

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, February 20, 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 2/20/2025. 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

6. Public Hearing

7. Action Agenda

- A. Community Reinvestment & Repair Fund Task Force FY26 Budget Recommendations - **Tanya Gomer, Grants Writer, CRRF Advisor**

Part of the legislation to legalize recreational adult use cannabis was a clause to give back a portion of State revenue to local communities. A Task Force was required to allocate these funds. During the meetings of this task force, the members came up with a grant proposition to offer community grants between \$5,000 and \$50,000 that will run from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Three projects were selected by the Task Force for approval by the Commissioners:

- AHEC West - \$35,800 to provide for Community Health Worker entry-level employment and scholarships for 10 individuals to obtain CHW credentialing.
- Allegany College of Maryland - \$50,000 for Empowering Futures: Expanding Workforce Readiness through Cosmetology and Wellness Education to provide funding to purchase necessary equipment and consumable supplies in support of the Cosmetology and Spa Services certification program.
- Allegany College of Maryland - \$45,000 in support of the 2025 Makers Ultimate Challenge craftsman competition at Western Maryland Works.

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. FY 25 Budget Amendments - Jason Bennett, CPA, County Administrator

There are six FY25 budget amendments for Commissioners approval:

- \$180,448 - Increase to salaries and fringe in order to fund the vacation buy back program the County offers. This is done in order to reduce long term liabilities for those commitments.
- Increase revenues and expenditures for the Makers Space transaction with Allegany College of Maryland in the amount of \$833,186. Because of the nature of that transaction, there is no impact to the budget, just needs recorded in the books.
- \$650,000 - Increase to credit card fees expense for unanticipated credit card fees that accrued this year. Action was taken last year to add credit card fees to those that are paying bills, and we are still waiting on the accounting system vendor to take care of this.
- \$407,400 - Increase salaries and fringe for four body camera analysts, which is a unfunded State mandate. Three of these positions were funded by ARPA funds, which have expired so now the expense needs to come out of the County's budget.
- \$410,000 - Increase to the EMS overtime budget.
- \$302,448 - Transfer to the Transit Fund. This is a direct result of decrease in Federal and State funding. This will keep Transit operating the way it has been.

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

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. FY25 Capital Grant Agreement for Transit

This grant is for up to \$400,000 in Federal funds to be matched with \$40,000 in County funds for vehicle and facility maintenance.

B. FY25 Operating Grant Agreement for Transit

The grant total is \$1,812,592 and is a mix of Federal, State, and Local funds.

C. Planning and Zoning Commission Re-appointment of Doug Bauer

His term will expire February 16, 2030.

D. Sanitary Commission Member Appointment of Ron Paugh

He will represent the McCoole/Upper Potomac area for a six year term.

E. WOW Phase II Project - Execution of LWCF Funding Agreement

The County will need to execute a grant agreement with DNR to acquire these funds. The project will include artificial turf soccer/football field; natural grass multi-use fields; extension of the current walking path with the addition of a woodlands trail; concession/restroom/storage building; additional parking area.

9. Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Tammy Shockey of 16008 Upper Rockville St in Lonaconing - Came to discuss and ask the Commissioners for their support in her opposition to SB399 that is sponsored by local State Senator Mike McKay.
- Kit Pepper Lascalette of 211 James Ct in Frostburg - Has concerns with the federal government layoffs and cuts, and how the local government will handle this situation.

10. Reports

A. County Administrator

The Commissioners had a work session earlier in the day where they talked about the Governor potentially cutting \$5 million from the County's budget for the upcoming year, and just wanted to remind the Commissioners the budget process will be starting soon.

B. County Attorney

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

11. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Atkinson - Reminded everyone that Positive People nominations are due February 28th.
- Commissioner Brodie - Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.
- Commissioner Caporale - Added that the Commissioners will be following through and there will be a budget breakdown available as the Commissioners start to work through the budget.

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

- A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, March 6, 2025, 5:00 PM

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:25 PM.