

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, March 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 3/20/2025. 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

A. Required Hearing for Additional Maryland Recovery Housing Program Funding for Archway Station Recovery Housing Project - David Nedved, Community Development Representative

The Maryland Recovery Housing Program is a federally funded program designed to assist county governments with the provision of stable, temporary housing for individuals in recovery from a substance abuse disorder. The program is funded with the Community Development Block Grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and is managed by the Maryland

Department of Housing and Community Development. Archway Station Recovery Housing project is for women moving from treatment facilities to recovery housing who will reunite with their children. The applicant has to be a county government and therefore the County Commissioners is the applicant with Archway Station being the sub-recipient. The County Commissioners proposed to request an amendment to the grant agreement for additional funding in the amount of \$700,000. This would pay for additional renovation costs for a building located at 125 Fayette St in Cumberland. As part of the process for the requested additional CDBG funding, a public hearing must be held for public input and be held during a Commissioners public business meeting. A formal notice was advertised in the Cumberland Times News on Saturday, March 15, 2025 and the application has been made available for the public to review and comment on through March 28th.

The public hearing was open, then closed with no comments from the public being heard.

7. Action Agenda

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. Approve Purchase of a 2024 Ford F150 Police Pursuit Rated Truck from Hertrich Fleet Services, Inc in the amount of \$49,809 for the Sheriff's Office
This is fully funded by the Child Support Enforcement Grant, and is off a state bid.
- B. CareFirst Dental Insurance Agreement, including Dual Option, for FY 25-26
This will allow us to upgrade to a new plan that is fully paid by the employee, and now includes orthodontics.
- C. Community Event Promotion Request for the 5th Annual Allegany County Social Services Board's Crabs for a Cause Fundraising Event in the amount of \$500
The event will be held on September 27th from 1 to 5pm.
- D. Fairgrounds Use Agreement with Western Maryland Jaycees for Wing-Off
The rent is set for \$2,500 and the County will also receive additional rent based on the number of campers. The Wing Off is June 20-21, 2025.
- E. Operating Agreement with Aramark Correctional Services, LLC Amendment No. 7
This would be a one-year extension to the Operating Agreement, and is an approximate 3.2% increase to the current price per meal.
- F. Prichard Farms Joint Use Agreement
Program Open Space Annual Plan approved \$125,000 of funding to go towards the construction of a pavilion and add a parking area for the Prichard Farms Recreational Area project. A Joint-Use Agreement is needed in order to receive the funding.
- G. Resolution 25-1 Certifications and Assurances for the Transit Division
This is made to MDOT in conjunction with Transit's application for financial assistance.
- H. Resolution 25-2 Rules and Regulations Governing Employees of Allegany County
This includes revisions to County workers serving as poll workers and ensuring compliance with Maryland Health Working Families Act, Sick, and Safe Leave.

9. Public Comment

- Sandra Roeder of 12500 Old Willowbrook Rd in Cumberland - In honor of St. Patrick's Day and National Women's History month, Ms. Roeder talked about two very significant local Irish women, Mary Walsh and Molly Burner.
- Justin Searls of Keyser, WV - Addressed the budget shortfall and the need for libraries.
- Trish Morgan of 306 Baughman St in Westernport - President of Save the Westernport Library, talked about the need for libraries and their campaign for saving the libraries. She also encouraged everyone to volunteer at their local library.
- Kit Pepper Lescalette of 211 James Ct in Frostburg - Questioned the Commissioners compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

10. Reports

A. County Administrator

- Thanked the Commissioners for their time during the Public Work Session, and for hearing all the concerns as staff is working through the budget.
- Reminded the Commissioners that the second round of public budget hearings will be held in two weeks at which they will hear from the rest of the County's outside agencies like they did earlier in the day.
- Mentioned there were discussions on DR Horton in a public forum, and a decision will be put forth in the next two weeks to finalize agreement, and hopefully move the project forward.

B. County Attorney

Read a statement regarding the closed session held on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 4:00PM. A copy of this statement is attached to the agenda packet.

11. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Atkinson - Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.
- Commissioner Brodie - Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.
- Commissioner Caporale - Echoed Administrator Bennett's comments by saying the Commissioners will continue to work through the budget process as more numbers come out from the State.

12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, April 3, 2025, 5:00 PM

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:36 PM.