

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, March 12, 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 3/12/2026. Present: County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, County Commission President David J. Caporale, County Administrator Jason Bennett, County Attorney Lee Beeman. Excused: County Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr.

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 Commission President David J. Caporale, 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, February 26, 2026 at 4:00PM - T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney

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

A. Approve the Public Business Meeting Minutes from February 26, 2026

Upon Motion made by County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, seconded by County Commission President David J. Caporale, and duly carried, the Minutes from the previous public business meeting were approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

6. Presentations

A. Problem Gambling Awareness Month - Justin Davis, Director of the Local Behavior Health Authority - Allegany County Health Department

Commissioner Caporale invited Mr. Davis to the podium. Mr. Davis recognized March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month. Mr. Davis read some statistics on people who struggle with the addiction of gambling, and talked about a robust system of care that exists for the residents of Allegany County, with the Allegany County Health Department's Outpatient Behavioral Health Services being the cornerstone. By making this proclamation, residents should know that they are not alone, and that help is available regardless of insurance or financial status. During business hours, it is encouraged that residents call the Health Department at 301-759-5050, and for those needing immediate 24-hour support the Maryland Statewide Helpline is available by calling or texting 1-800-GAMBLER.

Commissioner Caporale read the proclamation, recognizing March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in Allegany County, and there was a photo taken.

7. Public Hearing

8. Action Agenda & Public Comment

A. Code Home Rule Bill 1-26 - An Act to Repeal and Reenact Public Laws of Allegany County, Maryland, Section 461-9 - Prohibition of Traffic Law Photo-Monitoring Devices to Detect or Prove Traffic Law Violations - T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney

On February 12, 2026, Code Home Rule Bill 1-26 was introduced to amend Chapter 461 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Allegany County, MD in order to repeal the prohibition of traffic law photo monitoring devices which was contained in Section 461-9 of the Code, and this Bill would repeal Section 461-9 in its entirety. A Public Hearing for the Bill was held on February 26, 2026. The Bill is now on the agenda in order for the Commissioners to take action, if they choose to do so. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: David J. Caporale. Yes: William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale. No: None. Abstain: None.

B. Execute Operations and Maintenance Agreement for Allegany County Fairgrounds Ballfield Complex - T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney

Previously, the County asked for proposals for the field complex at the Fairgrounds and only one entity submitted a proposal to operate and maintain this complex. That one entity was Mountain League Baseball Inc (MLB). This agreement would provide that MLB would operate and maintain the Fairgrounds Ballfield Complex for a period of nine months until December 31, 2026, and would be subject for renewal at the Commissioners' discretion at that point. This is one of the standard operations and maintenance agreements that the County uses for Program Open Space fields, but with special conditions to include that MLB must not conduct any activities at the Fairgrounds Ballfield Complex except for baseball games, baseball practices and concession operations only during baseball games. MLB will be primarily responsible for scheduling the fields known as Memorial Field and Hamilton Field, and will also schedule for Haller Field but Allegany County reserves the right to schedule other recreational activities at that field. This agreement highlights the County's goal that the fields be used to the greatest extent possible while also being appropriately maintained and would require MLB to set a uniform rental rate for any entities that wish to use the field for baseball, and would provide language restricting the fields use from the Tuesday before DelFest through the Wednesday following DelFest. The agreement would be terminated for any violation of those special

conditions. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: David J. Caporale. Yes: William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale. No: None. Abstain: None.

- C. Execute Second Amendment to the Rental Agreement for the Use of Allegany County Fairgrounds with DefFest, Inc. - Jason M. Bennett, County Administrator

DefFest has asked the County to extend the current agreement they have with the County. This is the second amendment to the existing rental agreement that would begin this year, 2026, and run through 2030. The only changes would be the rent terms, which will increase by \$1,000 per year until the end of the five-year term. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: David J. Caporale. Yes: William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale. No: None. Abstain: None.

- D. Execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the County and MDE-Abandoned Mine Land Division for a Water Line Extension Project for Evergreen Heritage Center - Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works

Maryland Department of the Environment - Abandoned Mine Land Division reached out to County Utilities and asked about the possibility of extending public water to the Evergreen Heritage Facility in Mount Savage, specifically on Trimble Road. This is a project the State department would pay for and the County would maintain. Evergreen Heritage Center has been in dire need of safe, reliable public drinking water. This is an agreement for this project. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: David J. Caporale. Yes: William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale. No: None. Abstain: None.

