

Public Business Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 2, 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 5:00 PM on 11/2/2023. 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

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes

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

5. Presentations

A. Veteran's Day, Employee Recognition - Kristi Liller, Director of Human Resources

Allegany County government held its annual Veterans Day observance. We celebrate Veterans Day to recognize those from all branches of the armed forces who put their lives on the line to defend the freedoms that we often take for granted. The County publically honored all current employees of Allegany County, as well as members of the general public who proudly serve the United States of America. These individuals serve the nation with honor and at a great personal sacrifice. A total of 24 Allegany County employees have identified themselves as veterans of the armed forces, with a combined total of 149 years of service, representing multiple branches. There was a round of

applause for all Allegany County employees, any members of the public and those at tonight's meeting who are part of the Armed Services.

6. Public Hearing

7. Action Agenda

- A. Approve Resolution 23-31, MDE Loan Agreement - **Jason Bennett, CPA, County Administrator**
A resolution is needed to approve MDE loan in the amount of \$275,000. The loan is for an existing 10" water line that is in need of replacement due to its poor condition along Route 36, running from Frostburg and serves all of Midland, Lonaconing, and Barton. This loan is a 50/50 forgivable loan, and will become a \$137,500 loan when the County closes on it. It is a 40 year term with a 1% interest so debt service will be approximately \$4,000 annually. This will be paid by users of the system. Authorization from the Commissioners to close on the loan is needed.
Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: Creade V. Brodie, Jr.. Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale. No: None. Abstain: None.
- B. Approve the Agreement for the Purchase of Real Property and Above-Ground Improvements Located at 31 Lane Ave, Lavale, MD 21502 for \$1,100,000.00 - **Jeffrey Barclay, Director, Economic and Community Development**
This is an option of sales agreement for a 36,649 square foot building. Looking into the possibility of having a Food Co-Op in part of the building, as well as other prospects. Attorney Beeman noted that this is a bargain sale for tax purposes so the seller is selling the property to us as a public entity for a discounted price, which they will receive a tax credit for the discounts.
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.

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. Approval of HSI Contract Renewal for Online Employee Training Portal in the amount of \$21,252 with a plan of 50% or more to be reimbursed through various agencies.
- B. Approval of a One Time Grant for the Allegany County Animal Shelter Management Foundation in the amount of \$5,000 to be Used for Spaying/Neutering Feral Cats in the County as part of the catch and release program.
- C. Declaration of Firearms and Ammunition Belonging to the Detention Center as Surplus Property, with Disposal in Accordance with ATF Guidelines
there are 25 Sig Sauer P229 .40 caliber handguns, along with .40 caliber ammunition with the intention of being sold back to the officers who carried them.
- D. Acceptance of FY 2023 State Homeland Security Grant Funding in the amount of \$115,961 which will be utilized in our continuing efforts to enhance interoperable communications as well as to update and enhance emergency preparedness and response plans.
- E. Acceptance of Additional Funding for FY22-25 Year 2 from the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Training and Planning Grant Program in the amount of \$4,500 with a 25% match of \$1,125

F. Acceptance of FY20 State Homeland Security Program Grant Extension

this was a grant approved in 2020 and MDEM has allowed an extension on the grant to fulfill two projects that were left unfinished due to COVID.

9. Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Jack Slocomb of 532 Washington St in Cumberland - reiterated his concerns with the redevelopment of the old Allegany High School site.
- Tyler Cloud Dixon of 205 Baltimore Ave in Cumberland - chose not to speak.
- Jenny Lazarus of 500 Magruder St in Cumberland - gave a background of herself, then again expressed her concerns with the redevelopment of the old Allegany High School site.
- Dr. Nancy Guinta of 711 Washington St in Cumberland - Reiterated concerns and questions she has about the redevelopment of the old Allegany High School site.
- Max Green of 505 Patterson Ave in Cumberland - Reiterated concerns and questions he has about the redevelopment of the old Allegany High School site.
- Ellen Coffey of 304 Cumberland St in Cumberland - Read a letter from Richmond, VA real estate agent Amy Geatz Heauy who had a professional experience with DR Horton.

County Administrator Jason Bennett referenced the public response letter to the West Side Neighborhood Association available on our website.

10. Reports

A. County Administrator

Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.

B. County Attorney

Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.

11. Commissioner Comments

Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, November 16, 2023, 5:00 PM

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:51 PM.