

**Public Business Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, August 20, 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 8/20/2026. 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. The Board of County Commissioners did not meet in Closed Session on August 6, 2026.

5. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes

- A. Approve the Public Business Meeting Minutes from August 6, 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. National Community Health Worker Awareness Week Proclamation - AHEC West

The Board of County Commissioners proclaimed August 24–28, 2026 as National Community Health Worker Awareness Week in Allegany County and encourage residents, healthcare organizations, public agencies, and community partners to recognize and celebrate the community health workers whose dedication helps make health and opportunity more accessible to all.

Ms. Joy Taylor from AHEC West thanked the Commissioners and read a prepared statement about how valuable community health workers are, and how honored she is to accept the proclamation.

7. Public Hearing

- A. Road Closing Petition for a Road Located Northwest of Bayberry Ave in Cumberland - T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney

Attorney Beeman invited Attorney Stefan Hoffmann to the podium. On behalf of his clients, Mr. Hoffmann presented to the Commissioners a petition to close a road located Northwest of Bayberry Ave in Cumberland. The Commissioners previously took action to open this road for the petitioners' intent to close.

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 close this portion of a road located northwest of Bayberry Ave in Cumberland.

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.

8. Action Agenda & Public Comment

- A. Adopt Resolution 26-20 to Approve the Sale of a Land Preservation Easement to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation - Roy S. Cool, Planner, Department of Planning and Zoning

This Resolution allows the Commissioners to recommend approval by the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) to purchase the development rights from Mr. Adam Yonker, who has made application for 118.94 acres located at 11306 Stotlemeyer Road, Little Orleans, Maryland. 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 Contract Renewal with Everbridge for 2027 in the amount of \$28,792.31 - Roger Bennett, Director, Department of Emergency Services

For the past 12 years, the County has utilized this system for mass notifications sent to first responders and the public in the case of an emergency or critical situation. If renewed, the contract would be good for a year running from January 2027 until December 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, David J. Caporale. No: None. Abstain: None.

- C. Accept the Rural Health Transformation Program Grant Funding in the amount of \$71,338 - Roger Bennett, Director, Department of Emergency Services

Maryland has a pre-hospital whole blood program, which used to only include Maryland State helicopters. Now ambulance and chase vehicles can carry whole blood in order for a trauma patient to receive the blood on scene, even before a helicopter would reach him/her. This grant is coming from Maryland's Emergency Medical Service System and will help purchase the blood and equipment to get the County's Emergency Medical Services started with this initiative. 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. Adopt Resolution 26-21 - A Resolution Granting Property Tax Credits for Fiscal Year 2027 - T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney

Pursuant to Tax Property Article §9-302(b), a property tax credit is granted for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, for properties belonging to the following entities:

LaVale Lions Foundation, Inc.
Cumberland Cultural Foundation
Allegany County Agricultural Expo
Carver Community Center, Inc.
The Lions Center for Rehabilitation and Extended Care, Inc.
Allegany County Animal Shelter Management Foundation, Inc.
Western Maryland Scenic Railroad Development Corp.
Cumberland Economic Development Corporation
Evergreen Heritage Center

Pursuant to Tax Property Article §9-302(c), a property tax credit is granted for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, for the following entities:

United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Local 1024

Pursuant to Tax Property Article §9-302(f), a property tax credit is granted for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, for the following entity:

Cumberland Outdoor Club

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 Release of Right of Reversion for Property Transferred to Penn-Mar Recycling - T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney

The Board of County Commissioners previously transferred property containing an out-of-service rail spur to Penn-Mar Recycling. Allegany County maintained a right of reversion in the event that Penn-Mar Recycling failed to improve the rail spur. Penn-Mar has submitted documentation demonstrating that they have improved the rail spur and have requested Allegany County release its right of reversion. 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 the Appointment of Bethany Fife to the Solid Waste Management Board

This will fill the vacant seat of the alternate to the Citizens-at-Large and will be for a term ending August 20, 2028. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

B. Approve a Sponsorship Request from Friends Aware in the amount of \$500

This is for their annual Baskets & Brews Fundraiser to be held on Sunday, September 27, 2026. No one signed up to speak on this agenda item.

10. General Public Comment

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet:

- Mayor Ed Clemons of the Town of Luke - Back in office as mayor, after a couple of years off, came to ask the Commissioners for cooperation, and explained how important it is.
- Kit Pepper Lescalette of 211 James Ct in Frostburg - Addressed a comment made by Commissioner Atkinson regarding the public information requests Ms. LeScallete has asked of the County that have not been fulfilled. Questioned the transparency of discussion and decisions made regarding the FSU ground lease agreement termination that was part of the public meeting agenda at the previous meeting.
- Donelly Bohrer of 10408 Hillcrest Dr in Cumberland - Developed the Fox Ridge Water line, which he continues to maintain today. He is now looking for someone to take it over, as him and his wife are not going to be able to maintain it much longer, and asked the County for help. Also came to talk about the lots he owns in the East Hills Subdivision and asked the County Commissioners to look into seeing if they are viable lots for building.

11. Reports

A. County Administrator

Briefly talked to American Water while attending the MACO, and they indicated they are still working on the County's request to supply information in order to come up with pricing to potentially acquire the water system.

B. County Attorney

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

12. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Atkinson - MACO conference was good, and there were a lot of good discussions with State officials, including conversations about the projects being funded with the flood recovery funding. Also added him and Mr. Adam Patterson met with officials from Lonaconing regarding the water usage and there were a lot of positive things that came out of that meeting.
- Commissioner Brodie - Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.
- Commissioner Caporale - Had no further comments to add at this evening's meeting.

13. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings

A. Anticipated BOCC Public Work Session - Thursday, September 3, 2026 (Details and Time TBA)

B. BOCC Public Business Meeting - Thursday, September 3, 2026, 5:00pm

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 05:38 PM.