

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, May 2, 2024 - 5:00 PM

*Allegany County Sheriff's Office Building, 695 Kelly Road, Training Room
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 Training Room of the Allegany County Sheriff's Office Building, 695 Kelly Road, Cumberland, at 05:03 PM on 5/2/2024. 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 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. World Red Cross Day, Allegany County Red Cross Involvement - Jason Keeling

Mr. Keeling introduced himself as the executive director for the Allegheny Highlands Chapter of the Red Cross, and also brought along with him Allegany County resident Steve Finger. World Red Cross Day will be May 8th, and came today to update the Commissioners on what services they have offered in Allegany County in the past year.

B. FY 2025 Allegany County Utility Rate Presentation - Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works

The Allegany County Public Works Utility Division met with the Allegany County Sanitary Commission on April 23rd to discuss the FY 2025 rates for the Allegany County water and sanitary districts. The Sanitary Commission approved the recommended rates at this meeting. Mr. Patterson presented the

recommendations to the Commissioners for their review and consideration. He will be back next meeting to present a final version and request for approval. He also thanked Brynn Laird for all of her efforts on this.

6. Public Hearing

A. Road Closing Petition for Two (2) Alleys Located in Bowman's Addition - **Wesley McKee, Esq.**

John P. Wertz, Jr. is petitioning the Board of County Commissioners to close two (2) fifteen (15) foot alleys located in Bowman's Addition of Cumberland, Election District 5. These two (2) alleys were formally opened by the County Commissioners at their public meeting on March 21, 2024 with the intent to allow the Petitioner to file for closure. Pursuant to Local Government 12-512 of The Annotated Code of Maryland, notice by publication in The Cumberland Times-News was given once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Commissioners, as advised by the County Attorney, took action to close the alleys, sign the order, and execute the deed.

Motion: Approve, By: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Seconded: William R. Atkinson. Yes: None. No: None. Abstain: None.

B. FY25 Preliminary Budget Hearing - **Jason Bennett, CPA, County Administrator**

Mr. Bennett presented the preliminary budget to the public and the Commissioners, which was made part of the agenda packet. When presenting the Changes Made to Requests, suggestions were made as follows:

- Instead of cutting 20 positions, not fill positions as people leave
- Increase 911 fee to \$2.00, which will be presented as an agenda item at a future meeting
- Change the Georges Creek Ambulance Acquisition cost from \$600,000 to \$300,00
- Do not add a public safety tax, instead there was a recommendation of decreasing EMS budget by \$2 million

In two weeks, there will be a public hearing on tonight's presentation where the public can comment. He also thanked Pam Diaz and Kiersten O'Donnell for their efforts in preparation of the FY25 preliminary budget.

7. Action Agenda

A. Acceptance of Priorities, and Matches for Any Given Project, for ARC Funding of FY 2025 Projects - **David Nedved, Community Development Representative**

Mr. Nedved presented the 16 Area Development projects staff has prioritized for Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) projects to be considered by Tri-County Council for Western Maryland as part of Maryland's Strategy Statement document for 2024. He asked the Commissioners for their approval of the recommendations.

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. Allegany County 2024 Priority Letter to MDOT
The County coordinates with the local jurisdictions to prioritize major transportation projects to include in a letter sent each year to MDOT.
- B. Approval of Certifications and Assurances for the Transit Division, Resolution 24-7
Made to MDOT in conjunction with Transit's application for state financial assistance.
- C. Approve Purchase of Used 2019 Ford F550 Bucket Truck for Roads Division in the amount of \$88,200 from United Rentals, Branch 153 in Frederick, MD. Funds will come from the Roads PAYGO account.
- D. Approve Purchase of Two (2) Used 2019 Freightliner M2106 Dump Trucks for Roads Division in the amount of \$162,400 from United Rentals, Branch 153 in Frederick, MD. Funds will come from the Roads PAYGO account.
- E. Approve Purchase of Used 2017 International Dump Truck Roads Division for Roads Division in the amount of \$90,200 from United Rentals, Branch 153 in Frederick, MD. Funds will come from the Roads PAYGO account.
- F. Approve Purchase of Bobcat L85 Compact Wheel Loader for Roads Division in the amount of \$85,879.36 from American Rent All in Cumberland. Funds will come from the Roads PAYGO account.
- G. Approve Purchase of Mechanic's Truck for Utilities Division in the amount of \$194,750.31 from Stephenson Equipment in Lilly, PA. This will be paid for using remaining ARP funds.
- H. Community Promotion Request for the 24th Annual Oldtown Summerfest in the amount of \$1,000 which will be hold on Saturday, June 29th at the former Oldtown School.
- I. Community Promotion Request for the 47th Annual Frostburg Elks Lodge #470 Derby Day in the amount of \$1,500 which will be held on Thursday, July 4, with a rain date scheduled for July 6th. The event is held on Main Street in Frostburg.
- J. Solid Waste Management Board Re-Appointments
Lee Heavner, representing the Citizens Advocate Group; Richard Soderman, representing Citizens-at-Large; and Carolyn Mathews, representing Citizens-at-Large. Terms will end May 2, 2026.

9. Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Pat McAndrew, Esq. of 6305 Ivy Lane #408 in Greenbelt, MD - Representing the FOP Lodge #144, Mr. McAndrew expressed his concern with funding for police staffing. He asked the Commissioners for sworn deputies to be excluded from the hiring freeze, for funding to hire 6 more deputies in FY2025, and funding to hire 6 additional deputies in FY2026.
- Michael Kueberth of Allegany County - Expressed his concern with funding for police staffing.
- Dan Zarger, Joshua Gordon, Vinny Benson, Eric Rice, Will Prader all of the Allegany County Sheriffs Department - Yielded their time to Mr. McAndrew.
- Richard Grimm of the Allegany County Sheriffs Department - Representing the FOP Lodge #144 spoke alongside Mr. McAndrew and expressed his concern with funding for police staffing.
- Tom Clayton of Luke - Expressed his concerns with funding for police staffing.
- Nikki Logsdon of Lavale - Chose not to speak.

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

- Commissioner Atkinson - Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.
- Commissioner Brodie - Congratulated a member of the audience, Tom Clayton, on being a member of the Town Council of Luke, and told him it was always nice to see him.
- Commissioner Caporale - Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, May 16, 2024, 5:00 PM

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 06:30 PM.