

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, November 20, 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 11/20/2025. 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

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

A. The Board of County Commissioners did not meet in Closed Session on November 6, 2025.

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. Code Home Rule Bill 2-25 - Introduction - "An Act to Amend the Public Ethics Laws of Allegany County, Maryland" - T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney

As discussed during the previous public work session, the County's Ethics Code needs updated to meet the requirements of the State's Ethics Code. This is only an introduction of the bill, and a public hearing will be held during the next public business meeting, Thursday, December 4, 2025. This day has been declared a legislative day, so following the public hearing, the Commissioners could take action if they so choose to do so. This Code Home Rule Bill will be published by the Clerk and available on the website for anyone who wishes to review it. No action was taken on this item, as it is only an introduction. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

B. Approve Allegany County Board of Education FY2027 Capital Improvement Program - Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works

Per the Administrative Procedure for the Public School Construction Program, the Board of Commissioners of Allegany County must approve the Board of Education's FY2027 Capital Improvement Program. The projects requesting funding for FY2027 are as follows:

Project	Total Allocation	State Allocation	Local Allocation
Washington Middle ECC Addition	\$1,933,230	\$1,720,575	\$212,655
Washington Middle Chilled Water Plant	\$2,750,000	\$2,612,500	\$137,500
Braddock Middle Chilled Water Plant	\$2,750,000	\$2,612,500	\$137,500
TOTALS	\$7,433,230	\$6,945,575	\$487,655

The local funding necessary for these projects is \$487,655. The local share of funding for these projects has been approved in prior Capital Improvement Programs.

Approval is hereby recommended for the FY2027 BOE CIP. The Allegany County CIP Committee will be working closely with the Board of Education to ensure future plans for renovation and/or replacement (beyond the projects shown in the above table) are appropriately programmed to maximize usage of available State and local funding. 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.

C. Ratification #13 of Emergency Procurements Pursuant to Res. 25-04, 25-08, & 25-10 - Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works

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 thirteenth 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 \$387,300.44, which brings the running total to approximately \$6.4 million. 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.

D. State of Emergency Support Letter for Utility Rates for Residents of Bel Air, Pinto, Glen Oaks, and Highland Estates - Jason Bennett, CPA, County Administrator

Senator McKay submitted a letter to the Governor asking for a State of Emergency to be declared. It was discussed at the previous Public Work Session that the citizens are urging the Commissioners to also send a letter supporting this endeavor. A letter was drafted by staff asking the Governor to declare a State of Emergency for those areas; temporarily halt water shut-offs for affected residents; deploy mobile water sanitation units for short-term relief; direct the Public Service Commission to review Maryland Water Service rates and billing practices; and to collaborate with Maryland Department of Environment to fast track any funding assistance programs. With this, the hope is to allow Attorney General Anthony Brown to investigate business practices with that system. Also in the letter, the Director of Public Works has comprised a comparison table of the water rates of these citizens with the rest of the County citizens. The Commissioners agreed to sign and send the letter. The signed letter is made part of these minutes. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

E. ARC Grant Application Support Letter for the River Park at Canal Place Marketing Plan - Jason Bennett, CPA, County Administrator

This would be for the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority to develop marketing support and communicate with community to keep them informed on what is going on. The Commissioners agreed to sign and send the letter. The signed letter is made part of these minutes. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

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. Adopt Resolution 25-13 for USDA Grant Funding for Biofuel Development Opportunity Zone Initiative Rating Project for the Luke Mill

This would authorize the County to take action to acquire a grant not to exceed \$125,000. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

B. Approve the Appointment of Shawn Grove to the Allegany County Ethics Commission

This will fill the last and fifth seat on that Commission. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

C. Authorize the Department of Emergency Services to Accept the Quote from Midpoint Technologies in the amount of \$66,925.62

This will be for the installation of cameras, access control, and Genetec software at the George's Creek Ambulance building to ensure continuity with the rest of the Department of Emergency Services. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

D. Declare Vehicles Surplus and Authorize Disposal in Accordance with County Policy for the Sheriff's Department

These vehicles are a 2010 Chevrolet Camaro and a 2012 Chevrolet Utility Van. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

E. Execute an Agreement with Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC to Support Broadband Expansion under the Connect Maryland: FY24 Home Stretch Program

This will allow Comcast to identify eligible unserved locations and construct the necessary broadband infrastructure using the \$231,313.65 grant from the State. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

