

June 2, 2016

The regular meeting of the County Commissioners of Allegany County was held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, 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 William R. Valentine; County Attorney William M. Rudd; and County Administrator David A. Eberly. The following business was transacted:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dan Williams.

MOTION

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

MOTION

Upon Motion by Commissioner Brodie, seconded by Commissioner Valentine, and Motion carried, the Commissioners approved the minutes of the May 19, 2016, public business meeting.

PRESENTATION

Item 1 – 2016-2017 Allegany County Teacher of the Year: Tania Renae Pressman, Cresaptown Elementary School Fourth Grade Teacher, came forward to make brief remarks, and to accept an Official Citation from the County Commissioners, honoring her as the 2016-2017 Allegany County Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Pressman introduced some persons accompanying her: her husband, her stepson Daniel, and her daughter Gracie.

Commissioner Shade read and presented Mrs. Pressman with her Citation. A round of applause followed.

Item 2 – Sheriff's Town Hall Meetings Award Presentation – Rebecca A. Meyers, Program Director, Outpatient Addictions, and Christine A. Delaney, Program Director, Prevention and Promotion, Allegany County Health Department – Behavioral Health. Sheriff Craig Robertson spoke about the issue of the County's opioid and heroin epidemic, which is also present in the State and the Country as well. Sheriff Robertson then discussed the Town Hall Meetings held, through which approximately 2,500 people in the County were reached. He pointed out that two individuals were instrumental in making the Town Hall Meetings happen, and said that he wished to recognize them both for their work concerning the project: Rebecca Meyers, the Program Director for the Outpatient Addictions Program, and Christine Delaney, Program Director for the Prevention and Promotion Program. Sheriff Robertson also provided some details about the Town Hall Meetings program.

Ms. Meyers and Ms. Delaney both came forward, and Sheriff Robertson presented each of them with a Sheriff's Office Certificate of Appreciation.

Commissioner Shade then read and presented each of the ladies with an Official Citation from the County Commissioners, in appreciation of their efforts. There was a round of applause for Ms. Meyers, Ms. Delaney and Sheriff Robertson.

Before leaving the podium, both Ms. Meyers and Ms. Delaney spoke. Ms. Meyers thanked the Sheriff, and also the County Commissioners, and also acknowledged Pat Panuska, Deputy Health Officer for Allegany County, and Jenelle Mayer, County Health Officer.

Ms. Delaney expressed her thanks to Commissioner Bill Valentine, who attended most of the Town Hall Meetings, for his support.

Commissioner Brodie reported that he was contacted a few days ago by a citizen who wants to get involved with the Town Hall Meetings program, former Board of Education member, Jeff Metz.

ACTION AGENDA

SETTING THE LEVY – Budget Actions for Fiscal Year 2017

Item 3 – Budget Message – The Board of County Commissioners' Budget Message: President Jacob C. Shade read the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Message. A copy of this Message is attached to and made a part of these Minutes.

Item 4 – Resolution 16-15 – Enact Resolution 16-15 adopting the Fiscal Year 2017 Operating and Capital Budget in the amount of \$135,663,070.00 – Jason M. Bennett, CPA, Director of Finance, briefly summarized the FY-2017 Budget again for the Commissioners and then asked for them to adopt and pass Resolution 16-15.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Valentine, and seconded by Commissioner Brodie, the Commissioners unanimously approved and passed Resolution 16-15 adopting the Fiscal Year 2017 Operating and Capital Budget in the amount of \$135,663,070.

Item 5 – Motion to adopt the Tax Levy & Differential – Authorize the Board of County Commissioners to adopt the Tax Levy & Differential and authorize the Collector of Public Assessments of Allegany County to demand and receive from the taxables the sums indicated therein – Jason M. Bennett, CPA, Director of Finance, pointed out that, as previously discussed on numerous occasions, the County tax rate has been reduced by one-tenth of a penny to .9770, making this the sixth consecutive year of tax decreases. He requested that the Commissioners approve and adopt the Tax Levy & Differential, so the new tax rates can be applied to the tax bills effective July 1, 2016.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Brodie, seconded by Commissioner Valentine and unanimously carried, the Commissioners adopted the Tax Levy & Differential.

