

Public Business Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 11, 2024 - 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 1/11/2024. 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

Commissioner Brodie requested to add Item 8E to the agenda - Lavale Sanitary Commission Re-appointment of Dave Gehauf.

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. State of the County - David J. Caporale, Commission President

Commissioner read some highlights from the report of the State of the County. Full report can be found here: <https://www.alleganygov.org/StateoftheCounty>

B. C&O Canal NHP Federal Advisory Commission Report - Steve Nelson

Mr. Nelson, along with LaVale resident Champ Zumbrun, represent Allegany County on the C&O Canal National Historic Park Federal Advisory Commission. He came to discuss recent successes of the Commission that directly impact Allegany County, such as keeping the visitor center open in Cumberland, and the resurfacing of the towpath that will be completed by the end of 2024. He added

that the PawPaw Tunnel is finally open. He also gave background and statistics about the National Park and the many visitors it attracts each year.

6. Public Hearing

- A. Required Application Hearing for Maryland Recovery Housing Program Funding for Archway Station Recovery Housing Project at 125 Fayette Street - **David Nedved, Economic and Community Development Representative**

For the Archway Station Recovery Housing Project, the Allegany County Commissioners propose to submit an application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for a Maryland Recovery Housing Program grant of \$900,000. The planned site for housing is 125 Fayette St in Cumberland, formerly the Convent at the Saint Peter and Paul's Church. This facility would be staffed by Archway staff and would become home to a true program for women in recovery who would be able to bring their children with them providing a safe space, while working to seek employment opportunities, parenting skills, and with the plan to graduate to their own housing in a period of 24 months. A public hearing was held for public input as part of the process for the CDBG application. A background for the project was provided and posted to the County's website. Further, a draft application was available for the public to review and provide comments beginning Monday, January 8, 2024 through Friday, January 18, 2024, during normal business hours at the Allegany County Department of Economic and Community Development, 701 Kelly Rd, Suite 400, Cumberland, MD. There was no public comment.

7. Action Agenda

- A. Willowbrook Outdoor Wellness (WOW) Center - Request to Approve and Sign a Land Lease Agreement with Allegany College of Maryland - **Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works**

Mr. Patterson presented a land lease agreement with Allegany College of Maryland for the Commissioners' approval. This piece of land will be the site of the development of the Willowbrook Outdoor Wellness Center, which was presented at the BOCC Public Business Meeting held December 14, 2023.

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 Jane's Place 2024 Child Advocacy Center Support and Services Grant in the amount of \$31,539.00

This is from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, and provides for salary, travel, rent and other operating costs.

- B. FY 24 Budget Amendment \$200,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund for ACM fitness center

This will approve the utilization of the funds from our lottery proceeds that was discussed last year for the College's fitness center that was discussed during the fiscal year 24 CIP process.

- C. Travel Request – Fair Personnel

This will allow Kevin Kamauf, Sam Wilson and Steve Howe to attend the Pennsylvania Fair Convention in Hershey, PA from January 17th to the 20th, with a cost not to exceed \$2,000.

- D. Community Promotion Request from the Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation, Inc.'s 2024 Robert Burns Supper in the amount of \$1,000
This event will be held on February 3, 2024 at the Cumberland Masonic Temple.
- E. LaVale Sanitary Commission Reappointment of David C. Gehauf (Item added at the start of the BOCC Public Business Meeting)

9. Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Max Green of 505 Patterson Ave in Cumberland - Came to discuss and advocate for the transparency, community engagement and acknowledgment of the serious risks posed by allowing DR Horton to move forward with the redevelopment of the old Allegany High School site.
- Carolyn Forrester of 415 Avirett Ave in Cumberland - Did not speak.
- Nancy Guinta of 711 Washington St in Cumberland - Concerned with questions not being answered in regards to DR Horton and the redevelopment of the old Allegany High School site. She then asked if a draft site plan had been submitted by DR Horton with their original bid that was due in August. Administrator Bennett answered yes to this question.

10. Reports

A. County Administrator

Announced to the Commissioners that there would likely be a work session before the next upcoming public business meeting in order to discuss a couple different topics.

B. County Attorney

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

11. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Atkinson - Echoed the good news that was mentioned in the State of the County. Announced the launching of the Positive People Nomination Form where citizens can be nominated to receive recognition from the Commissioners for the positive and uplifting work they are doing in our community. Also talked about County staff attending the 47th Annual Mountain Maryland PACE Reception next week. The talking points for this year's PACE is natural resources which provides aesthetic, scientific and cultural value to any region, and particularly here in Western Maryland. Talked briefly about the the River Park Project and how it will positively affect the County.
- Commissioner Brodie - Talked a little about PACE and the meetings they have in regards to the County's water and sewer projects. Thanked Adam Patterson and the Department of Public Works for all their hard work on these meetings, and he hopes to have good news to report next time.
- Commissioner Caporale - Wanted to add on to Commissioner Atkinson's comments in regard to the positive people nominations.

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

- A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, January 25, 2024, 5:00 PM

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:32 PM.