

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, October 17, 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 10/17/2024. Present: County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, County Commission President David J. Caporale, County Administrator Jason Bennett, County Attorney Lee Beeman. Excused: County 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

A. Solid Waste Management Plan Revision for Mountainview Landfill - Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works

Noble Environmental has submitted a Refuse Disposal Permit Application to the Maryland Department of the Environment for a lateral expansion of Mountainview Landfill. To proceed with the permit process, the facility must conform to Allegany County's 2021-2031 Solid Waste Management Plan, which requires an update that includes the facility's additional footprint. The expansion will increase the landfill's original footprint from 40 acres to 90 acres. On July 8th, a public hearing was held to receive comments and questions about the landfill expansion. Concerns raised were trash blowing from the landfill onto adjacent property; required daily coverage; and the smell coming from the

landfill. At the time, Noble was unable to address those concerns. Another public hearing was held on September 18th, during which Noble and their consultant firm presented a comprehensive expansion plan and were able to provide remediation actions for the residents' concerns.

On October 2, 2024, the Solid Waste Management Board recommended amending the Solid Waste Management Plan. Allegany County has fulfilled all obligations under COMAR 26.03.03.05C. The Commissioners may consider a resolution to amend the Plan to include the lateral expansion of Mountainview Landfill, which will be presented at the next meeting.

6. Public Hearing

A. Road Opening Petition for Percy Avenue and an Unnamed Ally - **Victor Scarpelli, Attorney**

Attorney Scarpelli held the public hearing at which he expressed the Petitioners desire to open Percy Avenue and an unnamed Alley in order to have it closed in the future. There were few concerns expressed by Commissioner Atkinson and Attorney Beeman, who had both been contacted by a neighbor of the Petitioner. The Commissioners chose to table taking action on this road opening petition.

7. Action Agenda

A. Allegany County Sheriff's Office Request for Two Deputy Positions - **Sheriff Craig Robertson**

Several months ago, the Sheriff's office filed for the COPS grant, to receive federal funding to aid in staffing and that request was denied. However, the County Grants Writer, Tanya Gomer, resubmitted for the State Police Protection Fund, and the State is awarding the Allegany County Sheriffs Department \$460,000. Originally, the Sheriff had budgeted to receive only \$280,000, which leaves an additional \$180,000 in funding. The Sheriff is proposing to use this additional funding to allow for the hire of two additional deputies for the office.

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

B. State's Attorney's Office Increase in Funding for Body Camera Unit - **James Elliott, Esq., State's Attorney**

In 2021, legislation was passed through the Maryland Police Accountability Act requiring all law enforcement officers in the State to wear and use Body Worn Cameras to record their interactions with the public while on duty. This mandate has required the States Attorney's office to review thousands of hours of video, while shielding or redacting from view certain aspects of the video. Last year, with the support of the County and grant funding, the States Attorney's office was able to establish a Body Cam Unit, which currently consists of four analysts. Ongoing costs associated with this unit are now limited to salaries and the necessary computer software needed to redact the videos that are being reviewed. A fair estimate to date, is that nearly 31,000 videos have been reviewed, redacted, and made available for production by the Body Cam Unit. The States Attorney is requesting an increase in funding in the amount of \$278,176 for personnel salary and benefits, as well as \$53,040 for maintenance of software/equipment. This increase will allow the Body Camera Unit to maintain itself as it already exists in order to satisfy obligations and comply with the Maryland Police Accountability Act.

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. Accept the Regional Navigator Crime Victim Assistance FY25 Grant from GOCCP in the amount of \$72,226.91
This will provide funding for personnel, fringe, and operating expenses for Jane's Place.
- B. Accept the FFY24 State Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$112,450.83
This is funding to enhance interoperable communications and to update and enhance emergency preparedness.
- C. Accept the Proposal from Rifkin Weiner Livingston LLC to Provide Government Relations and Lobbying Services to the Allegany County Commissioners for a 12 month term at a cost of \$66,000
This is with an option to renew for one additional year.
- D. Approve the DPW Utilities Division Digital Message Sign Award
This is to Kenney Signs in the amount of \$55,771.36. This is for the Field Office on Winchester Road, and the Commissioners previously approved the use of ARPA funds for this.
- E. Annual Attestation of CareFirst Gag Clause Prohibition Compliance
This sets restrictions on certain entities' abilities to enter into contracts that would directly, or indirectly, limit rights to disclose certain information for healthcare providers.
- F. Declaration of Surplus Property/Carriages to be Sold for Auction
Cochrane Auctions is going to be doing an auction on November 16, 2024 to sell off spare items from our Thrasher Carriage collection that have been in storage for many years. The County is going to auction these off and split the proceeds with Allegany Museum.
- G. Execute Electric Supply Agreement with Supplier MP2/Shell
This will secure a fixed electricity rate of \$0.0845 per kilowatt-hour for an 18-month period beginning November 1st through May 1, 2026. The County is doing this in conjunction with the City of Cumberland, City of Frostburg, and LaVale Sanitary.
- H. Memorandum of Understanding between MDPSCS and Emergency Management
This will allow them to have an incident command center for a liaison between county entities for the correctional facilities around here.
- I. Release of RFP for Tourism Strategic Planning Services as Funded by an EDA Grant
This would be in the amount of \$112,320.
- J. Replacement Tables for Emergency Operations Center in the amount of \$12,693.76
This will be reflected in the Emergency Management Agency's budget.
- K. Resolution 24-17 Renaming of Hunter Douglas Drive to Kingspan Drive
It was announced a few weeks ago that Kingspan is moving into the former Hunter Douglas building so this will reflect that change.
- L. Resolution 24-18 Rules and Regulations Governing Employees of Allegany County, Maryland, Whistleblower Policy
This policy will provide protection to employees from retaliation for reporting violations or issues related to various topics, such as illegal or dishonest activities.

9. Public Comment

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

10. Reports

A. County Administrator

- The meeting scheduled for October 31st may be canceled due to Early Voting being held in the Commissioners' meeting room and therefore, the Commissioners meeting will need to be in a different location, and the lack of agenda items.
- Announced Commissioner Brodie will be recovering from heart surgery in the coming days, and we will all be thinking of him.

B. County Attorney

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

11. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Atkinson - Well wishes to Commissioner Brodie.
- Commissioner Caporale - Thoughts and prayers to Commissioner Brodie.

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, October 31, 2024, 5:00 PM

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:27 PM.