

**Public Business Meeting  
Minutes**

*Thursday, May 22, 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 5/22/2025. 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**

Upon Motion made by County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, seconded by County Commission President David J. Caporale, and duly carried, the Agenda for this public business meeting was approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

**4. Statement of Closed Meeting**

There was no closed meeting to report on.

**5. 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.

**6. Presentations**

**A. FY26 Allegany County Utility Rate Updates - Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works**

Each year, the Allegany County Sanitary Commission provides feedback on the proposed utility rates that are prepared by members of the Allegany County Utility Division. Mr. Patterson presented the final version, which did not change from the presentation at the last meeting. A copy of these proposed rates are attached to the agenda packet. Mr. Patterson will be back at the next meeting for final approval by the Commissioners.

B. FY26-FY30 Allegany County Capital Improvement Program Presentation - **Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works**

Each year, the Allegany County Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee solicits and receives requests from various County-funded agencies/departments for capital funding for projects/purchases that will exceed \$25,000 and/or 10 years of useful life. All received requests are reviewed by the Committee and recommendations for funding in the coming fiscal year are then made to the Commissioners for their consideration and eventual approval. Mr. Patterson presented these projects and the Committee's recommendations, which are attached to the agenda packet. Mr. Patterson will be back at the next meeting for final approval by the Commissioners.

**7. Public Hearing**

A. Public Hearing for Proposed FY26 Budget - **Jason Bennett, CPA, County Administrator**

The preliminary budget of \$113,696,028 general fund was presented at the previous BOCC public meeting. During that hearing, the Commissioners asked to drop the property tax from the 2% increase to the existing rate. This is a difference of about \$1,080,000, which will be replaced with fund balance, at the Commissioners request. The amount of fund balance used will be approximately \$2,900,000 in total within the \$113,696,028 budget. Mr. Bennett asked if there were any questions from the Commissioners and/or the Public, which nobody had. The budget will be put forth in front of the Commissioners at the next public meeting for their adoption.

**8. Action Agenda & Public Comment**

A. Resolution 25-4 - An Act to Temporarily Suspend Allegany County Code Section 38-8 Bids and Contracts - **T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney**

Due to the emergency conditions created by flash flooding on May 13, 2025, the Board of County Commissioners need to facilitate emergency relief for damage caused the flash floods. The procedures contained in Allegany County Code Section 38-8 prohibit County staff from acting with haste to resolve emergency situations. This resolution will temporarily suspend the provisions of Section 38-8 to allow the Director of Public Works and Director of Emergency Services to approve emergency procurement. This will be in effect for 60 days.

No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

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

B. Acceptance of Priorities for ARC Funding of FY26 Projects (Tabled at previous meeting, May 1, 2025) - **David Nedved, Community Development Specialist**

At the BOCC public meeting held on May 1, 2025 Mr. Nedved presented the preliminary priority list, at which time the Commissioners chose to table. A staff meeting, which included one Commissioner, was held following the meeting, and a there were some adjustments made to the original priority list. The revised list was presented to all of the Commissioners at a Work Session prior to this public board meeting.

No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

Because this item was tabled at a previous meeting, the Commissioners voted to untable this item.

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

After their approval to untable the agenda item, the Commissioners then voted to approve the revised priority list as presented. The final list can be found attached to the agenda packet.

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

- C. Agreement with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the Frostburg Stabilization Grant Program - **Adam Strott, Economic Development Specialist**

The Department of Economic and Community Development applied for and was awarded \$250,000 from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development from the Strategic Demolition Fund through the Maryland Statewide Neighborhood Revitalization Program. This grant is to create a program that will stabilize buildings on Frostburg's Main Street that have experienced years of deferred maintenance and require significant investment to get them to a point wherein they can undergo redevelopment. The emphasis of this came from a number of redevelopment projects that were stalled due to unforeseen structural issues that greatly increased the cost of the overall project. The funding will flow through the County, and therefore the grant agreement presented needs to be approved by the Commissioners, and signed.

No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

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

- D. Georges Creek Ambulance Service Agreement - **Jason Bennett, CPA, County Administrator**

George's Creek Ambulance Service, Inc., seeks for Allegany County Department of Emergency Services to takeover operations at their location in Lonaconing and for Allegany County to assume all assets and liabilities of the George's Creek Ambulance Service. George's Creek Ambulance Service has indicated to Allegany County Department of Emergency Services that if Allegany County does not take over operations at George's Creek, it will be unable to operate. The County will staff this with paid EMS staff. There is some maintenance work that will need done and will take about 6 to 9 months. This will cost approximately \$100,000 - roughly half of this cost comes from a liability for the sprinkler system and the other half will be in new costs the County will incur in doing some of the work. Both the towns of Lonaconing and Westernport have agreed to contribute \$5,000 each towards this project. Administrator Bennett thanked the Mayors of both Lonaconing and Westernport and both Jr and Sr Jim Dawson for their patience. Asking for the Commissioners to approve this agreement, and authorize Administrator Bennett to execute all closing documents.

