



Board of County Commissioners

David J. Caporale, President  
William R. Atkinson, Commissioner  
Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Commissioner  
Jason M. Bennett, CPA, Administrator  
T. Lee Beeman, Esq., Attorney

## Public Business Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 20, 2023 - 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

### 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 05:03 PM on 4/20/2023. 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.

### 4. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes

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.

### 5. Presentations

### 6. Public Hearing

A. First Preliminary Budget Presentation Public Hearing - Jason M. Bennett, CPA, County Administrator  
Administrator Bennett presented the preliminary budget for public and Commissioner comment. Pam Diaz and Kiersten O'Donnell of the Finance Department were thanked for their efforts in preparation of the Fiscal Year 2023 Preliminary Budget. No comments from the commissioners or the public.

B. Maryland Recovery Housing Program Funding - Archway Station Recovery Housing Project - David Nedved

David Nedved held the public hearing for The Maryland Recovery Housing Program (RHP). The intent of the Maryland Recovery Housing Program is to support persons in recovery by providing stable temporary housing. Archway Station's Recovery Housing Project is for women moving from treatment facilities to recovery housing who will reunite with their children. The applicant has to be a county government. Therefore, the Allegany County Commissioners will be the applicant with Archway Station, Inc. being the subrecipient. The Allegany County Commissioners propose to submit an application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development by the May 12, 2023 deadline for a \$350,000 Maryland Recovery Housing Program Grant. This would pay for part of the acquisition of a building for the project. If awarded, a Maryland Recovery Housing Program Grant would cover \$350,000 towards the acquisition cost of a building for the project. Archway Station, Inc. would be responsible for securing any additional funding needed for the project. There would be no financial impact to Allegany County except for any costs related to the application for grant funding and administration of the grant funding. There were no further comments or questions from the commissioners or public.

## **7. Action Agenda**

### **A. MOU with LaVale Sanitary Commission - Adam Patterson**

LaVale Sanitary was approved for a SRF loan from MDE for the LaVale Water Main Project. MDE is requiring Allegany County to be the responsible party for the loan. A MOU agreement between Allegany County and LaVale Sanitary detailing the arrangement needs to be approved and signed. 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. Announcement and Publication of a RFP for the Development of Market-Rate Housing for the Old Allegany High School Site - Adam Strott**

As a means of incentivizing new, market-rate housing, the Allegany County Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) is pursuing a strategy of cost savings for local homeowners by leveraging existing, county-owned land, and absorbing the costs of infrastructure and neighborhood building. Due to the inherently high cost of construction, both in material and labor, using an HOA model and covering the costs of site development will lower the per unit cost so that new housing is affordable for the average family in Allegany County, while attracting a qualified speculative housing developer or developers. In addition, the cost difference will potentially attract new residents and households from other states or other jurisdictions within the State of Maryland. As such, the ECD is proposing the announcement and publication of an RFP to identify and select a developer or multiple developers to build over 100 units of new, market-rate housing on the Old Allegany High School Site. Commissioners spoke in support of the project and publication of the RFP. 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

## **8. Consent Agenda**

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda, By: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Seconded: William R. Atkinson. Yes: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., William R. Atkinson, David J. Caporale, No: None, Abstain: None

### **A. Code Enforcement Fine Schedule - **Resolution 23-8****

The proposed fine schedule is to update and better define the previous fine schedule (Resolution 98-13.) The proposed changes will now correlate with the civil infraction class violations outlined in §354-4.

### **B. Maryland Recovery Housing Grant Application for Archway Station Recovery Housing Project - **Resolution 23-9****

The Maryland Recovery Housing Program (RHP) is a federally funded program designed to assist county governments with the provision of stable, temporary housing for individuals in recovery from a substance use disorder. The State has \$2,975,584 available for this competitive funding round. The Maryland Recovery Housing Program is funded with Community Development Block Grant funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and will be managed by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development through the Office of Community Development Programs in the Division of Neighborhood Revitalization. Persons in recovery for a substance use disorder are in the process of changing to improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential. The intent of the Maryland Recovery Housing Program is to support persons in recovery by providing stable temporary housing. Archway Station's Recovery Housing Project is for women moving from treatment facilities to recovery housing who will reunite with their children. The applicant has to be a county government. Therefore, the Allegany County Commissioners will be the applicant with Archway Station, Inc. being the subrecipient. The Allegany

County Commissioners propose to submit an application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development by the May 12, 2023 deadline for a \$350,000 Maryland Recovery Housing Program Grant. This would pay for part of the acquisition of a building for the project.

**C. Rules & Regulations Governing Employees of Allegany County - **Resolution 23-10****

Approval of job description for the position of Victim Witness Coordinator with Allegany County Office of the State's Attorney.

