ALLEGANY COUNTY
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

Public Business Meeting
Minutes

Thursday, January 29, 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 05:00 PM on 1/29/2026. 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 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. Statement Regarding the Closed Session Held on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 4:00PM

Attorney Beeman read a statement regarding the closed session. A copy of this statement is attached to these minutes.

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 #17 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 132, 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 seventeenth round of emergency Procurements, which includes four contracts, and are made part of the agenda packet.

The total amount for this round of Procurements is $360,154.81 which brings the running total to $8.2 million. As mentioned previously, at this point, there are no active projects, but there are a few completed projects where payment is 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. Execute Deed for Land Transfer between Allegany County Commissioners and Rhonda Lee Deshong Webber - **Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works**

Allegany County Commissioners own property on northeast side of town of Barton. A portion of that property was being used for temporary access to a landslide remediation project site on land owned by Ms. Rhonda Lee Deshong Webber. Ms. Deshong Webber requested the temporary access be left permanently. The County has prepared the accompanying deed of transfer (describing the real property situated in the Town of Barton, Allegany County, Maryland, Tax ID 09-002596) and agreed to sell the impacted piece of land (2,112 square feet or 0.0485 acres) to Ms. Deshong Webber for a sum of ten dollars. 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 Purchase of Updated Interview Room Cameras and Recording Systems for C3I - **James Elliott, Esq., State's Attorney**

The Combined Criminal Investigation Unit (C3I) is in need of updated interview room cameras and recording systems. This upgrade will work in conjunction with the current body-worn camera system under contract with the County. This will allow C3I to work with the two current platforms already in place with Polaris and HEILOS without making any additional purchases or upgrades. This upgrade will cost $34,012, which will be paid for by using the PACT grant totaling $23,977.50 and the City of Cumberland will be reimbursing $8,650 of the total cost. The remaining balance of $1,384.50 will be paid for by the State's Attorney's operating budget over the next three years. However, State's Attorney Elliott will pay that off if there are remaining funds left in this year's budget. This upgrade will allow C3I to conduct the interviews in a professional manner without worrying about glitches, shut-offs, or other networking issues. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

Mr. Beeman reviewed the request, as well as the sole source letter that was provided by the vendor. Because of the nature of the integration that's necessary, this would be sole source, and therefore, does not have to comply with County procurement procedures.

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. Approve the Contract with Emergency Networking - **Roger Bennett, Director of Emergency Services**

The National Fire Administration requires all fire departments to submit fire reports. Those fire reports are used to assist the fire departments in getting assistance for firefighter grants, which bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars into the County every year. At the State level, in order to get the 508 funds from the State, fire departments must submit these fire reports. The contractor the County had been using, Iamresponding, no longer conducts this type of business so another contractor was needed. A current program that the County has is Chief360 which has the emergency networking component within it. This will allow the County to submit the fire reports and fire companies will be able to submit for grants. The cost of this service through Iamresponding was $17,000 and the new program, Emergency Networking, will cost $34,090 annually. Emergency Networking is a sole source vendor and therefore, compliance with county procurement processes does not apply. 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. Approve a Two-Year Agreement with S&S Electric for Generator Maintenance for the Department of Emergency Services - **Roger Bennett, Director of Emergency Services**

The Department of Emergency Services maintains six generators for different locations throughout the County. Of the six, the Department is asking for funding for only four of those locations (two of those are covered by the 911 Board.) This maintenance contract will be good for two years and completes all the required maintenance set by the 911 Board. The total amount for the four sites is $25,602 which will be invoiced by the site per year. 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.

A. Approve the Fire and EMS Chiefs Representatives for the Emergency Services Board

The Emergency Services Board has recommended the following persons for appointment:

- Fire Services Committee (1 year term):
  - Chair: Robert Ritchie
  - Vice Chair: Jim Coleman
  - Member-at-Large: Scott Yates
  - Alternate Member-at-Large: Emilie Perkins

- EMS Committee (1 year term):
  - Chair: Vince Pyle
  - Vice Chair: Allen Ruby
  - Member-at-Large: Gerald Broadwater

- Alternate Member-at-Large: Dottie Ruby

- Emergency Services Board:
    - Career Representative: Shannon Adams (CFD) (2 year term)
    - DES Director: Roger Bennett (Director) (Indefinie term)

No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

B. Approve the Appointment of Heather Johnson and the Re-appointments of Robin Paulman, Dusty Hilbert, and Frank Fox to the Solid Waste Management Board

The SWMB voted and approved the recommended persons to fill their respective roles as follows:

- Robin - Environmental/Technical Seat
- Dusty - Waste Industry Seat
- Frank - Industry Seat
- Heather - Alternate for the Environmental/Technical Seat

All terms are for two years. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

C. Approve and Authorize the County Administrator to Sign the EMS Operational Program Medical Director Contract with Rameen Shafiei, D.O.

