

December 1, 2022

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 5:00 p.m. on the above date. The following were present: Commissioner Jacob C. Shade; Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr.; Commissioner David J. Caporale; County Administrator Jason M. Bennett; and Assistant County Attorney Ramon Rozas III.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

MOTION

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Brodie, seconded by Commissioner Caporale, and duly carried, Action Item 1A – Consent Agreement between JDMD Bundle, LLC and the Board of Allegany County Commissioners was added to the Agenda for this meeting.

There were no further additions or deletions to the Agenda.

MOTION

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Caporale, seconded by Commissioner Brodie, and duly carried, the Minutes of the November 17, 2022 public business meeting were approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

ACTION AGENDA

Item 1A – Consent Agreement between JDMD Bundle, LLC and the Board of Allegany County Commissioners – Commissioner Jacob Shade explained that this Consent Agreement would allow the construction group for the Mexico Farms FedEx project to assign their incentive to FedEx itself. Commissioner Shade added that this request is being made at this time because construction of the FedEx building is complete.

Commissioner Shade thanked the County's Department of Economic Development for their work concerning this project, and remarked that the Commissioners are very glad to have FedEx expand in Allegany County.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Caporale, seconded by Commissioner Brodie, and duly carried, the Board of County Commissioners approved and authorized the signature of a Consent Agreement between JDMD Bundle, LLC and the Allegany County Commissioners, to allow JDMD Bundle, LLC to assign the rights of their incentive agreement with the County to FedEx as allowed by the original incentive agreement, now that construction of the new FedEx building is complete. Before moving on to the Consent Agenda, County Administrator Bennett called forward Mr. Mark Widmyer from Governor Hogan's Office. Mr. Widmyer said that he brought greetings from the Governor, and added that the Governor asked him to come to this meeting to make a presentation to outgoing County Commissioner Jacob Shade. Mr. Widmyer read and presented a Governor's Citation to Commissioner Shade in recognition of his eight years of outstanding service as Allegany County Commissioner. A round of applause followed.

CONSENT AGENDA

As recommended by the County Administrator

Upon Motion by Commissioner Brodie, seconded by Commissioner Caporale, and Motion carried, the Board of County Commissioners approved and adopted the Consent Agenda as recommended by the County Administrator.

Item 1 – City of Cumberland Revolving Loan Fund – Board of County Commissioners approved \$30,000 of Community Enhancement Funds reimbursed to the City of Cumberland Revolving Loan Fund for assistance with Invest Allegany.

Item 2 – Frostburg State University Regional Recreation Center Study – Board of County Commissioners approved the allocation of \$13,150 to Frostburg State University to pay for 25% of a study that will look at the potential impacts of a regional recreation center to be constructed on the campus of Frostburg State University.

Item 3 – Allegany County Emergency Services American Rescue Plan Funding – Board of County Commissioners approved the allocation of \$299,733 from the American Rescue Plan Stimulus funding to purchase a 2023 Ford F-550 Superliner Ambulance utilizing the City of Pittsburg's competitive bid process to acquire the ambulance, to be utilized by Allegany County Emergency Services.

Item 4 – Allegany County Department of Social Services Board Appointment – Board of County Commissioners approved the appointment of Caren Phillips-Kurtz to the Allegany County

Department of Social Services Board. She will be fulfilling a vacant position as of result of a member resignation. Her term will expire on June 30, 2025.

County Administrator Jason Bennett expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Shade for everything that he has done for Allegany County, and he remarked that Commissioner Shade has always had the County's best interests at heart. Mr. Bennett added that Commissioner Shade has always been good to County staff and also to Mr. Bennett himself, and he thanked him for his service as County Commissioner.

Commissioner Shade also thanked Administrator Bennett for his assistance to him.

Assistant County Attorney Ramon Rozas thanked Commissioner Shade for his service, on behalf of the County's Legal Department, and told him that it has been a pleasure to work with him.

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet –

Mr. Gary Simpson shared some thoughts about Commissioner Shade. He pointed out that when Jake Shade came onto the political scene, he brought with him a good education, integrity, honesty, and an ability to sit down and negotiate with people to come up with a good result. Mr. Simpson pointed out that Commissioner Shade has always done that and added that he has respected him for that, and also for his ability to make decisions. He went on to say that Commissioner Shade brought with him a true and genuine desire to help not only the people in Allegany County, but Allegany County as a whole. Mr. Simpson concluded his remarks by saying that when people look back 100 years from now on Commissioner Shade's terms as County Commissioner, they will feel the same way about him and will know that he was a true asset to Allegany County. He thanked Commissioner Shade for his eight years of service and devotion and said that he was proud to be one of his friends.

