

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, November 6, 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 11/6/2025. 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

As discussed in the Work Session, Item E of the Consent Agenda needs amended to include the appointment of Brett Lysinger as Chair of the Animal Control Board.

Motion: Amend, By: David J. Caporale, Seconded: William R. Atkinson. Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale. No: None. Abstain: None.

After amending the agenda, it was then approved by the Commissioners.

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.

4. Statement of Closed Meeting

A. The Board of County Commissioners did not meet in Closed Session on October 30, 2025.

5. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes

Upon Motion made by County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, seconded by County Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr., and duly carried, the Minutes from the previous public business meeting were approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

6. Presentations

A. Announcement and Summary of Open Meetings Act Compliance Board Opinion - **David J. Caporale, Commission President**

Attorney Beeman explained a decision from the Open Meetings Compliance Board has been received in relation to a complaint filed with the Board in which violations were found. Commissioner Caporale then read a statement summarizing the opinion of the Open Meetings Compliance Board finding that Allegany County violated the Open Meetings Act by advertising a closed session as "closed" and not "open subject to being closed," exceeding the scope of a closed session authority, and failing to incorporate a closed session statement into the minutes for the following public business meeting. Commissioner Caporale's full statement can be heard here: <https://alleganycomd.portal.civicclerk.com/event/831/media>

Mr. Beeman gave the written decision to the Commissioners to sign. He then explained how progress has been made in regard to these findings, and corrections have since been made.

B. Veterans Day Employee Recognition - **Kristi Liller, Director of Human Resources**

Allegany County Government held its annual Veterans Day observance. We celebrate Veterans Day to recognize those from all branches of the armed forces who put their lives on the line to defend the freedoms that we so often take for granted. Tonight, employees of Allegany County, as well as members of the general public, who proudly served the United States Armed Forces were publicly honored. These individuals served the nation with honor and at great personal sacrifice. Ms. Liller recognized the 23 Allegany County employees who have identified themselves as veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces. These 23 individuals have a combined total of 153 years of total service, representing multiple branches. Allegany County Government is very proud to employ veterans and provides up to 15 calendar days of paid military leave to eligible employees on an annual basis for training purposes. Ms. Liller then asked for a round of applause to recognize all veterans, both employees of the County and the general public, for their courage and honor. Allegany County Government would like to publicly express sincere gratitude to all veterans for their unwavering commitment to country, justice, and democracy.

7. Public Hearing

8. Action Agenda & Public Comment

A. Ratification #12 of Emergency Procurements Pursuant to Res. 25-04, 25-08, & 25-10 - **Daniel S. 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. Furthermore, another additional thirty days was granted under the adoption of Resolution 25-10 on August 7, 2025. The Allegany County Department of Public Works has authorized numerous emergency Procurements since the adoption of these Resolutions. 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 twelfth round of emergency Procurements, and are made part of the agenda packet.

Starting with the Public Business Meeting on October 2, 2025, any Procurements brought before the

Commissioners for approval are for work initiated and procured prior to the expiration of the Procurement suspension. No emergency Procurements have been made subsequent to the September 20, 2025 deadline.

The total amount for this round of Procurements is \$225,800.44, which brings the grand total to just over \$6 million. There are still several projects to be finished, which will bring the total expected amount to approximately \$7.5 million.

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. Accept the Closed Landfill Testing Proposal from Mountain Research, LLC for the total amount of \$59,096.60 - Daniel S. DeWitt, P.E., County Engineer

In order to complete the required testing on closed landfills, the County needed to procure new professional services. The company who previously provided these services, recently notified the County they are unable to provide these services anymore. Per County Code, professional services procurement is based on the digression of the County for the services needed. The Department of Public Works invited businesses to submit proposals for this testing and two bids were received. One was from Mountain Research, LLC and the other from Maryland Environmental Services. Both proposals met the needs of the DPW, however the proposal from Mountain Research, LLC was significantly lower than the one from Maryland Environmental Services. The DPW staff recommends accepting the proposal from Mountain Research, LLC.

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.

