

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, August 7, 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 8/7/2025. 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

- A. Chief Robert H. "Bob" Shimer Public Service Awards - **Roger Bennett, Director of Emergency Services**
The Chief Robert H. "Bob" Shimer Public Service Award is presented annually by the Allegany County Emergency Services Board. The Award is intended to honor the memory of Chief Robert H. "Bob" Shimer for his lifetime of tireless and selfless work in the area of public safety, especially in the fire and rescue discipline. Additionally, the Award is intended to reward the efforts of a deserving individual or group who demonstrates a continuous, effective or creative commitment to service the citizens of

Allegany County in a manner commensurate with the way Chief Shimer did as he unknowingly set the standard for public service through his efforts to protect the citizens by strengthening the fire and rescue service.

The 2023 award was presented to Clarence "CB" Broadwater and the 2025 award was presented to Gene Kidwell, both members of Lonaconing's Goodwill Volunteer Fire Company. Mr. Roger Bennett spoke a little about each person's background and individually presented the awards, at which time the recipients' family members were invited up to take a picture.

7. Public Hearing

8. Action Agenda & Public Comment

A. Ratification #5 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 and Resolution 25-08. 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. This is the fifth 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: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Seconded: William R. Atkinson. Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale. No: None. Abstain: None.

B. Resolution 25-10, Request to modify Resolution 25-04 - T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney

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 for an additional thirty days. The Department of Public Works has identified the need for another additional thirty days. Attorney Beeman presented Resolution 25-10, which will push back the extension date to September 20, 2025. 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.

C. Lease Agreement for a Portion of Building 19 with Geocycle, LLC - Jeff Barclay, Director of Economic and Community Development

Geocycle, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, has expressed interest to lease more building space from the County. Geocycle, LLC currently leases the 40,000 square foot building near Rawlings to produce an alternative fuel mixture for the Holcim concrete plant in Hagerstown. Geocycle is in need of additional building space due to bidding on two additional material handling contracts. The

initial lease is for 27,105 square feet of Building 19 in the Riverside Industrial Park. The term is 15 months in duration, with the initial 6 months being a month-to-month lease and an option to an additional five years after the initial 15 months. The lease includes an option to lease an additional 39,343 square feet of space in Building 19 on the same terms and conditions set forth. 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.

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. Resolution 25-09, Rules & Regulations Governing Employees of Allegany County - Job Descriptions and Grade Allocation Table
This is adding a new job description for Liquor Board Administrator, and two new positions within the States Attorney's office - Supervisor of District Court and Chief of Felony Prosecution. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- B. Accept FY23 State and Local Cyber Security Grant Funding
This is in the amount of \$67,000 for SecuLore CyberSight security. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- C. Accept the SFY 2026/FFY 2025 Homelessness Solutions Program Grant
This is in the amount of \$427,985 which will be split between HRDC, Family Crisis Resource Center, DSS, and HRDC Youth Program. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- D. Allegany County Administrative Charging Committee Appointment of Jon Dudiak
This will be for a three year term which will expire on August 7, 2028. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- E. Amendment to the Home Stretch - Difficult to Serve Properties Program Grant Agreement
This was originally executed in August 2024. The funding cap is now 294,000 and the project deadline is extended to September 30, 2026. This amendment will also allow Comcast to directly receive funds and carry out broadband deployment at 39 pre-identified, difficult-to-serve properties. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- F. Approve Purchase of Vehicle for Detention Center Administration in the amount of \$17,000
The vehicle is a 2017 Ford Explorer being purchased from Corriganville Auto Sales. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- G. Community Events Promotion Request from Savage Mountain Punk Arts in the amount of \$1,000
This is for three different events the organization holds throughout the year. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- H. Community Events Promotion Request from Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization Inc. in the amount of \$1,000
This will help the organization promote their historic cemetery tours held during Heritage Days. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- I. Maryland 9-1-1 Board Acceptance Project 26-006
This is in the amount of \$11,312 for Network Maryland Service Charges. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- J. Maryland 9-1-1 Board Acceptance Project 26-008

This is in the amount of \$16,704 for VESTA Call Handling Annual Maintenance. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

K. Maryland 9-1-1 Board Acceptance Project 26-009

This is in the amount of \$123,231 for Next Gen Core Annual Service. 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

- Bel Air water situation update - Administrator Bennett and Attorney Beeman had a meeting with the Maryland Public Service Commission to learn a little bit about the process. There has been no filing as of yet for transfer of ownership. There is also a meeting scheduled with American Water Service during the MACo annual conference. As of now, the meeting requested by citizens and customers of this water service is still being planned.
- FEMA funding update - The State is appealing the FEMA funding denial, and it is believed to be filed next week. FEMA has validated more expenses for the County to count toward the former total of \$15.8 million.

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 - Congratulated audience member Bobby Ritchie for his newly elected position on the town council of Lonaconing. Also congratulated the recipients of the Shimer Awards.
- Commissioner Caporale - Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.

13. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, August 21, 2025, 5:00 PM

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:20 PM.