

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

*Thursday, June 25, 2026 - 5:00 PM
Allegany County Sheriff's Office, 695 Kelly Road
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 6/25/2026. Present: County Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr., County Commissioner William R. Atkinson, County Administrator Jason Bennett, County Attorney Lee Beeman. Excused: County Commission President David J. Caporale

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, June 04, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. - 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 June 4, 2026

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

- A. FY25 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report - Financial Audit - **Jason M. Bennett, CPA, County Administrator**

The completed audit for the year ending June 30, 2025 can be found here:

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- B. Update on Land Development Agreement with D.R. Horton, Inc. for Village Crossing at Campo Bello - **Jason Bennett, CPA, County Administrator**

A signed agreement was received from DR Horton, which was based on what was previously approved on January 15, 2026. The agreement was sent to us by the Regional office, and DR Horton's Corporate office still needs to approve. The document is available to the public and includes a few minor changes.

7. Public Hearing

- A. Road Opening Petition for a Portion of the Street Commonly known as Heather Street - **T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney**

Attorney Beeman invited Attorney Wayne Heavener to the podium. On behalf of his clients, Mr. Heavener asked the Commissioners to open with the intent of closing a 20 foot portion of the unpaved and unimproved portion of a road commonly known as "Heather Street" in Cumberland.

Attorney Beeman opened the public hearing and asked if anyone from the public had any comments. Hearing none, the public hearing was closed. He then advised the Commissioners that they could take action to open this portion of the street commonly known as Heather St.

Motion: Approve, By: William R. Atkinson, Seconded: Creade V. Brodie, Jr.. Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., William R. Atkinson. No: None. Abstain: None.

- B. Required Progress Hearings for the Oldtown Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Design, and the Archway Station Recovery Housing Program for Women with Children at 125 Fayette Street and 30 Pennsylvania Avenue - **David Nedved, Community Development Representative, Department of Economic and Community Development**

Community Development Block Grant funds from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development provided the original funding for both the Oldtown Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Design and the Archway Station Recovery Housing Program for Women with Children at 125 Fayette Street and 30 Pennsylvania Avenue. In the case of the Upgrade Design, the CDBG funds funded a \$350,000 Community Development Special Projects Grant, which almost entirely funded this project. In the case of the Recovery Housing Program, the CDBG funds funded a \$2,396,712 Maryland Recovery Housing Program Grant, which almost entirely funded these projects. For all three projects, a requirement of accepting these fundings is that public hearings had to be held on the progress of the projects while they are active. These public hearings are required to be held during a Commissioners' Public Meeting and a formal Notice of Public Hearings has to be given at least five (5) days before the hearings. The notice was advertised in the Cumberland Times-News on Saturday June 20, 2026. The notice was also posted on the Allegany County government web site starting this past Monday, along with the backgrounds for the three projects.

The public hearings for these projects were open, and Mr. Nedved asked if anyone from the public had any comments or questions. Hearing none, the public hearings were closed.

8. Action Agenda & Public Comment

- A. Approve the Board of Education FY26 Budget Amendment Request - **Dr. Michael Martirano, Superintendent, and Larry McKenzie, CFO, Allegany County Public Schools**

These amendments serve to increase the Board's net operating budget by \$1,233,268. The budget amendment does not change the level of the county appropriation. It also does not impact any future appropriation to the school system or the district's maintenance of effort calculation. A letter with the details of this request is attached to the agenda packet. The Board of Education has already approved this amendment, but Board of County Commissioner approval is required by state law. 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. No: None. Abstain: None.

- B. Approve the Transfer and Participation Agreement - Employee Pension System to Correctional Officers Pension System for Allegany Detention Center Officers - **Kristi Liller, Director, Department of Human Resources**

Legislation was introduced during 2026 session of the General Assembly, House Bill 1102 and Senate Bill 748, to be codified in the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Personnel and Pensions Article §31-2B-09, approving to transfer all eligible Correctional Center Officers into the Correctional Officers' Pension System. Prior documents have been signed regarding this transition. This document is the final agreement to approve transition into the new system, which will be effective July 1, 2026. 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. No: None. Abstain: None.

- C. Approve the Hartford Workers' Compensation and Travelers Property & Casualty Insurance Renewals - **Tracy Hedrick, Risk Manager, Department of Human Resources**

The Travelers Property & Casualty Insurance will indicate a -9.6% renewal increase. The County's past premium paid was \$1,017,563 and the current premium will be \$919,483. The Hartford Workers' Compensation renewal indicates a 3.3% increase, which is based solely on an increase in payroll. The County's past premium was \$470,848 and the current premium will be \$486,364. 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. No: None. Abstain: None.