Mr. Michael Mudge of 101 Oak St in Cumberland signed up to speak on Item B - Approve the HSI Contract Renewal for Thinkzoom Online Employee Training Portal in the amount of \$22,313.50. Commissioner Caporale invited him up to the podium before the Consent Agenda was summarized by Administrator Bennett. Mr. Mudge asked if the HSI training classes are a DEI program and if it's something the State of Maryland has mandated the County to do. Commissioner Caporale explained to Mr. Mudge that it is a liability issue, working through CareFirst. Mr. Bennett explained it is an online platform on a variety of topics, is partially paid for by Wellness dollars through CareFirst, and is topic based.

- A. Accept 9-1-1 Board Funding for Project #26-130 in the amount of \$3,837.35

These funds will be used for a fiber upgrade at the backup 911 center. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

- B. Approve the HSI Contract Renewal for Thinkzoom Online Employee Training Portal in the amount of \$22,313.50

This is for a renewal period beginning on December 1, 2025 and ending on November 30, 2026, and half of this is covered by Wellness dollars the County receives from CareFirst. There was one person who signed up to speak on this item, Mr. Michael Mudge. Commissioner Caporale invited Mr. Mudge to speak before the consent agenda was read by Administrator Bennett.

- C. Approve the Purchase of a Double-Sided LED Sign for the Detention Center in the amount of \$17,471.29
This will replace the current sign which is original to the facility, and is coming from Steward Signs and will be paid for using grant funding from the Friends Research Institute. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- D. Authorize the Department of Emergency Services to Accept and Execute Stryker Preventative Maintenance Agreements in the total amount of \$113,822.31
This will allow Stryker to provide scheduled inspections, maintenance, documentation, and service to support to ensure the EMS Division's medical equipment remains reliable, safe, and compliant. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- E. Approve the Appointments of Dr. John Gustafson, Christina Getty, Linda Steele and Regina Hamm to the Allegany County Animal Control Board and to Appoint Ex-Officio Member Brett Lysinger as the Chair (Item amended at the start of the BOCC Public Business Meeting)
There are also two ex-officio members, Brian Dicken (the Health Officer designee) and Brett Lysinger (the Sheriff's designee) who will serve on this Board. The amendment to the agenda item would allow Brett Lysinger to serve as the Board's chair for the first year. There is still one open seat, which shall be held by a representative of a local humane society, and staff is working on getting a larger pool of applicants for that appointment. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- F. Approve the Appointments of Danielle Lessard, Jessica Hook, and Ashley Drake to the Allegany County Ethics Commission
They will join current member Bruce Kirkwood to form a Board of four. One seat remains vacant, which staff will continue to accept applications and work on getting that filled. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- G. Approve and Authorize the County Administrator to Sign the Annual Attestation of CareFirst Gag Clause Prohibition
This is for the County's CareFirst health care plan, complies with the Consolidated Appropriations Act. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- H. Approve a Community Events Promotion Request for the 28th Annual Turkey Day Race in the amount of \$100
The proceeds from this event help support the Mountain Ridge High School Cross-Country, Indoor, and Outdoor track teams. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- I. Approve a Community Events Promotion Request from the Town of Westernport in the amount of \$500
This donation will help support the annual Christmas tree lighting event and the annual Tri-Towns Christmas parade. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.
- J. Approve a Community Events Promotion Request from the Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation, Inc.'s 20th Annual Robert Burns Night in the amount of \$1,000
The proceeds from this event help support the area's four RiteCare Early Childhood Speech and Language Disorder Clinics managed and operated by the The Children's League. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

10. General Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Dr. Larry Smith of 15201 Brandywine Dr in Bel Air - Dr. Smith sent a correspondence to each Commissioner asking for their support of Senator McKay's letter to the Governor requesting a State of Emergency be declared for the citizens of Bel Air, Glen Oaks, Pinto, and Highland Estates Dr. This

correspondence was discussed in the Public Work Session prior to the Public Business Meeting, and Dr. Smith asked the Commissioners to brief him on what was discussed.

11. Reports

A. County Administrator

Spoke about the Animal Shelter, and how people were asked to hold on giving monetary donations because there was no good vehicle for it. The County is working with the Community Trust Foundation to see if there is something we can temporarily set up for these types of donations. Other donations, like food, are still being accepted.

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

13. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

- ### **A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, November 20, 2025, 5:00 PM**

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:25 PM.