

Public Business Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 3, 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 10/3/2024. Present: County Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr., County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, County Commission President David J. Caporale, County Administrator Jason Bennett, Assistant County Attorney Ramon Rozas.

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. Introduction of the Recently Appointed Maryland Director of Rural Economic Strategy - **Carl Anderton**
Mr. Carl Anderton came to introduce himself to the Commissioners. Governor Moore recently appointed him as the Maryland Director of Rural Economic Strategy to help the rural counties in the State with economic development. He will back in the western part of the State at the end of October and then again in November.
- B. Citation Presentation honoring Allegany County's Involvement in the 2024 Bronze Telly Award - **Ashli Workman, Director of Tourism & Jeffrey Barclay, Director of Economic Development**
Allegany County Government, in partnership with Garrett County Government and the Maryland Department of Commerce, applied for a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission to

conduct its own study on the outdoor recreation industry. Bringing on Downstream Strategies, an Appalachia-based consulting firm, the team spent a year studying similar community case studies, mapping the region's recreational assets, and conducting research to understand outdoor manufacturing opportunities in Western Maryland. The project produced a regional strategic plan for attracting outdoor recreation businesses and a study on how tourism can link public lands with economic and community development. The study revealed that the region's 170,000 acres of public land provide ideal access for outdoor recreation equipment and apparel manufacturers to test their products in the real outdoors. The study also identified specialty food and timber/wood production as key industries. Allegany and Garrett Counties launched Make It. In the Mountains., a website and marketing campaign to highlight regional advantages, resources, and testimonials specific to the key sectors. Working with local marketing company InnerAction Media, the campaign name emphasizes its manufacturing focus and the opportunity for businesses to thrive in the mountains of Western Maryland. The campaign featured two businesses from each county to share their successes. The campaign, celebrated for its compelling storytelling and exceptional video production, resonated beyond its intended audience, earning a Bronze 2024 Telly Award in the category of Branding - Non-Broadcast. Mrs. Workman and Mr. Barclay were each presented with a citation of their achievement, and each thanked all who were involved.

6. Public Hearing

7. Action Agenda

8. Consent Agenda

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.

- A. Accept the FY25 SRO Adequate Coverage Grant in the amount of \$84,332
This will allow for three full time and two part time deputies to serve in that capacity throughout the school system here in the County.
- B. American Rescue Plan Funding Request for Vac Truck for ACDPW - Utilities Division in the amount of \$650,069
This will be from Atlantic Machinery Inc in Silver Spring, MD. We are acquiring this through a competitive Virginia bid that we are piggy backing on, and this will be replacing a 2007 model which is heavily used.
- C. American Rescue Plan Funding Request for Water Meter Upgrades for ACDPW - Utilities Division in an amount not to exceed \$670,000
This will be for approximately 300 smart water meters in the Bowling Green district.
- D. Community Events Promotion Request from Town of Westernport in the amount of \$500
This will cover the Christmas Tree Lighting to be held on November 27th at 5:30PM and the Annual Tri-Towns Christmas parade to be held on December 5th at 7:00PM.
- E. Community Events Promotion Request for the 27th Annual Turkey Day Race in the amount of \$100
This benefits the Mountain Ridge High School Cross Country, and Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field teams.
- F. FY25 Community Partnership Agreement Between the Local Management Board of Allegany County, Inc. and the Children's Cabinet

This establishes a children and family interagency service delivery system, and is community based, family focused, and culturally competent.

9. Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Ed Taylor of 400 S Allegany St in Cumberland - Came to express his concerns with the Heritage Days Festival. Also requested Peggy Keene be appointed by the Commissioners as the County representative on the Heritage Days Committee.

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 - Publicly welcomed REV Renewables, which recently had a ribbon cutting for their project here in the County. The project includes a 20 megawatt solar facility located on reclaimed mines. It was a \$35 million investment, and produces enough electricity to power 3,000 homes. It sits on 110 acres, with 20 acres being designated as a wildlife and pollinator habitat. During the groundbreaking event, they presented REACT with a \$5,000 check.
- Commissioner Brodie - Addressed Mr. Taylor's concerns, and commended him and his organization for their efforts for teaching citizens about our local history.
- Commissioner Caporale - Echoed Commissioner Brodie's sentiment in regards to the the Cumerland Historic Cemetery Organization and the Heritage Days Festival. He also announced that the Hunter Douglas building has been sold. Commended our staff for working with the new company to ensure the move is profitable and beneficial for the County and their company. Governor Moore and his staff will be making the official announcement through a press release tomorrow morning which will contain more details.

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

- A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, October 17, 2024, 5:00 PM

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:26 PM.