

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, November 14, 2024 - 5:00 PM

*Allegany County Office Building, 701 Kelly Road, 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 11/14/2024. 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

A. Transit Update - Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works

A public hearing was held at the LaVale Library on Wednesday, October 30th in regards to potential changes to Transit. It was very well attended, and staff heard a lot of constructive criticism about recommended changes that were going to be made. Since that time, Mr. Patterson and his staff have met and are now working on some possible solutions. They would like to set up additional meetings with some agencies that rely on the AllTrans services. There are no changes to the current services at this point. There is a funding gap that needs filled for this fiscal year, and Mr. Patterson will continue to work on that and updates will be brought to the Commissioners at a future meeting.

For tonight, Mr. Patterson wanted to stress that it was a very good public hearing with a lot of people

in attendance, and a lot of comments were heard. Staff will continue to work on potential changes, and will probably have another public forum before changes are presented to the Commissioners.

B. Veterans Day Employee Recognition - Kristi Liller, Director of Human Resources

Allegany County Government held its annual Veterans Day observance. We celebrate Veterans Day to recognize those from all branches of the armed forces who put their lives on the line to defend the freedoms that we so often take for granted. Tonight, employees of Allegany County, as well as members of the general public, who proudly served the United States armed forces were publicly honored. These individuals served the nation with honor and at great personal sacrifice. Ms. Liller then recognized the 23 Allegany County employees who have identified themselves as veterans who served in the armed forces. These 23 individuals have a combined total of 143 years of total service, representing multiple branches. Allegany County Government is very proud to employ veterans and provides up to 15 weeks of paid leave to these individuals. Ms. Liller then asked for a round of applause to recognize all veterans, both employees of the County and the general public, for their courage and honor. She asked the veterans in the audience to stand for another round of applause.

6. Public Hearing

A. Road Opening Petition for First St in Westernport - Victor Scarpelli, Attorney

Brenda Joy Warren, personal representative of the Estate of Richard P. Reeves, is petitioning the Board of County Commissioners to open, for the purpose of closing, an unpaved and unimproved street lying between the lot at 24505 North River Road and the lot at 24503 North River Road in Westernport, MD, referred to as First Street. Pursuant to Local Government 12-512 of The Annotated Code of Maryland, notice by publication in The Cumberland Times-News was given once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Commissioners, as advised by the County Attorney, took action to open the street and sign the order.

7. Action Agenda

A. Ratification of Labor Management Agreement with Local 1633 AFSCME Allegany County Roads Division - T. Lee Beeman, Jr., Esq., County Attorney

Negotiations have concluded with Local 1633 of AFSCME, which represents the Roads Division, and the agreement is now being presented to the Commissioners for their approval. This is a three-year collective bargaining agreement that would be in place effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

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

B. Ratification of Labor Management Agreement with Lodge 144 Fraternal Order of Police Allegany County Correctional Association - T. Lee Beeman, Jr., Esq., County Attorney

Negotiations have concluded with Lodge 144 of the Fraternal Order of Police, which is representing the Allegany County Detention Center employees, and the agreement is now being presented to the Commissioners for their approval. This is a labor management agreement that will be effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

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

C. Correctional Officers Pension System Actuary Application - T. Lee Beeman, Jr., Esq., County Attorney

As part of the negotiations with the correctional employees, the employees have requested the County look into the process of transferring the corrections workers from the regular Maryland State pension system to the Maryland State correction workers pension system. To start that process, the County has to file an application with the Maryland State pension system and have an actuarial study

done, which essentially calculates the cost of what has been put into the system and what's required to be put in the system, if anything, to change them. Asking for the Commissioners approval to authorize Administrator Bennett to complete the application and to begin the process. At this point, it is only a study to see if transferring the Corrections employees from the existing pension system to the other is a viable option.