There followed a round of applause.

Cumberland Mayor Ray Morriss spoke next, also sharing his thoughts about Commissioner Shade, and echoed Mr. Simpson's remarks about Commissioner Shade's honesty, integrity, and professionalism. Mayor Morriss commented that it has been a pleasure to work with Commissioner Shade during the last four years that he has been Mayor. He added that he believes what Commissioner Shade brought to the County was a spirit of collaboration and working together. Mayor Morriss commented on the excellent work that Commissioner Shade has done not only for the County but for its municipalities, in particular the Invest Allegany Program. He expressed his gratitude to all of the Commissioners for that Program. Mayor Morriss concluded his remarks by thanking Commissioner Shade on behalf of himself, the members of the City Council, and all staff members of the City of Cumberland, and thanked him personally for his friendship.

There was another round of applause.

Delegate Jason Buckel then offered his thoughts about Commissioner Shade, starting with his relationship with Jake Shade's family. He spoke of the County's need for young people to stay and make a difference, and how Commissioner Shade made the decision to do that. Delegate Buckel pointed out that Commissioner Shade graduated from University of Maryland in roughly two years, remarking on how hard that is to do. He also pointed out that Commissioner Shade was elected at 21 years old, and that he ran for Commissioner not for money, benefits, or attention, but because he sincerely believed that he could make an impact, and be an example and contribute to the place that he loved and where his family had deep roots. Delegate Buckel added that Commissioner Shade did do all that, and for the best reasons. He told Commissioner Shade how proud he is of him and thanked him. There was a round of applause.

Commissioners' statements, comments, recognition

Commissioner David Caporale talked about how hard Commissioner Shade worked, both to get elected and during his service as County Commissioner. He said that one of the reasons he himself ran for County Commissioner was to be able to work with Commissioner Shade and make Allegany County better, and feels that they did that. Commissioner Caporale thanked Commissioner Shade for his valued friendship, and thanked him for his service to Allegany County, adding that he would never be forgotten.

Commissioner Creade Brodie told Commissioner Shade that he was lucky to have served with him for eight years. He pointed out that they have been through a lot, and that he could honestly say that Commissioner Shade has had his back every step of the way. Commissioner Brodie commented that Commissioner Shade truly served the citizens of Allegany County very well, and that he was very proud to have served with him for the past eight years.

Commissioner Jacob Shade thanked everyone. He remarked that all this (serving as a public official) is a team sport and that everyone needs family and friends who support them and also put up with a lot, along with the elected person. Commissioner Shade pointed out that the County has a great staff who are dedicated to this area, and he remarked that he has been fortunate to meet so many wonderful people who work to make government function. He spoke of differences between national and local politics, and pointed that some politicians go into politics to get in front of cameras, while other want to get things done.

Commissioner Shade commented that County Administrator Jason Bennett has been a great friend to him during his entire time in office.

Commissioner Shade also commended County Clerk Linda Simpson, pointing out that she does so much for the County and that the Commissioners could not function without her. He added that Linda has been not just a wonderful employee but also a great friend to him. He told Linda that he would miss her a lot. Commissioner Shade told his fellow Commissioners that it has been a pleasure to work with them.

Commissioner Shade talked about the much-improved relationships between the County and the City of Cumberland and the County and the Board of Education. He also pointed out that the County kept its spending below inflation every year for eight years, which has resulted in a surplus of funds. Commissioner Shade talked about the now full funding of the Board of Education; completion of the new Allegany High School; and remodeling of the LaVale Library and South Cumberland Library. He discussed dealing with Covid and helping local businesses during that time with \$3,800,000.00 in relief money going out to 689 businesses, all with local funds, as well as the establishment of Invest Allegany Program, which is already yielding results. Commissioner Shade said that he was very proud that the County was able to put mental health counselors in every middle and high school, while keeping the school resource officers in place at the schools. Commissioner Shade mentioned some other projects accomplished, including medical marijuana facilities, solar farms, banning of speed cameras, overhaul of the County's liquor laws for the first time in many years and the blight removal program with municipalities.

Commissioner Shade concluded by saying that things were done that he set out to do and that he was happy with his record of service as County Commissioner. He commented on the difficulties of being in public service. Commissioner Shade thanked everyone and wished them goodbye for now!

His fellow Commissioners presented a gift to Commissioner Shade.

Reminders/Upcoming Meetings –

Next Public Business Meeting – Thursday, December 15, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Jacob C. Shade, President

True Copy
Attest:

Cynthia A. Young
Recording Secretary