

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, May 7, 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 5/7/2026. 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. Statement Regarding the Closed Session Held on Thursday, April 23, 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 April 23, 2026

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. Proclamation for Del McCoury Day - **Ashi Workman, Director, Tourism Department**
The Commissioners declared the Thursday before Memorial Day Weekend to be Del McCoury Day in Allegany County. This proclamation will be presented to Mr. Del McCoury at the upcoming Downtown DelFest event on May 20th at 6PM.
- B. Deputy of the Year Award 2025 - **Sheriff Robertson, Allegany County Sheriff's Department**
The Deputy of the Year award was presented to Deputy Matt Arnone.
- C. FY 2027 Preliminary Budget Presentation - **Jason Bennett, CPA, County Administrator**
Administrator Bennett presented the proposed budget for FY27. Slides are attached to the agenda packet.
- D. FY 2027 Allegany County Utility Rate Presentation - **Adam Patterson, P.E., Director, Department of Public Works and Brynn Laird, P.E., Engineer, Department of Public Works**
Each year, the Allegany County Sanitary Commission provides feedback on the proposed utility rates that are prepared by members of the Allegany County Utility Division. These proposed rates were presented to the Commissioners, and were made part of the agenda packet.
- E. FY2027 - FY2031 Allegany County Capital Improvement Program Presentation - **Daniel S. DeWitt, P.E., County Engineer, Department of Public Works**
Each year, the Allegany County Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee solicits and receives requests from various County-funded agencies/departments for capital funding for projects/purchases that will exceed \$25,000 and/or 10 years of useful life. All received requests are reviewed by the Committee and recommendations for funding in the coming fiscal year are then made to the Commissioners for their consideration and eventual approval.

This presentation will review the CIP Committee's FY2027-2031 CIP recommendations.

The CIP Committee recommends the Commissioners approve the FY2027-2031 CIP as presented. Final approval of the FY2027-2031 CIP is sought in accordance with approval of the County's FY2027 Budget (currently scheduled for the June 4, 2026 Public Business Meeting).

7. Public Hearing

- A. Proposed Real Property Tax Rate Increase for FY 2027 - **Jason Bennett, CPA, County Administrator**
As required by State Law, a public hearing is required anytime property tax rates increase. A notice was also printed in the Cumberland Times-News, as required. This notice can be found as part of the agenda packet and a more detailed explanation can be found on the County's website. The public hearing was open for public comment, hearing none, the public hearing was closed.
- B. Code Home Rule Bill 3-26 "An Act to Amend the Minimal Annual Tax Levy Found in Articles VI and VIII of Chapter 146 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Allegany County, Maryland (2011 Edition As Amended)" (Introduced April 23, 2026)- **T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney**
This Bill was introduced at the public meeting held on April 23, 2026. This will update will remove the minimal annual tax levy and authorize the Cresaptown Fire Company and Cresaptown Ambulance Company to directly set their levy rates, consistent with other Public Safety Special Taxing Areas in Allegany County. The public hearing was open for public comment. Hearing none, the public hearing was closed. This Bill will be brought back to the Commissioners for potential adoption at the next public business meeting.

8. Action Agenda & Public Comment

- A. Introduction - Code Home Rule Bill 4-26 "Bedford Road Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Phase VII - Bond Authorization" - Jason Bennett, CPA, County Administrator

This Bill will authorize the Commissioners to issue up to \$1.5 million of a loan to fund this project. The Commissioners took action on introducing the Bill and setting the public hearing for the next public business meeting to be held on May 28, 2026. 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. Adopt Code Home Rule Bill 2-26 "An Act to Amend Chapter 461 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Allegany County, Maryland (2011 Edition as Amended) to Authorize the Use of Speed Monitoring System" (Introduced April 9, 2026; Public Hearing Held April 23, 2026) - T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney

This Bill will authorize the use of speed monitoring systems in Allegany County, Maryland pursuant to the terms of Section 21-809 of the Transportation Article of the State Code. This Bill was introduced April 9, 2026, and a public hearing was held on April 23, 2026, at which time no public comment was heard. The Bill is now in front of the Commissioners for adoption. 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.

- C. Approve the FY 2027 ARC Area Development Project Priority List - David Nedved, Community Development Representative, Department of Economic and Community Development

Staff has completed its prioritization process for Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) projects to be considered by Tri-County Council for Western Maryland as part of Maryland's Strategy Statement document for federal fiscal year 2027. There are fifteen Area Development projects being proposed, which are included in the agenda packet. 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.

- D. Approve the Allegany County 2026 Transportation Priority Letter to the Maryland Department of Transportation - Adam Patterson, P.E., Director, Department of Public Works

The County coordinated with the local jurisdictions to compile a prioritized list of transportation projects within the given categories on the online MDOT Priority Letter Submission Form. This was presented at a previous public business meeting, and now needs Commissioner approval. 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.

- E. Authorize Electric Supply Agreement with Supplier - Adam Patterson, P.E., Director, Department of Public Works

Historically, the City of Frostburg, LaVale Sanitary Commission, and Allegany County (the "Partnership") have partnered and utilized Tradition Energy Services (the "Broker") as a broker to bid the Partnership's electric demand to various electric supply companies. The partnership with the City of Frostburg and LaVale Sanitary Commission increases our purchasing power by combining our electricity demands to secure a lower kilowatt per hour price. Our current contract expired on May 1, 2026. The Partnership is recommending a 36-month agreement to be awarded to the lowest

responsible bidder that would be effective on or about this date and would fix our electricity rates from June 1, 2026, to May 31, 2029, at a fixed price per kilowatt-hour. Commissioner approval is needed to authorize the administrator, in consultation with the Director of Public Works, to accept and sign the necessary contract documents with the energy supplier with the lowest price. 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.

