

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, January 15, 2026 - 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 1/15/2026. 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 Creade V. Brodie, Jr., seconded by County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, 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 December 18, 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. Ratification #16 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 sixteenth round of emergency Procurements, which includes nine contracts, and are made part of the agenda packet.

The total amount for this round of Procurements is \$629,001.24 which takes the running total to \$7,891,549.28. At this point, there are no active projects, but there are some completed projects where the payments are pending. 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.

B. Approve the Aerie Road Water Agreement - Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works

Residents along Aerie Road in Cumberland requested a County-maintained water system. The residents solicited contractors for construction bids. Winner D. Contracting, LLC was awarded the construction project. The agreement stipulates the residents will pay for the project on their quarterly water bill over a twenty-year period. The County will offer a zero-percent interest loan for this project. Upon final acceptance of the constructed water system, the County Utilities Division will maintain the new water system. There are five total customers participating in the project. Also as part of the agreement, any future customers would be responsible for the cumulative debt service payment to connect to the water system. 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. Approve the Solicitation of Proposals for the Fairgrounds Racetrack - Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works

Two people signed up to speak on this item and were invited to the podium one at a time before the Commissioners discussed:

- Brad Marker of 15010 Clement Armstrong Rd in Cumberland - A racer at the track, strongly advocating for the current promoters, the current efficient maintenance of the track, and to keep racing going for the future.
- Representative of Mountain Maryland Ventures of Cumberland - Understanding proposals will be accepted, asks that it is a quick turn around so the racing season doesn't get cut short. Also asked for an extended contract as opposed to the one year.

The contract between the Allegany County Commissioners and Mountain Maryland Ventures, LLC expired at the end of the 2025 racing season. This was the final one-year extension in accordance with

the 2023 solicitation. Allegany County Department of Public Works is requesting permission to advertise for proposals for the promotion of dirt track racing at the County Fairgrounds. The advertising period would begin on January 16, 2026 and proposals are due on February 6, 2026. Advertising would be on the County's website and social media outlet. After the deadline, Mr. Patterson hope to have it on an agenda for a meeting shortly following. 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. Execute a Land Development Agreement with D.R. Horton, Inc. for Village Crossing at Campo Bello - Jeffrey Barclay, Director of Economic and Community Development

The \$4 million preliminary grading and utility plan contract is currently being implemented at the site and is on schedule. First Fruits Excavating, Inc. is the contractor of record. Securing the Development Agreement now means that we should be prepared to move forward with housing construction in the Spring of 2026. This will be for a proposed 65-unit housing development at the former location of Allegany High School on Sedwick Street. 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.

- E. Execute an MOU with the Western Maryland Climbing Coalition for Climbing on Haystack Mountain - Jeffrey Barclay, Director of Economic and Community Development

The Western Maryland Climbing Coalition (WMCC) is a Maryland-based nonprofit organization dedicated to developing safe, sustainable, and inclusive outdoor climbing opportunities. WMCC submitted a formal Letter of Intent to Allegany County outlining its proposal to develop designated rock climbing routes on County-owned parcels identified along the Great Allegheny Passage in Cumberland, MD.

These parcels are currently undeveloped County lands with exposed rock faces suitable for recreational climbing. WMCC has expressed interest in entering into a long-term agreement with the County to formally establish these areas as managed climbing destinations, while ensuring public safety, environmental stewardship, and clear accountability.

The proposed MOU establishes the framework under which WMCC may:

- Access County-owned property for climbing-related activities
- Install, inspect, maintain, and, if necessary, remove climbing-specific infrastructure
- Manage climbing routes in accordance with nationally recognized industry standards
- Promote responsible recreation and environmental stewardship.

The MOU does not transfer ownership or exclusive control of the property and grants only a non-exclusive right of entry for purposes related to the climbing project. 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.

- F. Approve and Authorize the County Administrator to Sign a \$200,000 Contract of Sale for 6 Acres of County-owned Land located at 17411 McMullen Highway, Rawlings - Jeffrey Barclay, Director of Economic and Community Development

Phase I of the project is the acquisition of these 6 acres of land from the County that includes the barns at the former Cumberland Chase in Rawlings. This will include a restaurant and meeting space. The County will have a Right of First Refusal on the property should the buyer decide to sell at a later date. The buyer also retains a Right of First Refusal to purchase an additional 6 acres of land adjacent should the County decide to sell it. 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: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: Creade V. Brodie, Jr.. Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale. No: None. Abstain: None.

A. Approve Travel Request from Fair Personnel

This will be for Kevin Kamauf, Sam Wilson, and Steve Hout to attend the Pennsylvania Fair Convention in Hershey, PA from January 21st through January 24th. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

B. Approve the Re-appointment of Michael A. Llewellyn, Esq. to the Building Code Appeals Board

This will be for a five year term expiring January 22, 2031. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

C. Approve the Re-appointment of Jim Kahl to the Sanitary Commission

This will be for an additional six year term, and he represents the Braddock Run area. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

D. Execute an MOU with the Western Maryland Long Term Recovery Group

This will establish a partnership between them and the County. This group is taking over the long term recovery in the Westernport area from the floods. This will allow them to administer and distribute the Maryland State Disaster Recovery Fund. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

E. Approve the Purchase of Chief360 to Replace IamResponding Software for Fire and EMS Companies in the amount of \$15,837

This cost is included in the prior budget for replacing the software. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

F. Approve and Authorize the County Administrator to Sign an MOU between Allegany County and Cresaptown Volunteer Fire Department

This is for EMS staffing and billing, and this MOU will solidify the County's long-standing relationship at the CVFD. This will also be a 50/50 billing share with them. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

G. Approve and Authorize the County Administrator to Sign an MOU between Allegany County and Flintstone Volunteer Fire Department

This is for the provision, staffing, and billing of emergency medical services. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

H. Approve and Authorize the County Administrator to Sign an MOU between Allegany County and Tri-Towns EMS

This is for the provision, staffing, and billing of emergency medical services. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

I. Approve and Authorize the County Administrator to Sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Prichard Farms Community Association, Inc.

This provides the opportunity for a previously recommended Program Open Space project to happen. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

10. General Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Ed Taylor of 400 S Allegany St in Cumberland - Speaking as President of the Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization, spoke on the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. Also, talked about a big monument project his organization has been working on for approximately ten years, and will be incorporated into the 250th anniversary celebration.

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 - Tourism was able to get a free article published in "Garden and Gun", and it talks about Downtown Cumberland and the County while encouraging people to visit the area.
- Commissioner Brodie - Glad to see everyone who came out to support the racetrack.
- Commissioner Caporale - Asked that a letter be drafted to the Public Service Commission regarding the ongoing water issues in Bel Air and other areas.

13. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, January 29, 2026, 5:00 PM

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:27PM.