

April 16, 2020

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 Brandon S. Butler; and County Attorney T. Lee Beeman, Jr. The following business was transacted:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present at this meeting.

The meeting was again available to the public by livestream only.

MOTION

County Attorney Lee Beeman asked for an Item to be added to the Action Agenda for this meeting. With no objection, the Board of County Commissioners agreed to add Item 4A – Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of County Commissioners and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1715.

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 March 26, 2020, public business meeting.

PRESENTATION

Item 1 – Fair Housing Month 52nd Anniversary Proclamation

County Administrator Brandon Butler, in place of David Nedved of the Allegany County Department of Economic and Community Development, announced that April 2020 is Fair Housing Month, and he added that this year is the 52nd anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act in 1968. Mr. Butler then read the Commissioners' Proclamation of April 2020 as Fair Housing Month in Allegany County.

Item 2 – Child Abuse Awareness Month

County Administrator Brandon Butler read into the record a written statement provided by Crissy Ujcic, a County employee working with Jane's Place. A copy of Ms. Ujcic's statement as read by Mr. Butler is attached to and made a part of these Minutes.

Mr. Butler then read the Commissioners' Proclamation of April 2020 as Child Abuse Awareness Month in Allegany County.

Commissioner Shade explained that the Proclamations for Items 1 and 2 would be delivered to the appropriate parties.

ACTION AGENDA

Item 3 – First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with Cumberland Economic Development Commission (CEDC), City of Cumberland, and the Board of County Commissioners – Board of County Commissioners to approve and agree to execute the First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between the CEDC, City of Cumberland, and the Board of County Commissioners, for a period of sixty (60) days until June 1, 2020, to create the Allegany Development Corporation – Jacob C. Shade, President, explained that while he is still in favor of consolidating the County's Economic Development Department with the CEDC, he feels this may not be the appropriate time to continue negotiations, in consideration of everything else currently going on in the County because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He commented that the County's focus should currently be on assisting local businesses and individuals who are affected by the health crisis. Commissioner Shade added that there are also budget questions to consider; and he recommended that the Board of County Commissioners table Item 3 – First Amendment to the MOU – to a later time and address the issue of the consolidation again then, when there is more budgetary certainty.

Commissioner Caporale said that he advocated extending or renegotiating the date of the MOU at this evening's meeting. He pointed out that April 1 was the original deadline to complete negotiations on the MOU and that he recommended either extending that date or negotiating a new date.

Commissioner Shade again spoke in favor of tabling Item 3 – First Amendment to the MOU.

Commissioner Shade remarked that the action to table Item 3 was not a reflection on the long-term goal of County Economic Development and the CEDC working together. Commissioner Caporale said that he would recommend the Commissioners go ahead and select a date in the coming weeks to pick up discussion of the consolidation. Commissioner Shade suggested June 30, and he and Commissioner Caporale discussed that possibility.

Commissioner Brodie said that he was not in favor of the merger but would be in favor of tabling this Item, and made a Motion that the Board of County Commissioners table Item 3 to a future Commissioners public business meeting. Commissioner Shade seconded the Motion.

Upon the Motion made by Commissioner Brodie, and the second by Commissioner Shade, the Board of County Commissioners agreed by a vote of two to one to table Item 3.

Vote to Table Item 3:

Shade – Aye
Brodie – Aye
Caporale – Opposed

Item 4 – Development Agreement with Barton Health Care Management, Inc. – Board of County Commissioners to approve and execute a Development Agreement with Barton Health Care Management, Inc., for the provision of certain infrastructure improvements at the property formerly known as Cumberland Chase, for the establishment of a nursing home, assisted living, and senior housing campus – Brandon S. Butler, County Administrator, provided background and information on the Development Agreement with Barton Health Care Management, Inc., and reminded the Commissioners that they signed a letter of intent at a previous public business meeting to approve and execute the Development Agreement. He pointed out that Barton Health Care Management, Inc. is the entity headed by Dave Weimer, Jeff Metz, and Troy Raines.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Brodie, seconded by Commissioner Caporale, and duly carried, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved and agreed to execute the Development Agreement with Barton Health Care Management, Inc., for the provision of certain infrastructure improvements at the property formerly known as Cumberland Chase, for the establishment of a nursing home, assisted living, and senior housing campus.