**D. Columbia Gas Right of Way Agreement for Moss Avenue**

Columbia Gas desires to install a gas service line across 11613 Moss Avenue, which is owned by Allegany County and was acquired through a flood buyout in 1985. Columbia Gas is requesting a right of way agreement to be signed between Allegany County and Columbia Gas.

**E. Old Allegany High School Field Use Agreement w/ Braddock Warriors**

The Braddock Warriors football team have requested use of the fields and parking lot at the old Allegany High School site for their upcoming football season. Approved for use through November 30, 2023.

**F. Renewal of Operation and Maintenance Agreement with LaVale Athletic Association for Holly Avenue and Lion's Field**

Renewal of the operation and maintenance agreement between Allegany County and LaVale Athletic Association for the Holly Avenue and Lion's fields. Extending through April 30, 2026.

**G. Memorandum of Understanding between Allegany County Detention Center and Family Crisis Resource Center, Inc.**

Memorandum of Understanding between Allegany County Detention Center and Family Crisis Resource Center, Inc. to provide crisis intervention treatment related to PREA Complaints to inmates. Contract runs through April 1, 2025.

**H. Request a Public Hearing on Transit Capital and Operational Funding**

The Department of Public Works – Transit Division requests a public hearing concerning Federal and State funding assistance. The funding assistance is to be used by Allegany County Transit (ACT) to meet the public transportation needs of the general public, senior citizens, and disabled individuals of Allegany County. Capital requests will be utilized to install new garage doors and fund a preventive maintenance program. The total capital request is \$440,000, of which \$360,000 is being requested in Federal and State funds. Local sources will fund the remainder. Operational assistance is being requested through CARES, Section 5307, Section 5311, Statewide Special Transportation Assistance, and the Maryland Transit Administration as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act Grants. These programs' total net operational cost is estimated at \$2,477,618, of which \$2,095.100 is requested in Federal and State funds. Any remainder is to be funded by local sources.

**I. 2023 Thomas Automotive Wing-Off & Music Festival**

Request from the Western Maryland Jaycees to sponsor the 11th Annual Tri-State Wing-Off in the amount of \$1,500. The event is being held the weekend of June 17th at the Allegany County Fairgrounds.

**J. 2023 Frostburg Elks Derby Day Sponsorship**

The 47th Annual Frostburg Elks Derby event will be held on July 1, 2023. "Derby Day is an event that brings out the entire community, along with visitors from out of town, who line Main Street to cheer on the racers. These crowds also patronize businesses and provide a boost to the local economy." Requesting to sponsor \$1,500.

**K. Cumberland Skate Park - ARPA Funds Award**

The City of Cumberland Maryland is currently developing plans for a Skatepark to be located at the Mason Sports Complex adjacent to the current BMX facility. The city is teaming with the Cumberland Skatepark Task Force and the Western Maryland Jaycees to secure the funding to make this project a success. This project will provide a 13,500 sq/ft skatepark at the Mason Sports Complex and will cost approximately \$645,000.00 to complete. The design of the proposed park is based upon designs submitted by Spohn Ranch of Los Angeles, CA. The City of Cumberland has established a Non-Endowed Restricted Fund through the Community Trust Foundation a 501(c)3 organization to assist in the fundraising and to encourage both corporate and individual donations to this effort. The name of this account is the City of Cumberland Skate Park Task Force Fund. The city has seeded this effort with a \$10,000.00 initial donation. The fund currently has \$20,140.74 from grass roots efforts.

L. Wireless Infrastructure Upgrade of Fairgrounds Campus - Bid Award to CONXX, Cumberland, MD  
Allegany County seeks the delivery and installation of equipment specified for the purpose of upgrading the current Ruckus wireless environment while preserving the existing installation. These improvements focus on customer experience and ease of management and will provide additional capacity to the distribution network and an expanded footprint that better reflects current and anticipated use of the campus. Winning bid - CONXX Technologies, 434 N Centre St, Cumberland, MD 21502. Total bid - \$108,117.72 for equipment and installation.

## **9. Public Comment**

Duane Miller- speaking on lacking Broadband/Internet connectivity services in Allegany County. He requests that commissioners draft and send a letter to state representatives in support of more connectivity. Further discussion about the status of the projects currently happening in Old Town. Commission President Caporale requested that Administrator Bennett review the contract on that project, and what the timeline requires of them.

Richard Bianconi - Speaking in opposition of the Women's Health Clinic of West Virginia and the possibility of them performing Abortions at the recently purchased site on McMullen Hwy.

## **10. Reports**

### **A. County Administrator**

Administrator Bennett thanked several of our staff members in Economic Development and Public Works for their work on the prep of the old Allegany High School site.

### **B. County Attorney**

County Attorney Beeman shared that he has received information about the Sanctuary of the Unborn, and it is something that he continues to explore.

## **11. Commissioner Comments**

No additional comments

## **12. Reminders/Upcoming Meetings**

### **A. NEXT MEETING - May 11, 2023, 5:00 PM**

## **13. Adjournment**