

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, March 6, 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 3/6/2025. Present: County Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr., County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, County Administrator Jason Bennett, Assistant County Attorney Ramon Rozas, III. Excused: County Commission President David J. Caporale, County Attorney Lee Beeman.

3. Approval of Agenda

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: Creade V. Brodie, Jr.. Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., William R. Atkinson. No: None. Abstain: None.

4. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes

Upon Motion made by County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, seconded by County Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr., and duly carried, the Minutes from the previous public business meeting were approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

5. Presentations

- A. Old Allegany High School Neighborhood Update: Overview of the proposed neighborhood design, introduction of the 10-day virtual public comment period, and discussion of the operational agreement with DR Horton - **Adam Strott, Economic Development Specialist**
Mr. Strott presented a slide show of the proposed design plan for the new neighborhood being constructed in the location of the old Allegany High School. The plan and comment period went live at the start of the public business meeting, and people will have a 10-day period to virtually review, and fill out public survey, if they wish to do so. Following the closure of the virtual public comment period,

the Commissioners will hold a work session to discuss proposed ideas. The final plan will be presented and voted on at a later public business meeting.

6. Public Hearing

7. Action Agenda

- A. Approval of \$350,000 Grant Agreement between 69 Baltimore, LLC (The Wills Hotel) and the Board of County Commissioners - **Jeff Barclay, Director, Economic and Community Development**
- The Wills Hotel on Baltimore St is currently undergoing construction and has received a total of \$750,000 from the George Board Fund. The County agreed to match the \$250,000 from the Revolving Building Fund, which is not tax payer dollars, and the other \$100,000 is part of an agreement with the City of Cumberland where through Community Enhancement the County was contributing towards the Baltimore St redevelopment, and asked if \$100,000 could be diverted back to the Wills Hotel project. The Wills Hotel partners are contributing approximately \$3.4 million in equity and loan. Asking for the approval of the total \$350,000 to be given to this project.
- Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: Creade V. Brodie, Jr.. Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., William R. Atkinson. No: None. Abstain: None.**

8. Consent Agenda

Motion: Approve, By: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Seconded: William R. Atkinson. Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., William R. Atkinson. No: None. Abstain: None.

- A. Acceptance of Maryland 9-1-1 Board Funding for Generator Testing and Service in the amount of \$11,671
This is for PSAP Generator Testing and Service and is fully funded by the Maryland 9-1-1 Board.
- B. Acceptance of Maryland 9-1-1 Board Funding for Priority Dispatch System Annual Service and Support in the amount of \$23,205
This is for Priority Dispatch System Annual Service and Support and is also fully funded by the Maryland 9-1-1 Board.
- C. Acceptance of Maryland 9-1-1 Board Funding for VESTA Call Handling Maintenance Agreement 25-206 in the amount of \$16,704
This is also fully funded by the Maryland 9-1-1 Board.
- D. Acceptance of Maryland 9-1-1 Board Funding for VESTA Call Handling Maintenance Agreement 25-234 in the amount of \$16,704
This is also fully funded by the Maryland 9-1-1 Board.
- E. Acceptance of Maryland 9-1-1 Board Funding for VESTA Maintenance in the amount of \$33,408
This is also fully funded by the Maryland 9-1-1 Board.
- F. Community Event Promotion Request for the "Murder at the Museum" Event Presented by the Allegany Museum and Embassy Theatre in the amount of \$100
This is a fundraiser for both entities and will be held April 3rd through April 5th.
- G. DGS Grant Acceptance for the Casper A. Taylor Amphitheater in the amount of \$50,000
This will allow Allegany County to access state bond bill dollars as introduced by Senator McKay. These will be utilized by Canal Place.
- H. DGS Grant Acceptance for the Greater Cumberland Regional Airport in the amount of \$100,000

The County will accept the state bond bill dollars on behalf of the Airport, and it's for much needed equipment.

- I. Grant Agreement between Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, Inc. and the Board of County Commissioners for Allegany County, Maryland for site work on Sedgwick Street in the amount of \$422,000

This will help pay for some of the upcoming infrastructure improvements at the site.

- J. Grant Agreement between Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, Inc. and the Board of County Commissioners for Allegany County, Maryland for Kingspan rail spur design and construction in the amount of 800,000

- K. Memorandum of Understanding between Allegany County and SkyPacket

SkyPacket Networks, Inc. requested space on the County's communications tower located at 17024 Old Dan's Rock Rd in Frostburg in order to install equipment such as radios and antennas.

- L. Memorandum of Understanding with State Highway Administration for Communications Towers
The County has two towers for radio communication purposes on property owned by SHA, one on Dan's Rock and one on Martin's Mountain.

9. Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Eric Carey of 99 Mt. Pleasant St in Frostburg - Expressed concerns he had with the new housing development at the old Allegany High School site and questioned why a company from Maryland wasn't sought out or selected.
- Max Green of 505 Patterson Ave in Cumberland - Asked the Commissioners to consider extending the public comment period for the new housing development to 14 days; Told the Commissioners that the West Side Neighborhood Association would be reviewing the plans for the new housing development at their upcoming meeting, and will submit a survey with their thoughts and concerns; Thanked the Commissioners for expressing their budget concerns at the Work Session held on February 20th.

10. Reports

A. County Administrator

- Wanted to follow up on the DR Horton discussion to say there is a lot of information being put out, and mentioned the information and public survey is already live. Answered Mr. Green's question of why not 14 days, in that the Commissioners wanted a 10 day period to give themselves a chance to review and hold a work session. Time is of the essence as the goal would be to have the infrastructure done and ready for construction of the homes by the fall.
- Addressed budget concerns in that the potential \$5.1 million deficit has now turned into \$5.7 million, due to an amendment to the Governor's budget requesting another \$600,000 of teacher pension costs be directed to the counties. Mentioned that he and Attorney Beeman testified to both the House and Senate committees in regards to the Governor's proposed budget. Him and the Commissioners will continue to work on the County's budget, and hope to come up with a solution.

B. County Attorney

Read a statement regarding the closed session held on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 4:00PM. A copy of this statement is attached to the agenda packet.

11. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Atkinson - Nominations have come in for the Positive People Award, and is looking forward to getting a committee together, and reviewing the nominations.
- Commissioner Brodie - Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, March 20, 2025, 5:00 PM

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:31 PM.