Item 4A - Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of County Commissioners and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1715. County Attorney Lee Beeman explained that the County and International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1715 have agreed on terms of the new contract for Emergency Medical Services, but because of the COVID-19 situation, it is not possible for the Union to hold a formal vote at this time. Attorney Beeman asked the Commissioner to sign, and recommended that they sign, an MOU to make the pending contract effective as of this evening, April 16, 2020.

Commissioner Brodie moved that the Board of County Commissioners execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of County Commissioners and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1715. Commissioner Caporale seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously to approve and sign the MOU.

CONSENT AGENDA

As recommended by the County Administrator

After County Administrator Butler presented the Consent Agenda, and before action was taken on it, Commissioner Brodie asked that the Consent Agenda Items be broken out and voted on separately.

Item 5 – Memorandum of Understanding with Allegany College of Maryland Regarding Makerspace Funding – Board of County Commissioners approved and agreed to execute an agreement with Allegany College of Maryland regarding its contributions to the operation of Western Maryland Works, located at 37 Lane Avenue, LaVale, Maryland.

The Board of County Commissioners unanimously adopted Item 5 of the Consent Agenda.

Item 6 – Allegany Holding Company Wills Mountain State Park – Board of County Commissioners approved and agreed to execute a letter to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to approve the transfer of over 100 acres of property from Allegany Holding Company to the State of Maryland.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Caporale, seconded by Commissioner Shade, and Motion carried, the Board of County Commissioners, by a vote of Two to One, adopted Item 6 of the Consent Agenda as recommended by the County Administrator.

Vote:

Shade: Yes
Brodie: No
Caporale: Yes

Item 7 – Kessel Property Land Sale Approval – Board of County Commissioners approved and agreed to execute a letter to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources approving the sale of land over 100 acres to the State of Maryland from the Kessel Estate.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Caporale, seconded by Commissioner Shade, and Motion carried, the Board of County Commissioners, by a vote of Two to One, adopted Item 7 of the Consent Agenda as recommended by the County Administrator.

Vote:

Shade: Yes
Brodie: No
Caporale: Yes

County Administrator Brandon S. Butler thanked the Commissioners for their leadership on the grants to assist local small businesses affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic and said that the funds are helping many businesses.

County Attorney T. Lee Beeman, Jr. also remarked on the assistance that local small businesses are getting from the COVID-19 grants.

Commissioners' statements, comments, recognition

Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr. expressed his continued wishes for everyone to stay safe.

Commissioner David J. Caporale added his wishes for everyone to stay safe and remarked that everyone is working together to make the best of the situation.

Commissioner Jacob C. Shade commented on the budget difficulties being faced by local government and the financial issues of local businesses. He expressed his hope that things will soon improve.

Reminders/Upcoming Meetings –

Next Public Work Session

Next Public Business Meeting – Thursday, April 30, 2020 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Jacob C. Shade, President

True Copy
Attest:

Cynthia A. Young
Recording Secretary

4-16-20

On behalf of Jane's Place, Inc., Allegany County Child Advocacy Center, Allegany County Department of Social Services and the children of Allegany County, we are honored to receive this Proclamation honoring National Child Abuse Prevention Month here in Allegany County.

Partnerships drive prevention and this year Jane's Place, Inc. and Allegany County Department of Social Services have once again teamed up to get the message out that child abuse CAN be prevented. Due to the current health crisis and quarantines, we have increased our online presence to virtually "paint the town blue" on Facebook. Some of these posts include positive parenting videos, a virtual spirit week, an art contest and we are also encouraging everyone to wear blue on Fridays during the month of April. We would like to express our gratitude to the many businesses and organizations in Allegany County who step up each year to promote child abuse awareness and prevention month and look forward to rescheduling many of these events later this year when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

In 2019, there were 429 suspected child abuse cases investigated or assessed by Child Protective Services here in Allegany County. We want to point out that this is the number of cases and unfortunately each case could have multiple children involved. This is a twelve-month job for us, keeping children safe is our number one priority. Now more than ever, we want to encourage the community to know the signs and speak out. Together, we can keep kids safe. To report suspected child abuse in Allegany County, please call 301-784-7122. Thank you for the continued support and this special recognition during the month of April.