Dr. Shafiei has been in this position for several years now and this will be for a three-year renewal beginning immediately and will cost the County $3,000 per month, and will come out of the EMS operating budget. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

10. General Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Dave Liberatore of 12345 Stoney Ridge Rd in Lavale - Questioned the Commissioners on the 287G agreement between the Sheriff's Department and ICE.
- Kit Pepper LeScallette of 211 James Ct in Frostburg - Expressed the importance of transparency in government, specifically local government.

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 - Did not attend PACE, but heard it was a very successful event with a lot of good meetings and discussion.
- Commissioner Brodie - Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.

- Commissioner Caporale - Agreed, there were a lot of good things happening at PACE; very thankful for the flood relief funds proposed in the upcoming State's budget , but are strongly advocating reimbursement of funds already spent; discussed the disparity grant also proposed in the upcoming State's budget that does not include additional funding the County thought would be included; also hoping the George Edwards Board will remain and continue to be funded.

13. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, February 12, 2026, 5:00 PM

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:32 PM.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE CLOSED SESSION HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026, AT 4:00 O'CLOCK P.M., ROOM 424

The Board of County Commissioners, at a meeting convened on Thursday, January 15, 2026, upon a motion by Commissioner Brodie, and duly seconded by Commissioner Atkinson, voted unanimously to go into a closed session. The meeting time and place and the purpose of the meeting were provided in a public notice distributed on January 14, 2026. The notice was provided in the same manner, and also to the same entities, that receive the Commissioners' regular business meeting notices.

The meeting was closed in accordance with the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland Section 3-305, and the purposes for which the meeting was closed were as follows:

1. To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State ***as relates to a current business located in Allegany County that is seeking to acquire additional property to expand their operations*** (General Provisions Article Section 3-305(b)(5));

2. The appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals ***as relates to a request received for merit-based raises and/or promotions for specific employees*** (General Provisions Article Section 3-305(b)(1));

3. To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations as relates to labor-management negotiations between the Board of County Commissioners, the Allegany County Sheriff's Office, and the Fraternal Order of Police, Allegany County Correctional Division (General Provisions Article Section 3-305(b)(9)); and

4. Consultation with counsel to obtain legal advice concerning the matters referenced above and other matters (General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b)(7)).

Those persons present during all or part of the closed session are all three County Commissioners; Jason M. Bennett, County Administrator; T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney; Jeff Barclay, Director of Economic Development (only as to Item 1); Kristi Liller, Human Resources Representative (only as to Items 2 and 3); as well as Recording Secretary, Madison Taylor.

Item 1. Expansion of Business Located in Allegany County – Staff presented Commissioners with a proposal that they had received from a business currently located in Allegany County seeking to acquire additional property for the purpose of expanding their business and engaging in other commercial activities. Upon receipt of the proposal from staff, the

Commissioners unanimously voted to authorize Director of Economic Development, Jeff Barclay, to engage in negotiations with the business owner regarding property acquisition and economic development incentives.

Item 2. Merit Based Raises for Certain Employees – County Administrator, Jason Bennett, presented the Commissioners with a request received to grant merit-based raises to several employees based upon the employees' performance and assumption of other duties outside of their primary responsibilities. County Administrator Bennett supported the request, which falls within his authority as the County Administrator. The Commissioners affirmed the County Administrator's authority to grant the merit-based raises in his authority as the County Administrator.

Item 3. Collective Bargaining Negotiations with FOP Lodge 144, Corrections Division – Staff presented Commissioners with updates regarding collective bargaining negotiations with FOP 144, Corrections Division. Commissioners received legal advice regarding collective bargaining negotiations and then voted unanimously to give staff authority to further negotiate provisions of the labor-management agreement.

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.