

Public Business Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 16, 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 11/16/2023. 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. Proper Recycling in Allegany County Short Video Contest - John Kirby, Chairman of the Solid Waste Management Board

The Solid Waste Management Board (SWMB) held a contest with local schools to produce a short video depicting proper recycling in Allegany County. The "Plastics Video" submitted by students at Mountain Ridge High School was chosen as the winner. Mr. John Kirby, chairman of the SWMB spoke about the contest and presented the video. After the video, Mr. Kirby invited Mr. Tom Kozikowski, Environmental Science teacher at Mountain Ridge, to the podium to introduce himself and each student who participated in the video. Mr. Woody Getz, vice chair of the SWMB, then presented the students and Mr. Kozikowski with a special Recycling print to be displayed in the school as a way to

honor this year's project. There was a round of applause.

Recycling videos can be found here: <https://alleganygov.org/286/Recycling-Solid-Waste>

6. Public Hearing

7. Action Agenda

- A. Accept Grant Agreement and Award from the 2023 Maryland Connected Devices Grant Program -
Tanya Gomer, Grants Writer

Allegany County has a large population of citizens that face daily barriers including isolation, opioid use, poverty, food insecurity, reliable transportation, unemployment, underemployment and feelings of anxiety and depression. The Director of Information Technology was interested in seeking this funding and as we evaluated similar projects in other rural parts of the state and followed their best practices to ensure that we are targeting the households most in need, we determined that using the Library System was the best way to have the greatest impact in our rural communities. The devices distributed with this project will allow families to access resources they need for education, medical, government workforce, and to stay connected to the rest of the county. This project will help bridge the divide that exists with our most isolated and alienated citizens by giving them a way to stay in contact and become part of the digital citizenry presence that exists in Allegany County.

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.

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. No: None. Abstain: None.

- A. Accept and authorize the County Administrator to sign the FY24 Capital Assistance Grant Agreement for Transit in the amount of \$440,000
- B. Accept the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program (COAP) Grant from GOCCP for the Allegany County Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site Based Program in the amount of \$478,963.73
- C. Accept MD 9-1-1 Board Funding for 15 Headsets and 18 Headset Bases in the amount of \$9,037.35
This is for the Allegany County 911 Center Back-Up site.
- D. Accept MD 9-1-1 Board Funding for ESInet Network Enhancement in the amount of \$266,866.95
This is for a dual circuit between the primary and back-up 911 sites.
- E. Approve Travel Request for the Deputy Director of Finance to Attend the Government Finance Officers Association's Annual Conference in Orlando, FL to be held June 8-12, 2024 at a cost of \$1,800
- F. Approve the Department of Planning and Zoning to Conduct a Request for Proposal for New Permits Software
- G. Potomac Highlands Airport Authority Re-Appointment of David Weimer
His term will expire June 30, 2026.

- H. Solid Waste Management Board Appointment of Bethany Fife as Solid WasteHauler/ Recycler Group Representative

Her term is two years.

9. Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Frank Asher of 412 Magruder St in Cumberland
- Jeannie Gibbons of 15706 Upper Bank St in Mt. Savage
- Nancy Guinta of 711 Washington St in Cumberland
- Jenny Lazarus of 500 Magruder St in Cumberland
- Max Green of 505 Patterson Ave in Cumberland

All came to discuss their concern of the development of the old Allegany High School site.

10. Reports

- A. County Administrator

Wanted to make the Commissioners aware that they will be establishing a work group to allocate the opioid restoration funds made up of community members in the near future.

- B. County Attorney

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

11. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Atkinson - Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.
- Commissioner Brodie - Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.
- Commissioner Caporale - Thanked everyone for coming, and wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

- A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, November 30, 2023, 5:00 PM

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 06:06 PM.