10. General Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Kit Pepper LeScallete of 211 James Ct in Frostburg - Concerned that no financial disclosure reports have been filed by the Commissioners since 2021, and further more, the County Administrator and the County Attorney have never filed these reports. Questioned why this is not happening, and asked the Commissioners, along with the Administrator and Attorney, if they would commit to filing them.
- Dr. Larry Smith of 15201 Brandywine Dr in Bel Air - Thanked the Commissioners for approving a letter of support to the Governor consistent with the letter sent by Senator McKay. He also asked the Commissioners if they received and sent a copy of the study conducted that revealed the highest water rates in the country.
- Timothy Herbert Blase of 18106 Malcolm Rd in Oldtown (Asked to speak immediately before Adjournment) - Has been having major issues with his neighbor, who has threatened him and guests of his.

11. Reports

A. County Administrator

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

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 - Thanked everyone for being there, and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

13. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, December 4, 2025, 5:00 PM

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:41 PM.



Board of County Commissioners

David J. Caporale, President

William R. Atkinson, Commissioner

Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Commissioner

Jason M. Bennett, CPA, Administrator

T. Lee Beeman, Esq, Attorney

November 20, 2025

Governor Wes Moore
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21402-1925

Governor Moore:

We are writing to express our strong support for Senator Mike McKay's October 27, 2025 request asking you to declare a State of Emergency due to the ongoing unaffordable water and sewer crisis affecting residents in several Allegany County communities, including Bel Air, Pinto, Glen Oaks, and Highland Estates.

We fully support Senator McKay's outlined urgent actions, including:

- Declaring a State of Emergency for Bel Air, Pinto, Glen Oaks, and Highland Estates
- Temporarily halting water shutoffs for affected residents
- Deploying mobile water and sanitation units to provide short-term relief
- Directing the Public Service Commission to review Maryland Water Service's rates and billing practices
- Collaborating with the Maryland Department of the Environment to fast-track emergency funding and assistance programs

Declaring a State of Emergency will also empower Attorney General Anthony Brown to investigate the business practices of the company managing the water and sewer system. Included below is a table comparing rates for residents in these affected areas against those paid by other Allegany County residents served by municipalities or the County, highlighting the extreme disparity and the burden on one of Maryland's lowest per-capita-income counties.

Allegany County Utility Cost Comparison (FY 2026)		
Location	Annual Water Cost	\$/1,000 Gallon
Cumberland	\$ 405.22	\$ 10.13
LaVale	\$ 558.40	\$ 13.96
Frostburg	\$ 348.00	\$ 8.70
County (Frostburg-Water)	\$ 672.00	\$ 16.80
County (Cumberland - Small District)	\$ 980.00	\$ 24.50
MD Water Service	\$ 1,626.56	\$ 40.60

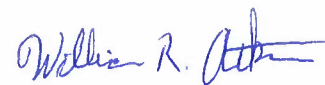
*Based on 40,000 gallons/year. Based on \$150,000 assessed value

Governor Moore, you have stood by our residents during times of need, and we are again asking for your leadership and support for Marylanders who are facing this urgent crisis. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,


David J. Caporale
President


Creade V. Brodie, Jr.
Commissioner


William R. Atkinson
Commissioner

November 20, 2025

Mr. David Cotton
ARC Program Manager
Maryland Department of Planning
101 Braddock Road
Lowndes Hall, Suite 111
Frostburg, Maryland 21532

Dear Mr. Cotton:

The Board of Allegany County Commissioners would like to express our support for the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority (CPPDA) in their application to the Appalachian Regional Commission for the River Park at Canal Place marketing project, which will enable the CPPDA to develop much-needed marketing support around the project to communicate and keep the community informed. The CPPDA intends to provide the community with transparent information as the project progresses. This will foster support within the community and local stakeholders.

Allegany County, Maryland, and the City of Cumberland are gateway communities with extensive public lands, trails, and waterways that form the backbone of the region's outdoor recreation and tourism. These natural assets provide residents and visitors alike with opportunities for hiking, paddling, biking, and other activities that promote health, well-being, and community connection. For our businesses, access to these rivers and trails brings a steady stream of outdoor enthusiasts, supporting lodging, dining, and retail, while helping build a vibrant, thriving community where both locals and visitors choose to spend time and money.

We appreciate the collaboration between Allegany County, the City of Cumberland, and CPPDA to advance this project, which will enhance regional recreational and tourism infrastructure and support the growth of businesses. We strongly encourage the support of this project, which will deliver measurable economic, environmental, and community benefits.

Sincerely,



David R. Caporale
Commission President
Allegany County Commissioners