

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, August 8, 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 8/8/2024. 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. Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report - Richard J. Hoover, CPA, Turnbull Hoover and Kahl, PA

Commissioner Caporale announced that due to an emergency Mr. Hoover was unable to attend this evening's meeting, and the presentation has been postponed until the next meeting.

6. Public Hearing

7. Action Agenda

- A. Code Home Rule Bill 4-24 - Introduction - "An Act to Amend the Animal Control Laws of Allegany County, Maryland" - **T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney**

Animal Control is receiving increasingly more complaints about dogs, in particular, running at large. They get a call then two weeks later get another call for the same animal. This would be adopting a procedure that would allow Animal Control, at their discretion, to institute forfeiture proceedings for animals that are habitually running at large or habitually being a public nuisance. It is modeled after ordinances that several other counties have. Tonight is just the introduction of the bill. There will be a public hearing on this during the next BOCC public meeting, which is scheduled for August 22, 2024.

- B. Resolution 24-14, Acceptance of the 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update - **Carrie Hughes, Emergency Management Chief**

Hazard Mitigation is any action taken to permanently reduce or eliminate long-term risks to people and their property from the effects of hazards. Hazard Mitigation planning provides a foundation for the development of a long-range strategy to reduce disaster losses and to break the cycle of disaster damage reconstruction and repetitive damage. When any of these goals are achieved, the community becomes more resilient and is able to return to a state of normalcy more effectively following a disaster emergency event. The 2024 Mitigation Plan Update, found as part of the agenda packet, was presented for adoption this evening. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued a preliminary approval of the plan in May. Upon receipt of FEMA's preliminary approval, all Allegany County municipalities are requested to adopt the plan which is a requirement prior to County adoption. All of those have been received. Upon County adoption, FEMA will award Allegany County with the final approval.

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. Acceptance of FY25 CACS Grant for Jane's Place in the amount of \$26,000.00
This is for operating expenses, training and travel.
- B. Acceptance of Maryland 9-1-1 Board Funding for Next Gen Core Services in the amount of \$123,321.00
- C. Acceptance of Maryland 9-1-1 Board Funding for Security Access and Video Server Upgrades in the amount of \$40,614.60
- D. Acceptance of Maryland 9-1-1 Board Funding for a VESTA Call Handling Position in the amount of \$49,670.89
- E. Acceptance of Maryland 9-1-1 Board Funding for VESTA Cybersecurity in the amount of \$77,232.80
- F. Acceptance of the Maryland 9-1-1 Board Funding for VESTA Refresh in the amount of \$3,078,118.79
- G. American Rescue Plan Funding Request for DPW Utilities Division for Digital Message Sign

This is in the amount of \$75,000 and is for the installation on our Winchester Rd location.

H. American Rescue Plan Funding Request for Dump Bed for DPW Utilities Division

This is in the amount of \$21,000.

I. American Rescue Plan Reappropriation from Invest Allegany to Scrap Tire Remediation

This is an the amount of \$264,236.96 and will help clean up what was left from two projects that couldn't meet the criteria for Invest Allegany.

9. Public Comment

No one signed up to speak at this evening's meeting.

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 - Spoke about the ceremony he attended at the Western Maryland Works with the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services who are cooperating with Allegany College of Maryland to do a Creative Arts and Technology Program. This program will give opportunities to the youth in the custody of DJS to develop job and business skills in hopes of when released, they can start a new life for themselves. Also spoke about the Coal Miners Memorial in Frostburg and encouraged everyone to visit to learn about the impact coal miners had on their communities and honor the lives lost.
- Commissioner Brodie - Addressed the citizens of Bel Air and other areas who have Maryland Water Service, saying the Commissioners have no jurisdiction over them and asked Mr. Bennett to provide contact information to these citizens on who they can address their concerns to.
- Commissioner Caporale - Echoed Commissioner Atkinson's sentiments about the Coal Miners Memorial on how impressive and well done the memorial is.

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

- A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, August 22, 2024, 5:00 PM

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:11 PM.