- D. Approve the Stryker Procure Service Contract - **Roger Bennett, Director, Department of Emergency Services**

This is a renewal for the maintenance and support of equipment and will be in the amount of \$10,670.90. 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. No: None. Abstain: None.

- E. Authorize the President of the Board of County Commissioners of Allegany County, Maryland to sign Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher Program Memorandums of Understanding and Sub-recipient Agreements - **David Nedved, Community Development Representative, Department of Economic and Community Development**

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program for Allegany County was administered from 1979 through June 2009 by Allegany County. The Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Program for Allegany County was administered from May 1984 through June 9, 2009 by Allegany County. Since then, both programs have been administered by the Allegany County Human Resources and Development

Commission (HRDC). The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program covers the County excluding the City of Cumberland. HRDC also administers the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program for the City of Cumberland.

For the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Program, the last landlord owner opted out of the program. Instead, the Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher Program (SVP) is replacing it. This program helps low-income households pay rent while they are on a federal Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) waiting list for up to 5 years. To generally qualify, applicants must live in Allegany County and be on a federal Housing Choice Voucher waiting list. The voucher helps pay a portion of monthly rent directly to a landlord. The tenant pays the remaining portion based on income. Assistance may continue for up to 5 years depending on funding and eligibility. In Allegany County, there will only be ten vouchers available through the Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher Program. The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program for Allegany County has a waiting list of 333, and that for the City of Cumberland is 715. Currently, 160 are served by the County's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and 260 by the City's. Both programs have been frozen for the past three years to new applicants.

The current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for administration of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher will expire June 30, 2026, as well as the corresponding sub-recipient agreement with HRDC. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has provided a new MOU that begins July 1, 2026, and has an expiration date of June 30, 2029. DHCD has also provided a MOU for the Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher Program that also begins July 1, 2026, and has an expiration date of June 30, 2029. There is a sub-recipient agreement with HRDC that corresponds to this program. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

Motion: Approve, By: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Seconded: William R. Atkinson. Yes: None. No: None. Abstain: None.

F. Approve the Opioid Restitution Fund Task Force Budget Recommendations for FY27 - Tanya Gomer, Account Manager, Opioid Restitution Fund Task Force

On February 8, 2024, the board of County Commissioners of Allegany County, Maryland established the Allegany County Opioid Restitution Fund Task Force. This task force has the sole responsibility to determine annual priorities for the creation of the county's Local Abatement Plan (LAP) for Opioid Abatement Funds (OAF) received due to the National Settlement Agreement with the nation's pharmaceutical drug distributors in an effort to reduce opioid-related deaths in Allegany County. This task force will ensure that settlement funds are used to aggressively combat the opioid crisis by funding programs and initiatives that focus on saving lives. Strict controls govern how settlement funds can be used to ensure that these dollars will be used exclusively for opioid-related programs and services that will help us tackle the devastating opioid epidemic affecting Allegany County residents, their loved ones, and the community as a whole. The Opioid Resitution Fund Task Force met on 5/26/26 and reviewed the projects that were submitted for FY27.

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>FY27 Award</u>
Cumberland Red Shield Club	Alex Menges	\$2,600.00
ACSO SORT/CERT Training	Israel Sibley	\$25,000.00
AHEC 1 FTE Peer Position	Missy Clark	\$50,570.45

(Possibility Shop)		
DSS CPS Child Welfare Case Management	Courtney Thomas	\$15,000.00
ACHD Rehab Treatment Transport Staff x 2	Gena Spear	\$30,000.00
SAO Diversion Paralegal Full Time w/Benefits	James Elliott	\$56,620.00
SAO PT Attorney @ \$40 Part Time	James Elliott	\$24,925.00
ACPS Raptor Entry Systems	Anthony Rumgay	\$25,000.00

Motion: Approve, By: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Seconded: William R. Atkinson. Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., William R. Atkinson. No: None. Abstain: None.

One person signed up to speak regarding this agenda item:

- Sean Major of Frederick, MD - Concerned with the way this fund is handled.

G. Approve the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund Task Force Budget Recommendations for FY27 - Tanya Gomer, Account Manager, Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund Task Force

The Allegany County Community Reinvestment and Repair Task Force (the “Task Force”) was created in July 2024 to assist the County Government in reviewing efforts and identifying new opportunities to address the use of funds in the Community Reinvestment and Repair Special Revenue Fund. The CRRF funding determinations are based on current guidance from the Office of Social Equity and MD Code, Alcohol Beverage § 1-322.

