

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, July 10, 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 7/10/2025. 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

There were no additions or deletions to the 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

7. Public Hearing

8. Action Agenda & Public Comment

A. Appointment of Roger Bennett as Director of Emergency Services - **Jason Bennett, CPA, County Administrator**

Mr. Roger Bennett has been serving in this role since last October and has been with the County since 2009, originally being hired as the 911 Division Chief then served as Deputy Director of DES. Before coming to the County, he did three years with the Maryland Department of Emergency Management, and before working for the State he served 23 years in the US Navy. Mr. Bennett is also heavily involved in the volunteer fire service. The Commissioners not only thanked Roger for the way he has managed the emergency response to the flood, but also his leadership at the time he took over in October. Commissioner Atkinson he is proud to have Roger as the Director of Emergency Services. 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.

Mr. Roger Bennett approached the podium to thank the Commissioners for their approval and confidence in him, and gave credit to his staff for all their hard work and success over the past eight months.

B. Ratification #3 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 this Resolution, the County Commissioners must ratify these emergency Procurements at the next public business meeting after the Procurements were authorized. This is the third round of emergency Procurements, and are made part of the agenda packet. 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.

C. Request to modify Resolution 25-04 - **T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney**

Mr. Beeman presented Resolution 25-08 which is an amendment to Resolution 25-04. 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.) Resolution 25-08 extends the sixty day period to an additional thirty days.

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

D. Memorandum of Agreement with Port River West - **Jason Bennett, County Administrator**

Asking the Commissioners to memorialize the partnership with Port River West, which is the group that has been formed to do demolition on the mill. The County has been fortunate enough to partner with this group to purchase the mill in a public/private partnership. Port River West, made up of Bill Miller Equipment and Firestone Restorations, has agreed to invest \$2 million into the mill property to acquire all the above ground assets so long as the County helps them to acquire all of the ground on both Maryland and West Virginia sides, which has been done. This will allow for continuation of the demo and marketing of the property for redevelopment in hope of bringing jobs to the area. All

revenues will be shared 50/50, unless PRW brings the entity to the County, then PRW will get a 60/40 share. This is a 30 year agreement.

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

- E. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding and Program Guidelines Between Allegany County Board of Commissioners and Frostburg Mayor and City Council for the Frostburg Stabilization Grant Program - **Adam Strott, Economic Development Specialist**

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) awarded Allegany County \$250,000.00 for the stabilization of historic buildings along Frostburg's Main Street through its Strategic Demolition Fund. This program is a partnership between the City of Frostburg and Allegany County, as the former will be identifying projects for award, while the latter will be awarding and administering the grant funds. The attached memorandum of understanding (MOU) and program guidelines provides details of how this relationship will be defined, and allows for the program to move forward. 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. 2025 County Fair Contracts
This would authorize the Fairgrounds manager to negotiate and execute all the contracts for the Fair, as he has done for many years. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- B. AllOne Health (formerly Deer Oaks) Service Agreement Renewal for Employee Assistance Program
This would be from a period of August 1, 2025 through June 20, 2028, and reflects a slight increase in cost. This is a free program for County employees for any assistance they may need. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- C. Authorizing Community Enhancement Program Grants for Demolition for Queen City Liquors at 806 North Mechanic Street in Cumberland and She's So Pretty Clothing Store at 1 Main Street in Frostburg
DECD is requesting a \$24,850 reimbursement for Queen City Liquors and a \$25,000 reimbursement for She's So Pretty. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- D. Award FY26 Bid for Delivered Cleaned-Washed Crushed Stone
This is being awarded to Allegany Aggregates in the amount of \$206,823. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- E. Award FY26 Bid for Emulsified Asphalt
This is being awarded to Midland Asphalt Materials from Clearfield, PA at a price of \$2.19 per gallon. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- F. Award FY26 Contract for Unleaded Gasoline & Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel
This is being awarded to Oakland Oil and Propane from Cumberland in the amount of \$838,000. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- G. Community Event Promotion Request for the 2025 Ellerslie Day's Annual Festival in the amount of \$500
This event will be held July 25-27, 2025. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- H. Declaration of Surplus Equipment from DPW - Maintenance Division

This includes two generators and one transfer switch. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

I. Fairgrounds Emergency Operations Plan

This plan provides guidance to be followed in support of response and recovery operations relevant to emergencies and natural and man-made disasters. This is its first update since its adoption in 2012. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

J. Federal Transit Administration - Certifications and Assurances

These are needed in conjunction with Transit's application for Federal and State financial assistance. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

K. Lease Option with Off the Grid Energy Works, Inc. for 16.48 acres of land in Beryl, West Virginia

This is the former Luke paper mill site. This is an option for 180 days for the company to explore building a natural gas plant. Afterward, if this were to be approved, there will be a lease agreement for \$5,000 per acre. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

L. Memorandum of Understanding with Western Maryland Climbing Coalition

This is for a future project to install climbing infrastructure along or near the GAP trail. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

M. VOCA Grant Acceptance

This is for Jane's Place and in the amount of \$279,000 for operating expenses, and it comes from the Governor's office of Crime Control and Prevention. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

N. 9-1-1 Board Project #25-328 Acceptance

This is in the amount of \$286,000 for Priority Dispatch - QPR system. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

O. 9-1-1 Board Project #25-329 Acceptance

This is in the amount of \$30,100 for GIS data hosting. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

P. 9-1-1 Board Project #25-330 Acceptance

This is in the amount of \$51,900 for phone system redundant circuits. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

Q. 9-1-1 Board Project #25-340 Acceptance

This is in the amount of \$16,704.12 for VESTA call handling maintenance - April 2025. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

R. 9-1-1 Board Project #25-341 Acceptance

This is in the amount of \$16,704.12 for VESTA call handling maintenance - May 2025. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

S. 9-1-1 Board Project #25-342 Acceptance

This is in the amount of \$16,704.12 for VESTA call handling maintenance - June 2025. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

T. 9-1-1 Board Project #25-343 Acceptance

This is in the amount of \$2,330 for ESRI annual service agreement. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

U. 9-1-1 Board Project #25-374 Acceptance

This is in the amount of \$65,721.11 for PSAP furniture upgrade. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

V. 9-1-1 Board Project #25-379 Acceptance

This is in the amount of \$16,704.12 for VESTA call handling maintenance - July 2025. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

10. General Public Comment

No one signed up to speak during the General Public Comment section of the agenda.

11. Reports

A. County Administrator

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

B. County Attorney

Congratulated Roger Bennett on his appointment to Director of Emergency Services.

12. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Atkinson - Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.
- Commissioner Caporale - Congratulated Roger Bennett on his appointment to Director of Emergency Services, and reminded everyone to go out and enjoy the County Fair this week.

13. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

- A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, July 24, 2025, 5:00 PM

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:15 PM.