

Public Business Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 25, 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 05:01 PM on 1/25/2024. 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

There was one addition to the Consent Agenda - Item 8F: State of Maryland Capital Project Grant Agreement for the Western Maryland Scence Railroad to be presented to the Commissioners in order to authorize the Commissioner President to sign the agreement with an amount not to exceed \$200,000, and one addition to Presentations - 2023 Police Accountability Board Annual Report from Don Knott, Chairman.

Motion: Amend, By: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Seconded: William R. Atkinson. Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale. No: None. Abstain: None.

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. Fort Hill High School State Champion Football Team - Zach Alkire, Head Coach

The Board of County Commissioners recognized and highly commended the Fort Hill High School football team for winning the Class 1A Football State Championship on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at

Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis. The title is the tenth in school history for the Sentinels, who also won the 2021 and 2022 crown.

B. 2023 Police Accountability Board Annual Report - **Don Knott, Chairman**

As part of the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021, each County shall establish a Police Accountability Board (PAB). The PAB shall provide a report to the governing body of the county that identifies any trends in the disciplinary process of police officers in the County, and makes recommendations on changes to policy that would improve police accountability in the county.

6. Public Hearing

7. Action Agenda

A. Business Expansion Deferred Loan (BEDL) Program - **Jeffrey Barclay, Director Department of Economic and Community Development**

Adam Strott, along with Mr. Barclay, of Economic Development asked the Commissioners to approve the the new loan program to help small businesses in the County expand their business without undertaking a loan with a high interested rate. In order to qualify, the business must be a for-profit, tax-paying entity with less than 15 employees and be physically present in Allegany County through the ownership or long-term commercial lease of a physical asset. Businesses operating out of personal residencies can also apply, as long as they intend to eventually expand to a commercial location. Loans will range from a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$50,000. Loans valued at \$10,000 or under do not require a match and shall be granted based on need and other stated criteria. Loans over \$10,000 will require a 1:1 match in funding. Businesses may also qualify for partial forgiveness up to 50% of the total loan amount. Available total funding from the loan program this year will capitalize at \$100,000.

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 Allegany County Board of Education FY2025 Capital Improvement Program - **Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works**

Per the Administrative Procedure for the Public School Construction Program, the Board of Commissioners must approve the Board of Education's FY2025 Capital Improvement Program. The County's allocation for these projects is 11%. The projects requesting funding for FY2025 are as follows:

- Washington Middle School - Early Childhood Center Addition (Design): \$1,317,000 (\$145,000 - County)
- Braddock Middle School - Chilled Water Piping/Ceilings & Lights: \$4,200,000 (\$462,000 - County)
- Washington Middle School - Chilled Water Plant: \$2,000,000 (\$220,000 - County)
- Braddock Middle School - Chilled Water Plant: \$2,000,000 (\$220,000 - County)

The total local funding necessary for these projects is \$1,047,000.

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

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. Request to Purchase Sewage Grinders
For the Wrights Crossing Pump Station in the amount of \$70,293.48 (\$35,146.74 each), which are in need of replacement. The new grinders will be installed by Allegany County Utilities Division personnel.
- B. Resolution 24-1 Rules and Regulations Governing Employees of Allegany County - Job Descriptions
For the position of Recycling Coordinator which is transitioning from a contractual position to classified service.
- C. Allegany County Planning and Zoning Commission Re-Appointment of Steve MacGray
To a five (5) year term which will expire on February 16, 2029.
- D. Building Code Appeals Board Re-Appointment of Terry Robb
To a five (5) year term which will expire on January 22, 2029.
- E. Region I EMS Advisory Council Re-appointments of Jeff Hobbs, Dr. Janelle Martin, Scott Whetsell and Jennifer Ritchie and the Appointment of Michael Salvadge
The terms for the four reappointees will expire on January 15, 2027, and Michael Salvadge's term will expire on January 15, 2026.
- F. State of Maryland Capital Project Grant Agreement for the WMSRR (Item added at the start of the BOCC Public Business Meeting)
This will authorize the Commission President to sign the grant agreement with an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

9. Public Comment

- Herman Fiorita of 16806 Blackberry Dr in Frostburg - Came to discuss a water issue and the property damage it has been causing since October 2022.
- Nancy Guinta of 711 Washington St in Cumberland - Came to discuss the site draft the County received from DR Horton, and asked if when the draft plan is made available to the public, would there be a public comment period before the plan is finalized. Administrator Bennett responded yes, there would likely be a brief period set aside.

10. Reports

- A. County Administrator
Following the approval of the consent agenda, Administrator Bennett gave an update on the redevelopment of the old Allegany High School site.
- 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 - Thanked Mr. Patterson and the Department of Public Works for what he considered successful meetings with State partners during PACE.

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

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, February 8, 2024, 5:00 PM

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:34 PM.