For FY 27, it is the recommendation of the CRRF Task Force for the Board of County Commissioners to take action to approve funding awards for the following projects:

- Advancing STEM Workforce Skills Through Peer-Led Learning in Robotics - \$25,600
- Allegany County Workforce Mobility Pilot Program - \$50,000
- Community Health Worker Initiative - \$28,000
- Support Youth in Apprenticeship Opportunities \$27,000
- Tech at the Gap 2026: Expanding Access to Technology & Opportunity - \$25,000
- Workforce Mobility Pilot-Expanding Job Access & Employee Retention - \$40,000

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. No: None. Abstain: None.

- H. Approve the FY27 Program Open Space Annual Plan - **Andrew Cowan, Recycling Coordinator, Department of Public Works**

Recommendations for Allegany County's Fiscal Year 2027 Program Open Space Annual Plan were presented at the regular BOCC meeting on May 28, 2026. The recommended plan was posted on Allegany County's website and social media. No comments or questions were received regarding the plan. It is being presented to the Commissioners for approval. 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. No: None. Abstain: None.

- I. Authorize the Director of Public Works and the County Administrator to Enter into Contracts with Penn-Mar and Burgmeier's for Processing of Recyclables - **Andrew Cowan, Recycling Coordinator, Department of Public Works**

On June 30, 2026, the contract with Penn-Mar Recycling for processing, reporting, and marketing Allegany County's recyclables will expire. On May 8, 2026, a Request for Expression of Interest was publicized, receiving responses from Penn-Mar Recycling and the Allegany County Resource Recovery Facility (ACRRF). Subsequently, on May 29, 2026, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was sent to both companies. Bidders were permitted to submit proposals for individual materials or all materials to be processed.

Penn-Mar Recycling was the lowest bidder for Parts A (Mixed Cans), B (Cardboard), and C (Mixed Paper), offering a rate of \$49 per ton for processing, reporting, and marketing. Penn-Mar did not bid on the remaining recyclables. For Parts D (Mixed Plastic), E (Other Plastic), and F (Glass), ACRRF submitted the lowest bid at \$50 per ton. The RFP also stated the County's intention to establish a three-year contract, with the option for two additional one-year extensions. 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. No: None. Abstain: None.

- J. Approve and Request Signature of the First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with Maryland State Highway Administration – National Recreational Trails Program for the Rehabilitation of Borden Tunnel Great Allegheny Passage Pedestrian Trail - **Whitney Patterson, Engineer, Department of Public Works**

Allegany County Department of Public Works is proposing to rehabilitate the exterior end walls and the interior of the 957 linear foot Borden Tunnel located on the Great Allegheny Passage Trail in Frostburg, Maryland. This project will consist of repairing large void areas and cracks on the existing tunnel surface followed by lining the tunnel with a corrugated metal liner, improving drainage, parging the exterior end walls, and replacing the existing lighting onto the new lining surface.

This First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding Grant Agreement (MOU) between Maryland State Highway Administration, State Highway Administration – National Recreational Trails Program, and the County is to amend the formally signed agreement dated December 6, 2022 for the funding award of \$3,623,796.00. The amendment is to award the County with an additional \$4,132,681 through Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) with no additional local funding match (20%) to complete the project after the lowest responsible and responsive bid was in excess of the originally award funding. This results in the total funding award for reimbursement to \$7,756,477. 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. No: None. Abstain: None.

- K. Accept and Award Bid for the Rehabilitation of the Borden Tunnel Pedestrian Trail Project to Carl Belt, Inc., in the amount of \$8,753,021.00 - Whitney Patterson, Engineer, Department of Public Works
Four bids were received on May 28, 2026. The lowest responsive bid was from Carl Belt, Inc. in the total amount of \$8,753,021. Approval is requested to award this bid contingent upon Maryland State Highway Administration's National Recreational Trail award concurrence. 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. No: None. Abstain: None.

- L. Accept and Award Bid for Barton Business Park Pad Site Development - Marisa Miller, Business Communications and Services Liaison, Department of Economic and Community Development
At the May 7th County Commissioners meeting, we received approval to put out for bid site work for 3 shovel-ready pad sites at the Barton Business Park. The sealed bids were opened on June 10th at the County Office building. The County received 4 bids for this project, and Carl Belt, Inc. was the low bid. They will do the site work to create 3 pad sites in the amount of \$430,751. These funds will fully come from the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund. 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. No: None. Abstain: None.

