to Award Consultant Services by Wilson T. Ballard Company
in the amount of \$65,342.79.
- F. Department of Economic & Community Development - Addendum of Existing Lease in Frostburg to Include the Lyric Theater
Department of Economic and Community Development currently leases office space located at 20E Main St for the purpose of developing a tech incubator, and would also like to lease what is known as "The Lyric Theater" for the purposes of hosting events related to the incubator, as well as opening the space to the general public. The monthly rent will increase to \$2,800 until Marych 1, 2024 and then will increase to \$3,200 for the following two years.

- G. Approve Purchase of 2020 Schwarze Hypervac for DPW - Roads Division in the amount of \$175,000 from Stephenson Equipment, Inc. in Harrisburg, PA.
- H. Approve Purchase of Used Falcon 4T Hotbox for DPW - Roads Division in the amount of \$46,829.41 from Stephenson Equipment, Inc. in Harrisburg, PA.
- I. Rules & Regulations Governing Employees of Allegany County, Updates to Sick/Extended Leave Policies, Resolution 23-28
Updates to Sick/Extended leave policies and verbiage.
- J. Board of Zoning Appeals - Reappointment of Alternate Member Seth Bernard
His term will expire September 25, 2026.
- K. Community Promotion Request - Joe Howser Charity
Mental Health Awareness 5K Run/1 Mile Walk to be held on October 14, 2023 in the amount of \$1,000.
- L. Allegany County Library System Board of Trustees - Reappointment of Debroah Hendrickson and Judge Gary Leasure, and the Appointment of Dr. Artie Lee Travis (Item added at the start of BOCC Public Business Meeting)
All three terms will expire on June 30, 2028.

9. Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

Mr. Dan Williams of Mt. Savage - concerned with water running off the road into a resident's driveway and into her basement. Requested the County take a look at this and figure out a solution. Also, expressed concerns with the lack of cell phone service in Mt. Savage; said there was a tower put in, but doesn't work. County Administrator Jason Bennett told Mr. Williams he will talk to Roger Bennett about getting the tower working.

Mr. James Ratino, land owner in Barton - he is the President of Maryland Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Alliance, which is a non-profit, all volunteer organization who advocates for OHV recreation and the economic opportunities that come with that. Mr. Ratino asked the County to start a dialogue over the potential concept for privately-owned land to be publically used for OHV recreation. He has been in discussions with Senator Mike McKay and other land owners in the area. Commissioner Caporale stated it has recently been brought to the County's attention and they will continue to look into this further.

Senator Mike McKay of Cumberland - came to present his 90 Day Report from the 2023 General Assembly session.

Mr. Woody Getz of Frostburg - did not sign up, but asked if he could speak. He is an original member of the Solid Waste Management Board, and wanted to thank Jason, in particular, for mentioning the date of their recycling event. He discussed details of this event, and thanked all the Commissioners for their support.

10. Reports

A. County Administrator

- Followed up on what Mr. Getz mentioned about the recycling event, and said the County would continue to publicize this event.

- Wanted to thank Jeff Barclay and Adam Strott from Economic Development for all their continuing work, and mentioned specific items from the meeting's agenda.

B. County Attorney

Had no further comments to make.

11. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Atkinson -

- Wanted to remind folks of the recycling event, and talked about how important it is.
- County website has been redesigned, and went live this afternoon. Urged people to visit the website, explore, and provide feedback.
- Congratulated and thanked Tourism and the citizens of Allegany County for voting for the County as USA Today's 10Best list of "Best Places to Visit for Fall." The County finished second on this list!

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

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

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:44 PM.