- F. Accept the Proposal from Smith, Planning, and Design to Update Allegany County's Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan - **Andrew Cowan, Recycling Coordinator, Department of Public Works**

This plan is required to be submitted every five years to the Department of Natural Resources for approval, and is a prerequisite for participation in Program Open Space. A grant of \$25,000 was secured in 2023 for this update. The grant does require a 10% match, which will be fulfilled through in-kind services provided by County employees working on the plan. 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.

- G. Execute the Allegany County Transit 2026-2027 Bus Service Contract with Frostburg State University - **Libby Robison-Harper, Transit Division Chief, Department of Public Works**

This is a revenue service contract with FSU for the County to provide bus service for one year, valued at \$171,808. 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.

- H. Authorize the Staff to Accept Bids for the Barton Business Park Pad Site Development - **Nathan Price, Senior Project Manager, Department of Economic and Community Development**

This is for two shovel-ready pad sites and the bid acceptance process for this project will be advertised in the Cumberland Times News and on the County website. 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.

- I. Execute Frostburg Main Street Structural Stabilization Grant Agreement with Lucky Enterprises, LLC - **Nathan Price, Senior Project Manager, Department of Economic & Community Development**

On December 4, 2025, the Board of County Commissioners approved an award of \$100,000 to Lucky Enterprises, LLC as part of the Frostburg Main Street Structural Stabilization Grant. This Grant Agreement formalizes the terms of that grant. 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.

- J. Adopt Resolution 26-08 Rules and Regulations Governing Employees of Allegany County - **Roger Bennett, Director, Department of Emergency Services and Jeff Barclay, Director, Department of Economic and Community Development**

Requesting approval of a revised job description for the position of Land Mobile Radio Technician for Department of Emergency Services. This update includes a transition from Contractual to Classified Position at a Grade 106 on Grade Allocation Table. Also requesting a new job description for the position of Tourism Development Manager for Department of Tourism. This position will replace the prior position of Tourism Marketing & Sales Manager, transitioning from Contractual to a Classified Position as a Grade 107 on the Grade Allocation Table. 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.

- K. Execute an MOU between Allegany and Mineral County for use of the Westernport Tower - **Roger Bennett, Director, Department of Emergency Services**

Allegany County serves as the exclusive lessee of the Westernport Tower and is the owner of the transmitter building located at the same site. Mineral County is seeking authorization to utilize designated antenna space on the Westernport Tower, along with a portion of floor space within the transmitter building, for the installation and operation of County radio equipment in support of its communications infrastructure. 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.

- L. Authorize the Purchase of Motorola Law Enforcement Mobile Radios - **Roger Bennett, Director, Department of Emergency Services**

Allegany County transitioned to the Maryland FiRST Radio System, a statewide interoperable public safety communications network, to improve coverage, reliability, and coordination among emergency responders. As part of this transition, the County standardized on Motorola Solutions Project 25 (P25)-compliant mobile and portable radios to ensure full compatibility with the system and alignment with statewide communication standards. This modernization has enhanced interoperability with state and regional partners, streamlined communications during routine and large-scale incidents, and strengthened the overall effectiveness and safety of public safety operations across the County. This will require an initial cost of \$49,573.50, which will be reimbursed through SHSP Grant Funding in the full amount. 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.

- M. Execute an MOU with the Maryland State Police for Tower and Shelter Space Usage - **Jason Bennett, CPA, County Administrator**

This is a resource sharing agreement to establish a framework for any future collaboration between Allegany County and MSP regarding the collocation of communication equipment. 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

Upon Motion by County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, seconded by County Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr., and Motion carried, the Board of County Commissioners approved and adopted the Consent Agenda as recommended by the County Administrator.

A. Approve a Community Promotions Fund Request from DelFest for Free "DelFest Loves Cumberland: A Downtown Del-ebration" Event in the amount of \$1,500

This event will take place on Wednesday, May 20th on the downtown mall in Cumberland. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

10. General Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Susan Mallozzi of 11604 Cash Valley Rd in Cumberland - Concerned with the solar farm project proposed on Helmstetter's Curve along the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP), and asked the Commissioners to attend the public hearing being held by the Maryland Public Service Commission on May 28, 2026.
- Kit Pepper LeScallete of 211 James Ct in Frostburg - Questioned the solar farm proposed on Helmstetter's Curve along the GAP trail permitting process; asked where the information for the Revolving Building Fund can be found; Also discussed the public information requests she has made and is concerned with not getting this information in a timely manner.
- Mark Atkinson of 15014 Laurel Ridge Rd in Bel Air - Concerned with the increasingly high water rates for residents in Bel Air and other areas.
- Larry Smith of 15201 Brandywine Dr in Bel Air - Concerned with the increasingly high water rates for residents in Bel Air and other areas.

11. Reports

A. County Administrator

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

B. County Attorney

Remarked on comments made by Kit Pepper LeScallete in regards to her concern with public information requests not being fulfilled by the County.

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 involved in organizing Allegany County's National Day of Prayer events; Recognized local women who made the Top 100 Women of Maryland list; Recognized the Bishop Walsh Mock Trial team for becoming back to back State Champions; Marked the upcoming one-year anniversary of the flood that devastated parts of Allegany County.

13. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. Anticipated BOCC Public Work Session - Thursday, May 21, 2026 (Details and Time TBA)

This Work Session will be scheduled in accordance to the public meeting now being held on May 28, 2026.

B. BOCC Public Business Meeting - Thursday, May 21, 2026, 5:00PM

This meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 4:00PM.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 07:00 PM.