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

- D. Resolution 24-19, Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment for the Noble Environmental Expansion - **Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works**

Asking for approval for an amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan that will include the expansion of the Mountainview Landfill. There have been two public hearings on this expansion. One was very well attended and there were concerns over the expansion. At the second public hearing, the Noble Environmental group, who owns and operates the landfill, addressed some of the concerns that were raised at the first public hearing, and there weren't any public comments. This is not a permit allowance for construction of any type. This is just amending a planning document that will allow for the future expansion.

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

- E. Resolution 24-20, Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment to Include the Allegany County Resource Recovery Facility - **Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works**

Asking for approval again for an amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan. There is a facility that is being proposed in the Mexico Farms area, at the County Industrial Park, that is a transfer station. In order for this transfer station to move forward it has to be included in the plan. There was a public hearing held where nobody was in attendance and no opposition has been heard. This is not authorization of permits or construction, just amending the plan for future construction. Mr. Patterson then thanked Andrew Cowan, Recycling Coordinator, for all his hard work on this.

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

8. Consent Agenda

- A. Accept the FY24 Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$72,199.13
- B. Accept the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant in the amount of \$15,312.50
- C. Accept the Maryland 9-1-1 Board Funding for VESTA Phone System Migration in the amount of \$9,827.51
- D. Accept the Maryland 9-1-1 Board Funding for PSAP Battery Replacement in the amount of \$27,710
- E. Accept the PACT Grant for the State's Attorney's Office in the amount of \$40,000
This grant will help fund the cloud-based video service used to assist with evidence handling of video footage.
- F. Amend the Land Preservation, Parks, & Recreation Plan to Include the Willowbrook Outdoor Wellness Center and Prichard Farms Recreational Area
- G. Approve the HSI Contract Renewal for Online Employee Training Portal in the amount of \$21,994.50

This is to continue the online employee training portal which includes compliance topics, supervisory topics, etc. This has been used for the last two years.

- H. Community Promotions Request from REACT, Robotics and Engineering in Allegany County - Together, Inc. in the amount of \$1,000

This funding will go towards the ability to qualify for \$100,000 in federal funding to help with the renovation of their new building.

- I. FY20 SHSP Grant Funding Relinquishment in the amount of \$7,285

This funding was unable to be expended, and will be given back to the state of Maryland to be reallocated.

- J. FY25 Contract Between Jane's Place and the Local Management Board of Allegany County, Inc

This is to accept grant funding in the amount of \$20,000 to support outreach, operational expenses, and training for Jane's Place.

9. Public Comment

Alan Whitworth of 12690 Clarksville Pike in Clarksville, MD - Came to discuss a stop-work order he received for what he calls a renovation project, which the County is saying is a new build. Asked the Commissioners to look into the stop-work order, and the concerns he has with the Planning and Zoning office.

10. Reports

- A. County Administrator

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

- B. County Attorney

With the conclusion of the contract negotiations, Mr. Beeman would like to thank Ms. Liller, Director of Human Resources; Captain Lasher of the Allegany County Detention Center; Adam Patterson, Director of Public Works; and John McMillan, Roads Superintendent. In regards to the employees, he also thanked Carroll Braun, who represents AFSME. This may be the last time Mr. Beeman works with him, and said what a pleasure it has been to work with him through the years.

11. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Atkinson - Talked about the Baltimore Street in Downtown Cumberland reopening today with a celebration that was very well attended, including a lot of State officials. Thanked the City members, Triton Construction and the businesses for all their hard work and patience. Mentioned the Tourism Department for receiving a State award, alongside the National award, for the "Make it in the Mountains" campaign. Also mentioned that the Willowbrook Outdoor Wellness Center will have an opening for Phase One next week. Finally, there will be the Thrasher Carriage auction happening this weekend.
- Commissioners Caporale - Emphasized how exciting the downtown story is. Also addressed Mr. Whitworth to say the Commissioners would follow up on the concern he brought forth today. He then gave a brief update on Commissioner Brodie, in that he is getting everyday and hopes to be back by the next meeting.

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

- A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, December 19, 2024, 5:00 PM

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:35 PM.