

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, June 12, 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 5:00PM on 6/12/2025. 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. Upon Motion made by County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, seconded by County Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr., 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 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.

6. Presentations

7. Public Hearing

8. Action Agenda & Public Comment

A. Ratification of Emergency Procurements Pursuant to Resolution 25-04 - **Dan DeWitt, P.E., County Engineer**

Resolution 25-04 was adopted on May 22, 2025 to temporarily suspend the provisions of Allegany County Code Section 38-8 (concerning procurement of bids and contracts for necessary public work or improvements or for the purchase of supplies and equipment) for a period of sixty days (subsequent to the flash flooding event in Allegany County on May 13, 2025). The Allegany County Department of Public Works has authorized numerous emergency procurements since the adoption of Resolution 25-04. Subject to the terms set forth in Resolution 25-04, the County Commissioners must ratify these emergency procurements at the next public business meeting after the procurements were authorized. The procurements are made part of the agenda packet. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

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.

B. Ratification of Extension of Labor-Management Agreement with International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1715 - **T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney**

This Association represents the County's EMS employees, and the current agreement was entered into in 2021, and was set to expire June 30, 2025. The Association asked the Commissioners to grant a one year extension to the current agreement, in which they would receive the same benefits, including a 2% COLA, but no additional asks. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

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.

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. Approve Purchase of Used 2021 Caterpillar Roller for Roads Division in the amount of \$125,000
This would be from Cleveland Brothers in Murrys ville, PA. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- B. Approval of the Allegany County Resource Recovery Facility Transfer Station Surety Bond with Harco National Insurance Company
This is required by MDE, and is for the Burgmeier transfer station that is coming to the County. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- C. Audit Services Engagement Letter for a 5-Year Extension with Turnbull Hoover & Kahl P.A. for FY25 - FY29
Initial price will be \$111,900 with 2% increases in the years after that. This firm is the only local firm left who does governmental audits, and have serviced the County since the 1980s. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- D. Declaration of Surplus Vehicles (Two 2017 Ford E-350 Phoenix Cutaway Buses) from Transit
These will be disposed of in accordance with County policy.
- E. Five FY25 Budget Amendments for Various Items
This includes an increase to EMS, both revenues and expenditures, in the amount of \$350,000; \$1,000,000 to account for Program Open Space activity; Sheriff's office in the amount of \$400,000 to account for grants they received and the expenditures associated with them; State's Attorney's office in the amount of \$272,000 for the same reason as the Sheriff's office; and \$1,300,000 for the bulk of which is income tax over-payment - the State over allocated the County funds a few years back because of lottery proceeds, and now are adjusting the County's income tax. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

- F. Memorandum of Understanding between Allegany College of Maryland and Allegany County Commissioners on the use of Western Maryland Works Makerspace for the Acceleration Trail Business Incubator Tenants

This will be at a monthly cost to them of \$35. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

10. General Public Comment

- A. Constituents who Signed up to Speak at this Evening's Meeting:

- Ed Taylor of 400 S Allegany St in Cumberland - Serving as President of the Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization, had follow up comments regarding the issue of their organization's newsletter not being displayed in the libraries, which was brought up at a Commissioners' meeting a month and a half ago.
- Peggy Keene of 309 SKyview Dr in LaVale - Followed up on her concern she had with a construction company who is building houses on her street. Wanted to thank the Commissioners for sending someone up there to let them know clean up was needed.

Several citizens signed up to discuss concerns, and ask for help, with the high cost of water and sewer rates, with some bringing examples of other counties taking over a private water service that was providing services to citizens of that county:

- Chris Offutt of 15202 Brandywine Dr in Cumberland
- Kim Twigg of 16137 McMullen Hwy in Cumberland
- Joe Bonella of 15200 Brandywine Dr in Cumberland
- Bruce McBride of 14125 Louise Dr in Cumberland
- Cathy Glessner of 14123 Louise Dr in Cumberland
- Grant van Wine garden of 14712 Barton Blvd in Cumberland
- Vikki Border of 14717 Barton Blvd in Cumberland
- Dr. Larry Smith of 15201 Brandywine Dr in Cumberland

Mr. Bennett acknowledged receipt of the letter and petition, and talked about a meeting he, Commissioner Caporale, and Attorney Beeman had with Maryland Water Service. At this meeting, they asked many questions with answers pending. The County had to reach back out to Maryland Water Service for answers at which time they learned the system was being sold to American Water Service. Mr. Bennett has set up a meeting with this new company in the upcoming week and will hope to get more answers from them. There was a press release put out earlier today that explained.

The Commissioners did agree to set up a meeting with the State, Federal, and citizens to discuss further and options there may be, including eminent domain.

- B. Letter from Concerned Citizens of Bel Air, Pinto, Glen Oaks, and Highland Estates in Reference to Maryland Water Service

A letter and petition of 1,200 signatures was sent to the Commissioners dated March 28, 2025. A copy of this letter has been attached and made available as part of the agenda packet.

11. Reports

- A. County Administrator

Wanted to mention again, that the County received \$459,000 from the State of Maryland this week, directly from the Governor, for State disaster recovery funds. The County is coming up with a plan to expend those dollars in the upcoming weeks.

B. County Attorney

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

12. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Atkinson - Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.
- Commissioner Brodie - Agreed with the citizens who are customers of Maryland Water Service, and spoke of how disgusted and upset he is about the whole situation.
- Commissioner Caporale - Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.

13. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, June 26, 2025, 5:00 PM

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 06:54 PM.