

February 9, 2023

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 David J. Caporale; Commissioner William R. Atkinson; County Administrator Jason M. Bennett; and County Attorney T. Lee Beeman, Jr.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

MOTION

There were no additions or deletions to the Agenda.

MOTION

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Atkinson, seconded by Commissioner Caporale, and duly carried, the Minutes of the January 26, 2023 public business meeting were approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

PRESENTATIONS

Item 1 – Allegany High School – Won Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Championship, held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, included more than 100 bands. Allegany led all Group 1 open bands with a score of 96.5 and placed first in all caption awards, including Best Music, Best Visual, Best Auxiliary, and Best Percussion.

Commissioner Caporale recapped the awards won by the Allegany High School Band at the recent Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Championship. He then called forward Mr. Ken Pfromm, Director of the Allegany High School Band, and read and presented him with an official Citation. The Commissioners offered their congratulations to Mr. Pfromm and the Band. There was a round of applause.

Fort Hill High School – Won 1st Place in the 3A group at the Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Championships at Hershey Park Stadium. The band also won awards for Best Music and Best Visual. Fort Hill earned a historic high score of 95.93, breaking the school's highest score record for the third time in one season.

Commissioner Caporale recapped the awards won by the Fort Hill High School Band at the recent Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Championship. He then called forward Mr. Joe Thompson, Fort Hill High School's Band Director. The Commissioners congratulated Mr. Thompson, then Commissioner Caporale read and presented him with an official Citation, followed by a round of applause.

Mt. Ridge High School – Earned their first state title at the Maryland Marching Band Association State Championships at Towson University, with a score of 92.3 and receiving the award for Best Visual Performance. Their score set a new school record.

Commissioner Caporale recapped Mountain Ridge High School Band's accomplishments at the recent Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Championship, including their first State title. He then called forward Mr. Derek Shank, Director of the Mountain Ridge High School Band, and the Commissioners offered their congratulations. Commissioner Caporale read and presented Mr. Shank with an official Citation. There was a round of applause.

Commissioner Caporale, on behalf of all of the Board of County Commissioners, thanked all three band directors for being at this evening's meeting and told them how proud they have made the Commissioners, their schools and the community.

CONSENT AGENDA

As recommended by the County Administrator

Upon Motion by Commissioner Atkinson, 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 2 – Allegany County Board of Education Capital Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2024 – Board of County Commissioners approved the Allegany County Board of Education's Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Improvement Program.

Item 3 – Resolution 23-2 – Rules & Regulations Governing Employees of Allegany County, Maryland Amendments – Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution 23-2, the amendments to the Rules & Regulations Governing Employees of Allegany County, Maryland.

Item 4 – Fiscal Year 2023 License Plate Reader Grant – Board of County Commissioners approved this fully funded grant from the Maryland State Police in the amount of \$57,041, to the Allegany County Sheriff’s Office for the purchase of License Plate Reader devices, and authorized the President of the County Commissioners to sign all documents.

Item 5 – Allegany County Building Code Appeals Board Re-Appointment – Board of County Commissioners approved the re-appointment of Jared M. Burkett as a member of the Allegany County Building Code Appeals Board. His term will expire on January 22, 2028.

Item 6 – Allegany County Planning & Zoning Commission Board Re-Appointment – Board of County Commissioners approved the re-appointment of William M. Chesno as a member of the Allegany County Planning & Zoning Commission Board. His term will expire on February 16, 2028.

Item 7 – Allegany County Commission for Women Board Appointment – Board of County Commissioners approved the appointment of Anne M. Brown as a member of the Allegany County Commission for Women. Her term will expire on July 1, 2026.

Item 8 – Allegany County Department of Social Services Board Appointment – Board of County Commissioners approved the appointment of Kimberly J. McMillan to the Allegany County Department of Social Services Board. Her term will expire on June 30, 2026.

Item 9 – Solid Waste Management Board Appointments – Board of County Commissioners approved the appointments of Adam Strott to serve as a member of the Solid Waste Management Board representing Allegany County Government, and to appoint Brynn Laird to serve as the alternate for the same position, both for two-year terms.

Item 10 – Purchase Used Equipment – Board of County Commissioners approved the purchase of one (1) used 66” Smooth Drum Vibrator Soil Roller from Anderson Equipment Company, Somerset, Pennsylvania, in the amount of \$53,750, to be utilized by the Allegany County Department of Public Works Roads Division.

Item 11 – 61st Annual Alhambra Catholic Invitational Tournament – Board of County Commissioners authorized the County Finance Department to remit \$3,000 budgeted from the Community Promotions Account to support the 61st Annual Alhambra Catholic Invitational Tournament, Frostburg, Maryland, to be held March 9-11, 2023.

Item 12 – 2nd Annual Queen City Showdown Tournament – Board of County Commissioners authorized the County Finance Department to remit \$1,000 budgeted from the Community Promotions Account to support the 2nd Annual Queen City Showdown Tournament, Cumberland, Maryland, to be held March 24-26, 2023.

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet –

Mr. Dana Tinnen, of Cumberland, discussed his concerns about recreational opportunities available to the youth of the community. He asked that the Commissioners consider providing financial assistance to youth programs in the City of Cumberland and commented that a recreational center is needed. Mr. Tinnen talked about the Boys and Girls Club and the Carver Center.

Commissioner Caporale and Administrator Bennett discussed a few possible sources of funding, including Program Open Space and Rocky Gap Local Impact Grant funds. Commissioner Caporale pointed out that this evening, two approved Consent Agenda items provided funding to youth programs. Administrator Bennett added that approximately forty percent (40%) of the County’s annual budget goes for the benefit of the County’s youth in the form of funding to the Board of Education and to Allegany College.

County Attorney Lee Beeman pointed out that the Carver Center and the City of Cumberland have reached out to the Commissioners regarding abatement of back owed real estate taxes of approximately \$20,000. He explained that if granted, the abatement would allow the Carver Center to use those funds to get back up off the ground and running. He told the Commissioners that this item should be on the agenda for their next public business meeting.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Tinnen for speaking at this evening’s meeting.

County Attorney Lee Beeman congratulated the Allegany, Fort Hill, and Mountain Ridge High School bands and acknowledged all of their time and hard work.

County Administrator Jason Bennett also offered his congratulations to the bands.

Commissioners' statements, comments, recognition –

Commissioners Bill Atkinson and David Caporale echoed Attorney Beeman and Administrator Bennett in their congratulations to the Allegany, Fort Hill, and Mountain Ridge High School bands.

Reminders/Upcoming Meetings –

Next Public Business Meeting – Thursday, February 23, 2023 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

David J. Caporale, President

True Copy
Attest:

Cynthia A. Young
Recording Secretary