

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, July 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 05:01 PM on 7/11/2024. Present: County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, County Commission President David J. Caporale, County Administrator Jason Bennett, County Attorney Lee Beeman. Excused: Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr.

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 William R. Atkinson, seconded by County Commission President David J. Caporale, and duly carried, the Minutes from the previous public business meeting were approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

5. Presentations

6. Public Hearing

A. Code Home Rule Bill 3-24 - "LaVale Sanitary District - Utility Improvement and Water Main Bond Authorization" - Jason Bennett, CPA, County Administrator

At the previous public business meeting, CHRB 3-24 was introduced. Administrator Bennett opened the hearing to the public. With there being no comments, the hearing was closed, and the Commissioners opted to take action on the bill.

Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: David J. Caporale. Yes: William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale. No: None. Abstain: None.

7. Action Agenda

- A. Resolution 24-12 and Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) 2 in 2024 Grant Agreement and Sub-Recipient Agreements - **David Nedved, Community Development Representative**
ERAP provides direct financial assistance and housing stability services to renters who are struggling to make payments for their rent and utilities. Assistance can be used for rental arrears, prospective rental payments, utility and home energy cost arrears, prospective utility and home energy costs. DHCD reserved a portion of the State's allocation for distribution to local county governments to supplement their existing rental assistance programs and expand the number of households served. County governments could choose to administer the funds directly to tenants and landlords, or partner with local government and qualified nonprofit partners to distribute assistance. For ERAP 2 funding in 2024, Allegany County is receiving an allocation of \$85,904. \$57,304 will be received on behalf of HRDC for rental assistance, and \$28,600 will be received on behalf of ACDSS for financial assistance.
Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: David J. Caporale. Yes: William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale. No: None. Abstain: None.
- B. Resolution 24-13 - FY25 Rocky Gap Slots Allocation - **Jason Bennett, CPA, County Administrator**
The Local Development Council met in May to make recommendations for the use of the Rocky Gap slot funds, which is approximately \$2.7 million. During the meeting, the Council voted on no changes to the existing plan, which is outlined in the Resolution. Administrator Bennett asked the Commissioners for their approval of the Council's recommendations.
Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: David J. Caporale. Yes: William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale. No: None. Abstain: None.
- C. Ratification of 911 Emergency Communications Bargaining Unit Local #1521 C Contract - **T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney**
This is a three-year agreement that allows for cost of living adjustments and updates to operational things that management asked for. It has already been ratified by AFSCME Council 3 and is before the Commissioners tonight for their approval and ratification.
Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: David J. Caporale. Yes: William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale. No: None. Abstain: None.

8. Consent Agenda

Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: David J. Caporale. Yes: William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale. No: None. Abstain: None.

- A. Approve Allegany County Courthouse Security System Upgrade with New X-Ray Machine
In the amount of \$31,919, which is covered by a grant from the Administrative Office of the Courts.
- B. Bowling Green/Potomac Park Pavement Rehabilitation Contract Award, Contract: AC-24-BG-01
In the amount of \$2,398,939 to Belt Paving. The Department of Public Works has received \$1,550,000 from Columbia Gas for this project, and value engineering options are being pursued with an anticipated reduction to be within budget.
- C. VOCA/VOCG Grant Acceptance for Jane's Place
In the amount of \$201,370. This funding will help to continue employment for three full-time staff positions in that office.
- D. Travel Request for Employee Crane Certification

This is for an employee of the Maintenance Division to attend training in Harrisburg, PA the week of July 22nd. Costs of the training will be covered by the Maintenance Division budget.

E. Travel Request to the Annual ARC Conference

This is for Commissioner Atkinson and Ashli Workman, Director of Tourism, who has been asked to be a guest speaker, to travel to Chattanooga, TN September 4-5 to attend this conference with a combined total cost not to exceed \$1,500.

F. FY25 Senior Care System Annual Plan

This is through the Allegany County Health Department. Funding for this program is provided exclusively by the State Department of Aging.

G. Old Allegany High School Field Use Agreement with Braddock Warriors

For the use of the fields and parking lot for their upcoming fall football season.

H. Community Event Promotion Request for the 2024 Ellerslie Day's Annual Festival

In the amount of \$500, which will be held July 25-27 on the Ellerslie community field located next the Volunteer Fire Company.

9. Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Steven Moyer of 11867 Murleys Branch Rd in Flintstone - As the President of Flintstone Volunteer Fire Company, he asked about what will happen now that the EMS Union voted down proposed changes to their shifts. Administrator Bennett responded that he will be reading a statement very shortly in regards to this matter. Mr. Moyer questioned why the County is offering to buy ambulances from Flintstone if there is a budget deficit. Administrator Bennett explained that over time, it would pay for itself, but there is still some things to work out.

10. Reports

A. County Administrator

Read a prepared statement in regards to the EMS budget, and the recent vote held by the union. His comments outlined some history on why this budget reduction has come about and specific costs of overtime in that department. He indicated that with the shift change denial by the union, County staff will now need to make other changes in order to reduce their budget.

B. County Attorney

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

11. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Atkinson - The Fair will be held Friday, July 12th through Saturday, July 20th. Full schedule of events can be found on the Allegany County Fairgrounds Facebook page. The Fair is celebrating 100 years this week. Also, the Mountain Maryland Medical Mission will be coming to town July 27th through August 3rd. This an event run by the U.S. military that offers medical, dental, vision, veterinary services, and more at no cost. It is not just for Allegany County residents. There are volunteers needed to help with the event, and you can sign up through Facebook if interested. Commissioner Atkinson then gave a shout to some of the wonderful events that have been happening locally such as the Farmers Market, Levitt Amp Music Series, and Cumberland Pride

Festival, to name a few. Finally, he thanked our PTech interns from Allegany County Public schools, Violet Strozykowski and Mina Rowe, for setting up a new way to stream our meeting this evening.

- Commissioner Caporale - Thanked and congratulated the Fair for their upcoming anniversary.

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, July 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 05:23 PM.