

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, July 24, 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 7/24/2025. 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

A. Statement Regarding the Closed Session Held on Thursday, July 10, 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 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. Ratification #4 of Emergency Procurements Pursuant to Res. 25-04 & 25-08 - **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.) Resolution 25-08 was then adopted on July 10, 2025 to extend the sixty day period to an additional thirty days. 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 fourth 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.

B. Annual Reapproval of Property Tax Credit for Fiscal Year 2026 - **T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney** Pursuant to Tax Property Article §9-302(b), a property tax credit is granted for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for properties belonging to the following entities:

- LaVale Lions Foundation, Inc.
- Cumberland Cultural Foundation
- Allegany County Agricultural Expo
- Carver Community Center, Inc.
- The Lions Center for Rehabilitation and Extended Care, Inc.
- Allegany County Animal Shelter Management Foundation, Inc.
- Western Maryland Scenic Railroad Development Corp.
- Cumberland Economic Development Corporation
- Evergreen Heritage Center

Pursuant to Tax Property Article §9-302(c), a property tax credit is granted for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for the following entities:

- United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Local 1024

Pursuant to Tax Property Article §9-302(f), a property tax credit is granted for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for the following entity:

- Cumberland Outdoor Club

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 PIGF FY26 Grant for the Sheriffs Office
This is in the amount of \$269,000 and comes from the Governor's Office of Crime, Control, and Prevention. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- B. Accept the PIGF FY26 Diversion Grant for the State's Attorney's Office
This is in the amount of \$118,000 and comes from the Governor's Office of Crime, Control, and Prevention. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- C. Accept the RGNV FY26 Grant for Regional Navigator at Jane's Place
This is in the amount of \$73,000 to fund salary and fringe in that organization. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- D. Accept the WAAG FY26 Grant for the Sheriffs Office
This is in the amount of \$27,440 for overtime and \$2,500 for deputy meals while performing extraditions. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- E. Accept the CACS FY26 Grant for Jane's Place
This is in the amount of \$12,000. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- F. Accept the CGPF FY26 for the Sheriffs Office
This is in the amount of \$35,000 and will be used for overtime and supplies. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- G. Accept the PRAR FY26 Grant for the Sheriffs Office
This is in the amount of \$10,840 for training of staff. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- H. Award Contract for Updating the 2014 Comprehensive Plan to Smith Planning & Design
This is in the amount of \$110,180 which will be paid out of the operating budget for Planning and Zoning. This was previously put out to bid and it is required by law to update this plan every 10 years. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- I. Joint-Use Agreement with Allegany College of Maryland
This is required in order to receive Program Open Space funds. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- J. Joint-Use Agreement with Cresaptown Civic Improvement Association
This is required in order to receive 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:

- Rob Rephan of 263 E Main St in Frostburg - Came to discuss ways to better serve tourists who visit the depot via the train, and have no way of getting up to Main St. Asked the Commissioners for a meeting at the Depot when the train comes in so they can see the amount of people who come here, but are underserved by the area because of the obstacles getting up to the main area of Frostburg and would like to see tourists have a better experience.
- Jay Michels of 155 Burkhart Rd in Ridgeley, WV - Owns Clyde's River Guides & Outfitters and has not been able to operate this season because of the notice to stay out of the river. Asked the County for better communication with the public on the situation of raw sewage continuing to enter waterways.
- Ehna Warren of 1099 Palo Alto Rd in Hyndman, PA - Business partner of Mr. Michels, expressed the same concerns with the lack of communication from the County.

- Olivine Phoenix of 128 E College Ave in Frostburg - Came in support of Clyde's and made the Commissioners aware that the citizens and tourists of Allegany County are going to Pennsylvania and elsewhere in order to get the floating experience.

11. Reports

A. County Administrator

- Bel Air Water situation - Still owe the public a meeting, and are working with the delegation to set up a time and date, hopefully in August or September. Attorney Beeman and Mr. Bennett have a meeting set up with the Public Service Commission, and have two meetings set up with American Water over the next few weeks.
- FEMA funding was not received. Governor's office and MDEM have already started work on an appeal, and have some meetings set up where there will be discussions on what needs done for the appeal.

B. County Attorney

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

12. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Atkinson - Shared that a note of appreciation for Administrator Bennett from Dr. Larry Smith, who is the chair of the citizens committee for the Bel Air (and other areas) water situation, was received. Echoed sentiments from that note of Administrator Bennett's dedication. Also gave an update on the initial "one-stop" application in order for flood victims to receive funding. The application process has closed, and caseworkers will be reaching out to individual property owners now through mid-August.
- Commissioner Caporale - Thanked everyone for being here tonight, and appreciates the input.

13. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. NEXT MEETING - August 7, 2025, 5:00 PM

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:52 PM.