Item 6 – Motion to adopt the Supplemental Levy for Special Taxing Areas – Authorize the Board of County Commissioners to adopt the Supplemental Levy for Special Taxing Areas and authorize the Collector of Public Assessments to demand and receive from the taxpayers of the enumerated Special Taxing Areas those rates as listed as part of the Levy – Jason M. Bennett, CPA, Director of Finance, provided some brief details and again asked for the Commissioners' approval. He pointed out that the new Special Taxing Areas rates will also be applied to the tax bills effective July 1, 2016.

Commissioner Valentine moved that the Commissioners adopt the Supplemental Levy for Special Taxing Areas and authorize the Collector of Public Assessments to demand and receive from the taxpayers of the enumerated Special Taxing Areas those rates as listed as part of the Levy. Commissioner Brodie seconded the Motion, which passed unanimously.

Item 7 – Motion authorizing the Director of Finance to have the necessary Levy documents published in the local newspaper and printed in the customary pamphlet form – Jason M. Bennett, CPA, Director of Finance, explained that he was asking for the Commissioners' authorization to advertise the necessary Levy documents in the newspaper. Mr. Bennett confirmed that the information will all be available on the County's website in approximately a week.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Brodie, and seconded by Commissioner Valentine, the Commissioners unanimously authorized the Director of Finance to have the necessary Levy documents published in the local newspaper and printed in the customary pamphlet form.

Item 8 – Motion to authorize Water & Sewer Rates for Fiscal Year 2017 – Board of County Commissioners to sign and approve the proposed rate resolution adopted by the Allegany County Sanitary Commission setting forth water and sewer rates for county customers in fiscal year 2017 – Mark W. Yoder, PE, Utilities Division Chief, presented background regarding the proposed FY-17 water and sewer rates and pointed out that the rates have been posted on the County's website since they were presented to the County Commissioners on May 5, 2016. Mr. Yoder explained that the increase is the "bare minimum": \$2 per quarter for sewer, and \$1 to \$2 per quarter for water. He reported that to his knowledge, the County has received no public comment regarding the proposed rates as posted on the website. Mr. Yoder asked the Commissioners for their official approval on the rates.

Commissioner Brodie asked Mr. Yoder to confirm that there are representatives on the Sanitary Commission from each water and sewer customer area. Mr. Yoder confirmed this. Commissioner Brodie said that he wanted to clarify that the Commissioners only adopt the rates, and that they are recommended by the representatives on the Sanitary Commission.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Brodie, seconded by Commissioner Valentine and duly carried, the Commissioners unanimously approved and agreed to sign the proposed rate resolution adopted by the Allegany County Sanitary Commission setting forth water and sewer rates for county customers in fiscal year 2017.

Item 9 – Evitts Creek Stream Restoration/Sewer Realignment – Board of County Commissioners to accept funding of \$190,668.00 to complete the Evitts Creek Stream Restoration/Sewer Realignment project and sign the contract with Maryland Department of Natural Resources to accept the funding and establish terms and conditions of the award. Authorize the Department of Public Works to advertise the project for bid – Daniel S. DeWitt, PE. Adam Patterson, PE, presenting this item in place of Dan DeWitt, remarked that the funding is the result of the great relationship that Mr. DeWitt and Land Use & Planning Engineer Angela Patterson have with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Patterson explained some details of the two-fold project for which the funding will be used, and then asked for the Commissioners'

permission to sign the contract with DNR and accept the funding, and for their authorization to move forward and advertise the project for bids.

Commissioner Valentine moved that the County Commissioners accept funding of \$190,668.00 to complete the Evitts Creek Stream Restoration/Sewer Realignment project; sign the contract with Maryland Department of Natural Resources to accept the funding and establish terms and conditions of the award; and authorize the Department of Public Works to advertise the project for bid. Commissioner Brodie seconded the Motion, which carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

As recommended by the County Administrator

Upon Motion by Commissioner Valentine, seconded by Commissioner Brodie, and Motion carried, the Consent Agenda as recommended by the County Administrator is adopted.

Item 10 – North Branch Industrial Park Road Rehabilitation Project – Board of County Commissioners approved the request to advertise the North Branch Industrial Road Rehabilitation Project contingent upon state approval.

Item 11 – Allegany County Roads Division Salt Storage Facility Bid Award – Board of County Commissioners authorized the Department of Public Works to award Contract ACRD-16-SSF-01: Allegany County Roads Division Salt Storage Facility to the low bidder, Park Lane Construction & Development Corporation, in the amount of \$293,404.00.