- M. Accept and Award FY27 Bid for Emulsified Asphalt - Adam Patterson, P.E., Director, Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works - Roads Division solicited bids for FY2027 for emulsified asphalt for use in Roads operations. Bids were opened on June 17, 2026. Three bids were received as follows:

Bidder Name	Price per Gallon (7/1/26 through 10/31/26)	Price per Gallon (4/1/27 through 6/30/27)
Russell Standard	\$2.17	\$2.27
Specialty Emulsions, Inc.	\$2.86	\$2.86
Midland Asphalt Materials	\$2.26	\$2.26

Per the bid specifications, total estimated usage for FY2027 is 262,000 gallons. Approximately two-thirds of the quantity will be used in the period 7/1/26 through 10/31/26.

It is recommended to award the FY2027 bid to Russell Standard for \$2.17/gallon from July 1, 2026 through October 31, 2026 and \$2.27/gallon from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027. 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. No: None. Abstain: None.

- N. Accept and Award FY27 Contract for Unleaded Gasoline & Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel - Adam Patterson, P.E., Director, Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works - Roads Division solicited bids for unleaded gasoline and ultra low sulfur diesel fuel for FY2027.

Two bids were received:

1. Southern States Cumberland Coop, Inc. - \$1,243,166.36
2. Bedford Valley Petroleum & Propane - \$1,165,030.40

There were some inconsistencies in the bid from Southern States; however, the recommendation remains unchanged. It is recommended to award the FY2027 contract for unleaded gasoline and ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel to Bedford Valley Petroleum & Propane. 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. No: None. Abstain: None.

O. Accept and Award FY27 Bid for Delivered Cleaned Washed Crushed Stone - Adam Patterson, P.E., Director, Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works - Roads Division solicited bids for FY2027 for cleaned, washed crushed stone. Bids were opened on June 17, 2026. Two bids were received as follows below:

Bidder Name	Grand Total Bid Price
Allegany Aggregates, Inc.	\$529,695.00
Martin Marietta	\$619,445.00

It is recommended to award the FY2027 contract for cleaned, washed crushed stone to Allegany Aggregates, Inc. in the amount of \$529,695.00. 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. No: None. Abstain: None.

P. Ratification of Real Estate Contract with Penn-Mar Recycling, LLC for the Sale of 1.49 acre Parcel - T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney

The Board of County Commissioners previously authorized execution of this Real Estate Contract through Resolution 26-13, during the June 4, 2026 public business meeting. It provides for the sale of 1.49 acres of County-owned property to Penn-Mar Recycling, LLC for the amount of \$50,000. Penn-Mar will improve the out-of-service rail-spur on the property. If Penn-Mar fails to improve the rail-spur in three years, Allegany County may seek reversion of the property. 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. No: None. Abstain: None.

9. Consent Agenda & Public Comment

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

A. Approve the Appointment of Adam Patterson to the Upper Potomac River Commission

This will be for a six-year term that will expire May 1, 2032. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

B. Approve a Community Events Promotion Request from Tri-State Community Concert Association, Inc. in the amount of \$500

This is for their annual fundraising event which will be August 15, 2026. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

10. General Public Comment

No one signed up to speak during the General Public Comment section of the agenda.

11. Reports

A. County Administrator

Thanked several staff members for their time and work they all put in with DR Horton.

B. County Attorney

Gave an update on the public hearing that was held regarding the solar panel project on Helmstetters' Curve. The judge has scheduled a contested hearing based upon the Commissioners objection to the project for July 14, 2026.

12. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Atkinson - Recognized Larry Brock in the audience, who is one of this year's "Positive People" and was unable to attend the ceremony. Thanked the voters for showing faith in the current leadership.
- Commissioner Brodie - Thanked Sheriff Robertson for the meeting room.

A. Acknowledgment of Open Meetings Act Violation, 20 Official Opinions of the Compliance Board 197 (2026)

On June 4, 2026 the Open Meetings Compliance Board (OMCB) issued a decision reviewing a complaint filed against the Board of County Commissioners related to an August 8, 2024 closed session. In the Board's response to the complaint, the Board conceded, as it has done in prior complaints, that it was in violation of the procedural requirements in their decision. The OMCB found that the Board violated the act during the August 8, 2024. The OMCB found that the Board violated the act by failing to provide notice that the closed session would convey from an open session, failing to accurately convey this closed session from an open session, and by failing to include a closed session summary in the next meeting's minutes.

The Board has made those changes to avoid this recurring in the future.

13. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

- A. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, July 9, 2026, 5:00pm

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:48 PM.