No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

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

- E. AEON Technologies Emergency Collections Contract - **Kristi Liller, Director of Human Resources**

Asking for approval of contract with AEON Technologies to perform after-hours testing for post-accident and reasonable suspicion drug screens for 24/7 operations. This contract is in addition to our current contract for drug screening during regular office hours. The County was using UPMC, but as of June 30th, they are no longer offering after-hours testing.

No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

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

- F. Approval of a Road Opening Petition for an Unnamed Alley Adjacent to Gramlich Rd in LaVale - **T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney**

A petition was filed by Attorney Jayci Duncan on behalf of her clients James and Stephanie Maddy. They are looking to open for the purpose of closing a portion of an unnamed alley between Gramlich Rd and Henry Dr. Public Works reviewed the petition and has identified a number of utility easements that will be necessary if the Commissioners approve the closing of this alley. Those utility easements have been obtained from each utility company involved, and there was also a submission of a letter of support from the neighbors on the other side of the alley. There was a public hearing on this petition at the previous BOCC public business meeting, at which no comments were heard.

No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

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

## **9. Consent Agenda & Public Comment**

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

- A. Accept the low-bid proposal for site work at the Lot 1 Spoil Site at Frostburg Business Park from EZ-Out, Inc. in the amount of \$20,900  
This would be to help remove 2,500 cubic yards of excess dirt from the current Clym Environmental project. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- B. Acceptance of Maryland 9-1-1 Board Funding for Console Furniture Upgrades  
This is in the amount of \$72,829, and is fully paid for by the State of Maryland. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- C. Award Contract for Engineering Design Services for North Branch WWTP Clarifier No. 2 Replacement Project to Hazen  
This is in the amount of \$95,807, and will be funded through debt service from the customers of Bowling Green and Cresaptown sanitary districts. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- D. Emergency Services Board Appointments  
These appointments will be for one year, with the career representatives rotating every two years between the City of Cumberland Fire Department and Allegany County Department of Emergency Services:

Fire Services Committee:

Chair: Shannon Adams

Vice Chair: Wes Foor

Member-at-Large: Tim Dayton

Alternate Member-at-Large: Wayne Rounds

EMS Committee:

Chair: Vince Pyle

Vice Chair: Allen Ruby

Member-at-Large: Gerald Broadwater

Alternate Member-at-Large: Justin White

Emergency Services Board:

Career Representative: Michael Salvadge (DES)

DES Director: Roger Bennett (Interim Director)

No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

- E. Grant Permission to the County Administrator to sign Sublease Agreements for the Business Incubator located at 20 E. Main Street in Frostburg, Maryland  
This will allow for easier transitions between new and previous tenants. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- F. Joint-Use Agreement with Cresaptown Civic Improvement Association  
This agreement is necessary in order for the association to receive Program Open Space funding for the replacement of picnic tables and park benches at their sports complex. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- G. Lease Agreement with Allegany Land & Coal to Create Temporary Mulching Site for Flood Debris  
Mr. Steve Jenkins graciously made this available to the County in order to open a temporary mulch site for debris caused by the flooding. This will be at no cost to the County and will be for a period of six weeks, and will be at the former windmill lay down site. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

## **10. General Public Comment**

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Michael Mudge of 101 Oak St in Cumberland - Asked the Commissioners to consider appointing a chairman to gather a committee for the America250 celebration. He also asked if the Commissioners are involved in the appointment of the library's Board of Trustees members, which they are, and therefore, Mr. Mudge would like to see a member appointed from the Westernport area.

## **11. Reports**

- A. County Administrator  
Thanked all the County staff, the first responders, the volunteer firefighters, the other counties and states, Major Morgan and his team, the Governor and his staff, and all of the support received from so many during the flooding emergency. Talked about the impact it has had on the media, and how many people saw the news stories and social media posts, and is very proud of who Allegany County is.
- B. County Attorney  
Talked about the recent flooding disaster we had in the Georges Creek area, how much of an impact it has had on him and our community, the resiliency of the people of Georges Creek, and how proud he is of our County staff for the long, hard work they have put in so far.

## **12. Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Atkinson - Talked about how impressed he is with the County staff and how hard they work, and how resilient the citizens of this County really are, and was happy to see that reflected in the news stories.
- Commissioner Caporale - Also mentioned the resiliency of the citizens, especially of the Georges Creek area. He thanked Roger Bennett, Adam Patterson, Jason Bennett, and Kati Kenney in particular for all the hard work they put in. Encouraged people to donate funds, supplies, or time to the flood victims, and to keep them in your prayers. He also welcomed Delfest back, and wished everyone a happy Memorial Day weekend.

### **13. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings**

A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, May 29, 2025, 5:00 PM

### **14. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:38 PM.