Item 12 – South Cumberland Library Renovations Bid Award – Board of County Commissioners authorized the Department of Public Works to award the South Cumberland Library Renovation project to Harbel, Inc., Cumberland, in the amount of \$1,459,000.00.

Item 13 – Water Station Run Sewer Project and Health Department Funding Agreement – Board of County Commissioners authorized the Department of Public Works to design and prepare construction documents for a new sanitary sewer system to serve the homes in the Water Station Run Road area and advertise the project for bid; and authorized the Finance Department to draft a funding agreement with the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Health Department providing funding for this project over multiple funding periods with zero cost to Allegany County.

Item 14 – Resolution 16-16 – Board of County Commissioners authorized and passed Resolution 16-16, the USDA Loan Resolution for the Route 36 waterline - \$100,000.00.

Item 15 – Resolution 16-17 – Maryland State Retirement Agency – Allegany County Pick Up Resolution – Board of County Commissioners authorized and passed Resolution 16-17 for the State Retirement Agency procedures for reporting picked-up contributions in order to provide consistency in the administration of state law and for the employer to pick-up the mandatory employee contributions for employees' participation in LEOPS.

Item 16 – Declaration of Surplus Real Property – Board of County Commissioners declared property known as 11824 Amherst Avenue, Cumberland, Maryland, as surplus and authorized its sale.

Item 17 – Senior Care System Annual Plan – Board of County Commissioners authorized the County Administrator to sign the Maryland Office on Aging Senior Care System Annual Plan Review and Approval for Fiscal Year 2017. The Allegany County Health Department serves as the Lead Agency to administer the Senior Care Program.

Item 18 – Purchase of One-Ton Dump Truck – Board of County Commissioners approved the purchase of a one-ton dump truck from Hertrich Ford on the state bid for approximately \$56,000.00 with grant funding from the Rawlings Water Project.

Item 19 – Oldtown Summer Fest – Authorized \$1,000.00 from the Community Promotions Account for the 2016 Oldtown Summer Fest community event on June 25 and 26.

County Administrator David Eberly discussed Program Open Space. He provided the Commissioners with a list of thirteen projects, from eight organizations, for which funding in the total amount of \$429,701 is being requested. Mr. Eberly pointed out that unfortunately only \$175,899 is available. He asked the Commissioners for their guidance on how to move forward.

Commissioners' statements, comments, recognition –

Commissioner Valentine brought up the issue of a project "killed" last year by Tri-County Council, as mentioned by Commissioner Brodie at a previous meeting. Commissioner Valentine explained

that ARC has changed its guidelines for projects that it will fund, and that now, to fund an access road, there has to be a written program explaining exactly how many jobs will be created. He pointed out that the ARC program is a federal program over which the County has little say.

Commissioner Valentine also expressed his personal thanks to Paul Kahl and his staff for their efforts at the meeting in Westernport yesterday (June 1, 2016). He reported that the water line extension will be moving forward and should go all the way to Bloomington in Garrett County, and remarked that it is greatly needed in that area and will also provide a financial boost for the Town of Westernport.

Commissioner Brodie thanked Jason Bennett for all his work during the budget process. He also thanked the Department Heads for their efforts.

Commissioner Brodie also mentioned a recent meeting in LaVale and reported that the subject project will be moving forward. He credited County Administrator David Eberly for helping to make this happen.

Commissioner Shade expressed his hope that the Highway User Funds will be reinstated next year, to help with the County's budget.

Commissioner Shade also drew attention to the Flood Plain Maps Open House scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2016, at the Multi-Purpose Building, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. He explained that there will be a question and answer session at 6 p.m., with MDE present. There will be another Open House on Wednesday the 8th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Georges Creek Library in Lonaconing.

Commissioner Valentine questioned the "scientific method" which was used to come up with the new Flood Plain Maps.

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet

Mr. Kenneth Wilmont, Fort Avenue, Cumberland, commented on an incident that occurred on Oldtown Road in Cumberland, involving a child left unattended in a car.

Reminders/Upcoming Meetings –

Next Public Business Meeting – Thursday, June 30, 2016, 5:00 p.m.

