

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, January 9, 2025 - 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 1/9/2025. 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

6. Public Hearing

7. Action Agenda

- A. Fairgrounds Racetrack Promoter Agreement - **Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works**

The Allegany County Department of Public Works advertised requests for proposals for the promotion of racing at the County Fairgrounds from February 27, 2023 to March 10, 2023 on the County's website. One proposal was received. The County met with Mountain Maryland Ventures, LLC and discussed the history of the racetrack, expectations of the promoter, and discussed the agreement. MMV met with County staff in November 2024 to discuss their desire to be the promoter for the 2025 racing season, requesting an additional one-year extension. This would be the final one-year extension in accordance with the 2023 solicitation. The dates are not yet decided upon, but will be discussed once a schedule is proposed.

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

During the Public Comment section of the Agenda, Mountain Maryland Ventures approached the podium to thank the County Commissioners for the opportunity and support. They also acknowledged and thanked several of their drivers and volunteers in the audience who came in support of the racing promoter.

- B. Kingspan Rail Design Proposals - **Jeffrey Barclay, Economic & Community Development Director**
Kingspan purchased the former Hunter Douglas Building in the North Branch Industrial Park. As part of the purchase incentive package, the department of Economic and Community Development agreed to oversee a Rail Siding Project linking the property to the CSX Main Line. Economic and Community Development solicited a number of companies suggested by CSX and three companies returned quotes for their consideration of the design professional services. Moffatt & Nichol - \$217,800, Rhinehart Railroad Construction with Tim Stowe - \$165,000, and RailPros - \$146,845. Economic and Community Development would like the Commissioners to approve and move forward with the low bid proposal of RailPros at \$146,845. This proposal will be funded by a commitment from Maryland Commerce to fund up to \$1 million for this project.

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

- C. Line Use Memorandum of Understanding and Lease Agreement with Tracks and Yaks, LLC - **Jeffrey Barclay, Economic & Community Development Director**
Tracks and Yaks, LLC will pay rent to Allegany County for use of the rail line and depot space. As part of the depot space agreement, the bathrooms will be shared with the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. Adam Forshee, owner, approached the podium and thanked the Commissioners for the continued support.

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. Line Extension Agreement with Columbia Gas of PA, MD on County Owned Land
This would be to provide utilities to potential homes at the old Allegany High School site that the County continues to work on.
- B. Travel Request for Fair Personnel
This is for Kevin Kamauf and staff to attend the annual Pennsylvania Fair Convention January 22-25 in Hershey, PA at a cost of no more than \$2,000.

9. Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Charles Goebel of 15700 Upper Bank St in Mount Savage - Concerned with recent increases in State Tax Assessments, and how it could affect businesses in the area.

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 Caporale - Announced that the application process for the vacant seat on the Board of Education will be ending close of business, Monday, January 13th, and thanked everyone who has applied so far.

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, January 23, 2025, 5:00 PM

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:18 PM.