- E. Approve Dirt Track Racing Schedule Submitted by Mountain Maryland Ventures, LLC - Adam Patterson, P.E., Director of Public Works

In accordance with the agreement, which was passed at the previous BOCC public business meeting, the racing schedule must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners. The Fairgrounds manager and Mr. Patterson have reviewed this schedule and are now making a recommendation that the Commissioners approve it so Mountain Maryland Ventures, LLC can begin promoting and advertising for the upcoming racing season. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

Mr. Patterson invited Ms. Jenn Jeudy, representative of Mountain Maryland Ventures, LLC, to the podium. Ms. Jeudy thanked the Commissioners and gave a few highlights of the full racing schedule they have proposed for this year.

Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: David J. Caporale. Yes: William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale. No: None. Abstain: None.

9. Consent Agenda & Public Comment

Upon Motion by County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, seconded by County Commission President David J. Caporale, and Motion carried, the Board of County Commissioners approved and adopted the Consent Agenda as recommended by the County Administrator.

- A. Adopt Resolution 26-02 Rules and Regulations Governing Employees of Allegany County

This is a revision to the job description of Tourism Marketing and Sales Manager, taking it from contractual to classified service, and adding it to the Grade Allocation Table. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

- B. Approve a Request for Travel from Animal Shelter Personnel

This will be for Animal Shelter staff to travel to Pittsburgh, PA for the Animal Care Expo Conference in April. This will be self-paid, and there will be no cost to the County or the Animal Shelter. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

C. Approve the Sponsorship Request from Oldtown Summerfest in the amount of \$1,000

These funds will come from the Community Events Promotion account and the annual event is set to take place June 27th. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

D. Execute Joint-Use Agreement with Cresaptown Civic Improvement Association

This is for \$23,285 of Program Open Space Funds to replace fencing around the park. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

E. Execute a Memorandum of Understanding Between Allegany County and Maryland DoIT

This is for the construction and maintenance of a communications tower at the BW tower site. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

F. Accept the Maryland 9-1-1 Board Funding for Project 26-198 in the amount \$14,773

This funding will be used for generator maintenance for the backup and primary Public Safety Answering Points. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

G. Accept the Maryland 9-1-1 Board Funding for Project 26-209 in the amount \$5,000

This is for the Priority Dispatch AI Skills Lab Tier II renewal. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

H. Accept the Maryland 9-1-1 Board Funding for Project 26-161 in the amount \$970

This is for the Gate Access Reader project. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

I. Accept the Extension Period for the FY23 EOC Grant Program

The end date is now January 31, 2027 to finish projects within the grant for reimbursement. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

J. Accept the Extension Period for the FY23 SHSP Grant

The end date is now March 31, 2026 to finish projects within the grant for reimbursement. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

10. General Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Eric Carey of 99 Mt Pleasant St in Frostburg - Addressed a comment made by one of the Commissioners regarding how the opinions of some residents do not necessarily represent the entirety of Allegany County.
- Mayor Jack Coburn of 60 Main St in Lonaconing - Came to discuss the Town of Lonaconing, and how much money is owed to the County for water. Mr. Patterson, Director of Public Works, told the Mayor they could schedule a meeting to discuss further.
- Kit Pepper LeScallete of 211 James Ct in Frostburg - Discussed potential solar farms and the authority the County actually has, and should be using, over the placement of solar farms. Commissioner Atkinson and Attorney Beeman explained that we do have input, but it is limited. They will continue to look into this.
- Dr. Larry Smith of 15201 Brandywine Dr in Cumberland - Thanked the Commissioners and Attorney Beeman in regards to HB1187, and asked if the Commissioners have been in discussion with any of the federal or state representatives in regards to funding that could help aid the County taken over the water system that services Bel Air and a few other areas. Also asked for the creation of a correspondence to the entire Western Maryland delegation, both State and Federal, to find out about governmental funding that would be available.

11. Reports

A. County Administrator

Addressed the water bill that Lonaconing owes, and asked if everyone could all have a proper conversation and come to a solution.

B. County Attorney

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

12. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Atkinson - Added to Commissioner Caporale's remarks by reminding everyone the site is only 40 acres and limited to how much space there is for a large scale data center.
- Commissioner Caporale - Addressed the public in regards to the old Luke Mill site by saying there are no new businesses slated for the site at this time.

13. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

- A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, March 26, 2026, 5:00pm

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 06:02 PM.