Announcement – Flood Plain Maps Open House (See News Release)

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Jacob C. Shade, President

True Copy
Attest:

Cynthia A. Young
Recording Secretary

FY 2017 Budget Message

June 2, 2016

Dear Allegany County Residents,

Our fiscal year budget summarizes the goals of our Board of County Commissioners. Our Board believes this budget is equitable and realistic given our county's projected revenues for FY 2017. This budget was developed and presented to the general public for input. Our taxpayers deserve a balanced budget from their government and this budget is balanced.

This FY 2017 budget continues to show our commitment to Allegany County taxpayers. The increase in spending is limited to only 1.9%. This year's budget also offers another small decrease to the Real Property Tax Rate bringing it down to \$.977 – the lowest rate since 1991.

Last year, this Board took action to greatly expand the Homestead Property Tax Credit; this change will go into effect July 1. The number of households eligible to claim this credit will more than double compared to last year. Allegany County will now have the most generous Homestead Credit in Western Maryland and the fifth most generous in the state.

Where is your tax dollar spent? FY 2017 total general fund appropriations are \$86,262,478.

Education remains the county's single highest funding priority: 46.3% of the county's general fund expenditures are dedicated to the Allegany County Board of Education and our community college, Allegany College of Maryland.

Allegany County Government has increased funding to the Board of Education by \$332,140 over last year – bringing the local contribution to \$30,169,685. This is a record contribution and does not include the additional \$4,000,000 needed to make the Allegany High project a reality.

Also, as of today, the county is providing \$13,700,000 of funding for the new Allegany High School (\$9.2 M borrowed funds, \$4.0 M previously assigned general fund balance funds, and \$500,000 Maryland Program Open Space funds). To assist the Board of Education's efforts to obtain the most favorable state funding commitment, the county repaid \$1,079,342 to the state as part of the county's commitment for the project. The county will also be providing in-kind contributions: the services of a construction inspector and the construction of athletic fields.

Public safety receives 20.5% of every tax dollar. Public safety includes the Allegany County Department of Emergency Services, the Sheriff's Office and Road Patrol, the detention center, and our volunteer fire and EMS companies. We have also voted to contribute additional funds to bring the Allegany County Sheriff's deputies into the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System (LEOPS). Our police will now receive the retirement benefits that they, along with police officers across the state, deserve.

The budget also includes \$792,500 for PAYGO projects that will be used for capital projects for the Board of Education, library system, detention center, county office complex, and roads while incurring no new debt.

This budget only utilizes \$150,000 of previously assigned fund balance for new voting machines required, but not funded, by the state. The county's fund balance is maintained at the level slightly exceeding that prescribed by the Government Accounting Standards Board Statement #54.

The budget provides a 1.0% increase to Allegany College of Maryland, Allegany County Library System, HRDC, and the Family Crisis Resource Center which have been steadfast partners during our challenging fiscal times in the past few years.

The local impact grant provided to Allegany County from the Rocky Gap Casino funds continues to be a bright spot. In addition to the \$560,000 reserved for the Opportunity Scholarships, 10% of the funds are reserved for PAYGO projects for the county and 10% for the Board of Education. Another \$15,000 will be set-aside for the Western

Maryland Food Bank, and it is estimated that local fire and EMS companies will share over \$700,000 from this source of revenue.

A highlight in this budget is our income tax receipts increased 9% over last year. This is the biggest one-year increase in recent history and it underscores the fact that every job, no matter the pay, adds increased revenues. While there is still much work to do, this increase shows there is positive economic momentum in Allegany County.

Our Board has achieved our self-initiated \$3.0 M goal as the county's maximum annual debt service commitment. Given the loss of highway user funds and the state's shifting additional liabilities to local governments, Allegany County had no choice but to reduce its annual commitment to debt service which was previously at \$5.0 M annually only five years ago.

All departments aggressively and consistently pursue and secure federal, state, and private foundation grants which help to offset costs for the local taxpayers. Furthermore, all management team members and department heads operate within their authorized budgets.

We are proud of the budget that we have crafted and will continue to work hard to be good stewards of our tax dollars.

Allegany County Government's entire FY 2017 budget is presented on the website, www.allconet.org.

Sincerely,

The Board of County Commissioners

Jacob C. Shade, President

Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Commissioner

William R. Valentine, Commissioner