

March 11, 2021

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 County Attorney T. Lee Beeman, Jr. The following business was transacted:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

MOTION

Commissioner Shade asked that an Item 2A be added to the Agenda, under "Action", for 2021 LaVale Refunding Bond Resolution.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Caporale, seconded by Commissioner Shade, and Motion duly carried, the Board of County Commissioners agreed to the addition of Item 2A – 2021 LaVale Refunding Bond Resolution to the Action Agenda for this evening's meeting. Commissioner Brodie abstained from voting on this action.

There were no further additions or deletions to the Agenda.

MOTION

Upon Motion by Commissioner Brodie, seconded by Commissioner Caporale, and Motion carried, the Commissioners approved the Minutes of the February 25, 2021 public business meeting.

PRESENTATION

Item 1 – Proclamation – American Red Cross Month, March 2021, Allegany County – Jason Keeling, Executive Director, Allegheny Highlands Chapter, Maryland & West Virginia, American Red Cross – Central Appalachia Region, made brief remarks prior to the reading of the Proclamation.

Commissioner Jacob Shade read into the record an official Proclamation that March 2021 is Red Cross Month in Allegany County. A copy of this Proclamation as read into the record by Commissioner Shade is attached to and made a part of these Minutes.

ACTION AGENDA

Item 2 – Tax Lien Sale Service Agreement with Real Tax – Board of County Commissioners to authorize the President of the County Commissioners to sign an agreement with Realauction, L.L.C., to provide an online tax sale product to conduct the tax sale – Jason M. Bennett, CPA, County Administrator, explained that the Finance Department is working on an agreement with Realauction to do something different with this year's tax sale in light of the continuing Covid situation. Mr. Bennett said that this would be a three-year agreement with Realauction to take the County's tax sale virtual. He pointed out that four other counties in Maryland have already done this, with six more counties, including Garrett County, to be going live with virtual tax sale this year. Mr. Bennett commented that this will hopefully bring better results from tax sale, and added that the County would not have to worry about filling up the Commissioners' meeting room with people. He asked for the Commissioners' approval, and pointed out that this will involve little cost to the County: Realauction will provide free training and will support County staff, and there will be a \$10 fee per item auctioned which can be incorporated into the base price.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Caporale, and seconded by Commissioner Brodie, the Board of Board of County Commissioners authorized the President of the Board of County Commissioners to sign an agreement with Realauction to provide an online tax sale product to conduct the tax sale.

Item 2A – Resolution 21-4 - 2021 LaVale Refunding Bond Resolution – Jason M. Bennett, CPA, County Administrator, first thanked the County Commissioners for agreeing to the addition of this Item to the Agenda this evening. He explained that the sale was just concluded this week. Mr. Bennett provided some brief background and details about Resolution 21-4 and reminded the Commissioners that the County handles the debt issuance for LaVale Sanitary and guarantees the debt, so they have to go through some legal steps.

Mr. Bennett further explained that Resolution 21-4 is to approve a \$2,642,000 note that LaVale Sanitary awarded at 1.77 percent interest to Zions Bank for a sixteen-year term. He pointed out that this refinances their existing debt and saves them approximately \$383,000, and that County staff is working on getting the loan closed within the next week. Mr. Bennett told the Commissioners that their passage of Resolution 21-4 this evening would fully authorize closing.

Commissioner Caporale moved that the Board of County Commissioners approve and pass Resolution 21-4 – 2021 LaVale Refunding Bond Resolution. Commissioner Shade seconded the Motion. Motion carried to approve and pass Resolution 21-4.

Vote:

Commissioner Caporale – Yes
Commissioner Brodie – Abstain
Commissioner Shade – Yes

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 adopted the Consent Agenda as recommended by the County Administrator.

Item 3 – Scattered Sites Housing Program – Board of County Commissioners approved the acceptance of an offer of \$25,000 from Jonathan and Amy Meadors, LaVale, Maryland, to purchase the property know as 17219 Beechers Avenue, Eckhart, Maryland, Property Tax Account Number 24-005348, and authorized the President of the County Commissioners to sign the closing documents and the deed for the sale of the property.

Item 4 – Scattered Sites Housing Program – Board of County Commissioners approved the acceptance of an offer of \$55,100 from Greater Trails, LLC, Alexandria, Virginia, to purchase the property know as 540 Fairview Avenue, Fairview Addition, Cumberland, Maryland, Property Tax Account Number 05-004268, and authorized the President of the County Commissioners to sign the closing documents and the deed for the sale of the property.

Item 5 – Emergency Solutions Grants-CV2 Homelessness Solutions Program Grant Agreement – Board of County Commissioners authorized the President of the County Commissioners to sign a grant agreement with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development accepting up to \$207,519 in ESG-CV2 Homelessness Solutions Program Grant funds on behalf of the Human Resources Development Commission up to \$166,500, on behalf of the Allegany County Department of Social Services up to \$12,846, and on behalf of the Family Crisis Resource Center up to \$28,173. The Board of County Commissioners also authorized the President of the County Commissioners to sign sub recipient agreements with each of these organizations for the administration of the ESG-CV2 Homelessness Solutions Program.

Item 6 – Declaration of Surplus Property – Board of County Commissioners authorized the Department of Public Works Roads Division to declare a 1986 International Dump Truck, Model S1954, VIN# 1HTLDTVN3GHA24415, as surplus and to be disposed of in accordance with county policy.

County Administrator Jason Bennett had no further comments to make at this evening's meeting.

County Attorney Lee Beeman had no further comments to make at this evening's meeting.

Commissioners' statements, comments, recognition –

Commissioner David Caporale had no further comments to make at this evening's meeting.

Commissioner Creade Brodie remarked that he is glad the Commissioners meeting is once again open to the public, and he acknowledged constituent Mr. Kenneth Wilmont in the audience.

Commissioner Jacob Shade reported that the Board of County Commissioners is working with the County's Board of Education regarding back to school. He commented on the hard work being put in by the County's teachers.

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet – No one signed up to speak at this meeting.

Reminders/Upcoming Meetings –

Next Public Business Meeting – Thursday, March 25, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Jacob C. Shade, President

True Copy
Attest:

Cynthia A. Young
Recording Secretary

OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross is a 140-year-old organization founded by the legendary nurse Clara Barton to prevent and alleviate suffering; and

WHEREAS, last year in Allegany County, local American Red Cross volunteers helped two dozen families impacted by home fires; and

WHEREAS, last year in Allegany County, the American Red Cross collected nearly 2,000 units of lifesaving blood; and

WHEREAS, we encourage citizens to join with the American Red Cross and help people in need:

- donate to support disaster relief efforts;
- volunteer to help local families cope with and recover from disasters;
- give life-saving blood; and
- prepare to help in an emergency by taking classes in CPR, first aid and other lifesaving skills.

WHEREAS, we, the Allegany County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim March 2021 as American Red Cross Month in Allegany County, and commend the work of this humanitarian organization.

Jacob C. Shade, President

Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Commissioner

David J. Caporale, Commissioner