

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, April 17, 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 4/17/2025. 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

Upon Motion made by County Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr., seconded by County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, and duly carried, the Agenda for this public business meeting was approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

4. Statement of Closed Meeting

A. Statement Regarding the Closed Session Held on Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 3:30PM

Attorney Beeman read a statement regarding the closed session. A copy of this statement is attached to the agenda packet.

5. 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.

6. Presentations

7. Public Hearing

A. Transit Purple Line Adjustments - **Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works**

Anytime a change is made to a fixed route, or any change within the Transit Operation, the MTA process requires a public hearing to be held which should be advertised for at least 30 days, which has been completed. The 30 day period allows for comments and/or concerns to be accepted regarding the change to the purple line. Mr. Adam Patterson invited Ms. Libby Harper, Transit Division Chief to explain the proposed change.

The proposed change would turn the Purple Line into a Demand Response, door-to-door, reservation type of service. This change will benefit all residents of the Georges Creek Region by offering transportation to anyone within ½ mile of Route 36 from Westernport to I-68 at exit 34. Trips will originate in the Georges Creek region and take customers to the Cumberland area. Like the Purple Line, it will run on Tuesdays and Fridays beginning at the first reservation time in Georges Creek after 8:30 AM. Restrictions will apply to the time of day, distance from Route 36, and accessibility to your home. In some cases, we will require customers to reach an accessible location for pick-up.

Currently, the Purple Line is a Fixed-Route service that travels Route 36 from Westernport, Barton, Lonaconing, and Midland on Tuesdays and Fridays, with one trip in the morning and one in the afternoon. We want to replace it with a more customized option using Alltrans vehicles. Alltrans riders will not see any change in their service.

Trip times will be pre-scheduled to meet the customers' needs. Seating availability is limited to the vehicle size; therefore, reservations are required at least one business day before your planned travel. As a Demand Response route, customers in the Georges Creek region will share their ride with others who want to travel into Cumberland. Customers must pre-schedule their ride by calling the Transit Office at 301-724-1255. Same-day calls for a ride may be available, but only when a bus is scheduled to be in your area, and we have an available seat. You can schedule rides to doctor appointments, shopping centers, and your return trip home. If your return time is unknown when planning your trip, you must call by 3:00 PM to secure your return trip.

The Transit Office will arrange all trips to serve as many customers as possible. You may need to travel slightly earlier or later so that we can accommodate as many customers as possible. Pick-up times from Westernport can be scheduled starting at 8:30 AM.

The comments received by the Transit office seem to be all positive, and passengers are looking forward to the change. There were no comments received during this public hearing, and the hearing was closed. In the near future, Mr. Adam Patterson will be bringing a formal recommendation in front of the Commissioners for a vote. Mr. Bennett thanked Adam, Libby, and staff for all their hard work on this. Adam then told the Commissioners that if every county chief cared as much as Libby did, the county would have a perfect county government service.

8. Action Agenda & Public Comment

9. Consent Agenda & Public Comment

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.

A. Allegany County 2025 Transportation Priority Letter to MDOT

The County coordinates with all local jurisdictions to prioritize major transportation projects to include in a letter sent each year. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

- B. Allegany County Transit 2025-2026 Bus Service MOU with Frostburg State University
This has been done for many years, and will be for their next school year. The proposed revenue from this contract will be \$171,808. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- C. Approval of MD 9-1-1 Board Funding 25-249 in the amount \$2,540
This will be for emergency backup PSAP generator repairs. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- D. Approval of MD 9-1-1 Board Funding 25-250 in the amount of \$15,889.83
This will be for the VESTA phone system. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- E. Approval of MD 9-1-1 Board Funding 25-283 in the amount \$31,842
This will be for PSAP generator maintenance. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- F. Community Event Promotion for the 2025 Western MD Kidney Walk in the amount of \$300
This event will be Saturday, May 24, 2025 from 4 to 6PM at Canal Place. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- G. Declare Four Trucks as Surplus & Approve Purchase of Two Used Dump Trucks for Roads Division
Both dump trucks are being purchased from United Rentals in Frederick, MD; one at a price of \$82,500 and the other at \$84,200. The surplus trucks will be disposed of in accordance with County policy. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- H. MOU with Corriganville Volunteer Fire Department
This is for the County to continue to provide an ambulance crew for that coverage area. This is a renewal of a contract we already have, and will be good for a period of five years. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- I. Operations and Maintenance Agreement with the Piney Plains Civic Association
This is for the County-owned Piney Plains Ballfield in Little Orleans, which receives Program Open Space funds. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- J. Operations and Maintenance Agreement with the Oldtown Community Center
This is for the County-owned Oldtown Ballfield, which receives Program Open Space funds. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- K. Operations and Maintenance Agreement with the Flintstone Civic Improvement Association
This is for the County-owned Flintstone Community Park, which receives Program Open Space funds. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

10. General Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Gregg Donaldson of 10903 Cash Valley Rd in LaVale - Has concerns with the proposed solar farm going in along the GAP trail near Cash Valley Rd.
- Brian Diehl of 15601 Mile Ln in Mount Savage - Has concerns with mining operation trucks using and destroying Mile Ln to access their mining site in Pennsylvania. Trucks have also caused damage to property.
- Sue and Denny Mallozzi of 11604 Cash Valley Rd in LaVale - Has concerns with the proposed solar farm going in along the GAP trail near Cash Valley Rd.
- Larry J. Smith of 15201 Brandywine Dr in Bel Air - Representing the citizens of Bel-Air, Pinto, and Highland Estates, expressed gratitude to the Commissioners and look forward to meeting with local

officials, state delegation, members of the federal offices, and the citizens to work towards of a solution with the increase in water rates.

In regards to the solar farm concerns, the Commissioners have no authority over zoning for solar farms, however, will have the opportunity to express their concerns and will do when the time comes.

Administrator Bennett is actively looking into the issue of the road condition left behind by a mining company.

In regards to the increasing water rates in certain areas of the County, Administrator Bennett said they have already touched base with members of the federal delegation and are working on making contact with Maryland Water Service. Answers and information are being actively sought out in preparation for the requested meeting from the citizens of Bel-Air, Pinto, and Highland Estates.

11. Reports

A. County Administrator

Reminded the Commissioners that the Preliminary Budget will be presented to them on May 1, 2025.

B. County Attorney

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

12. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Atkinson - Announced that once again, the Great Allegheny Passage was voted one of USA Today's 10Best recreational trails in the country.
- Commissioner Brodie - Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.
- Commissioner Caporale - Thanked everyone for attending, and stated they will continue to look into the issues that were brought forth today.

13. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

- A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, May 1, 2025, 5:00 PM

14. Adjournment

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