

Public Business Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 22, 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 04:59 PM on 8/22/2024. 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

Gave an overview of this report, which can be found here: <https://alleganygov.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=40&Type=Recent>

B. FY25 Program Open Space Recommendations - Adam Patterson, Director of Public Works

Mr. Patterson presented the recommendations for the FY25 funding through Program Open Space. Those recommendations can be found as part of the agenda packet. At the next BOCC public business meeting, the Commissioners will have the opportunity to take action to accept, or reject, the plan.

C. Women's Equality Day Proclamation - **David Caporale, Commission President**

The Commissioners recognized Women's Equality Day, which takes place this coming Monday, August 26th, by reading a proclamation. They also wish to draw specific attention to the Allegany County Women's Commission and commend the continual work they do within our community. After concluding the proclamation, Commissioner Caporale invited any and all women up for a picture.

6. Public Hearing

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

At the previous public business meeting, CHRB 4-24 was introduced. Mr. Beeman 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: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Seconded: David J. Caporale. Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale. No: None. Abstain: None.

7. Action Agenda

A. Annual Reapproval of Property Tax Credit for Fiscal Year 24 - **T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney**

Pursuant to Tax Property Article §9-302(b), a property tax credit is granted for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, for properties belonging to the following entities:

- Frostburg Lions Club, Inc.
- LaVale Lions Foundation, Inc.
- Cumberland Cultural Foundation
- Allegany County Agricultural Expo
- Carver Community Center, Inc.
- The Lions Center for Rehabilitation and Extended Care, Inc.
- Allegany County Animal Shelter Management Foundation, Inc.
- Western Maryland Scenic Railroad Development Corp.
- Cumberland Economic Development Corporation
- Evergreen Heritage Center

Pursuant to Tax Property Article §9-302(c), a property tax credit is granted for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, for the following entities:

- United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Local 1024
- Western Maryland Central Labor Council

Pursuant to Tax Property Article §9-302(f), a property tax credit is granted for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, for the following entity:

- Cumberland Outdoor Club

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. Memorandum of Understanding and Service Agreement with George's Creek Ambulance Service, Inc. - **Jason Bennett, County Administrator**

Allegany County operates the Allegany County Department of Emergency Services ("DES") for the purpose of providing emergency medical care to the citizens of Allegany County and surrounding areas. George's Creek has since December 1, 1977 operated a volunteer ambulance service situated at George's Creek Station 55 (the "Station") located at 19 Union Street, Lonaconing, Maryland, 21539. George's Creek provided emergency medical ambulance services and the Parties now desire DES to takeover and provide emergency medical ambulance services from the Station. The Parties seek to outline their rights and obligations through this Agreement.

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

- A. Accept the Allegany County Warrant Round Up FY25 Grant from the GOCPP/WAAG in the amount of \$30,000
This will be exclusively for overtime to conduct Warrant Sweeps through the Sheriff's Office.
- B. Accept the Gun Reduction Interception Program FY25 Grant from GOCPP in the amount of \$69,181
This will be used towards operating costs and necessary equipment.
- C. Accept the Rural Impact of Community Involvement FY25 Grant from GOCPP/CGPF in the amount of \$25,000
This will assist with community outreach events.
- D. SFY25/FFY24 Homelessness Solutions Program Grant Agreement in the amount of \$427,468
This is a pass-through grant for us.
- E. Community Promotions Request from Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization
This is in the amount of \$1,000 for the promotion of their historic cemetery tours program.

9. Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Steve Corioni of 22607 Gilpin Rd in Flintstone - Expressed concerns about recent layoffs and staff shortages affecting response times.
- Dan Carr of 10 Klosterman Ave in Lavale - Deferred his time to Steve Corioni.
- Bobby Ritchie of 14 Church St in Lonaconing - Also expressed concerns about the recent layoffs and staff shortages affecting response times, especially in the George's Creek area.
- Tim Dayton of 311 Spruce St in Westernport - Questioned the logistics and operations of the newly acquired George's Creek Ambulance Service, and how the \$300,000 budgeted is going to be used. Mr. Bennett replied that all of that is still being worked out.

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

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

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

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:41 PM.