

March 28, 2019

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 William M. Rudd. The following business was transacted:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Ms. Barb Armstrong of Frostburg.

MOTION

Upon request made by County Administrator Brandon S. Butler, the Board of County Commissioners agreed to add Item 13 under the Consent Agenda – Reconstituting of the Allegany County Commission for Women.

There were no further additions or deletions to the Agenda.

MOTION

Upon Motion by Commissioner Caporale, seconded by Commissioner Brodie, and Motion carried, the Commissioners approved the Minutes of the March 14, 2019, public business meeting.

PRESENTATION

Item 1 – Allegany County Day of Civility Proclamation – Amy Williams, Allegany County Government, explained that as a member of the Leadership Allegany! Class of 2018, she participated in the class project, which was to help the Allegany County Library boost the newly formed Choose Civility Chapter of Allegany County. She reported that this Choose Civility Chapter is blossoming into an active, meaningful and vital initiative. Ms. Williams then introduced Alesha Warminsky and Rebecca Verdaman, two founding members of the Chapter. Ms. Verdaman came forward and provided background and information about Choose Civility. She discussed the group's principles of civility, a list of which is attached to and made a part of these Minutes. She thanked the Commissioners for their recognition of Choose Civility's second annual Day of Civility in Allegany County.

A faculty member from Frostburg State University also spoke on behalf of FSU, a partner in Choose Civility. She thanked the members of the Steering Committee for their efforts.

Commissioner Shade then called forward all those involved with the Day of Civility and read and presented them with an official Proclamation of April 11, 2019, as Allegany County Day of Civility. A round of applause followed.

Item 2 – Child Abuse Awareness Month – Tracie Wilson, Child Protective Services Supervisor, Allegany County Department of Social Services, Chrissy Ujcic, Child Abuse Task Force, and Shannon Frankenberry, Jane's Place, Inc., Allegany County Child Advocacy Center. Ms. Tracie Wilson introduced herself as the Supervisor for Child Protective Services in Allegany County and said that, on behalf of the Allegany County Department of Social Services, Jane's Place, the Child Advocacy Center, the Child Abuse Task Force, and all children in Allegany County, she was honored to accept the County's Proclamation recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ms. Wilson also expressed thanks to the City of Cumberland, the City of Frostburg, and the Towns of Westernport, Barton, and Lonaconing for all displaying their support and commitment to raising awareness of child abuse. She encouraged everyone to take notice of local businesses and community partners who are also showing their support by displaying pinwheels, ribbons, and posters during the entire month of April and wearing blue on Friday, April 5, nationally recognized as "Wear Blue Day" for child abuse prevention. Ms. Wilson offered some additional information about the Month and talked about the community's civic duty and moral responsibility to recognize the needs of and keep safe the most vulnerable members of the population: children.

Following Ms. Wilson's remarks, Commissioner Shade read and presented an official Proclamation of April 2019 as Child Abuse Awareness Month in Allegany County. This presentation was followed by a round of applause.

Item 3 – Allegany County Commissioners' Fellowship Program – Brandon S. Butler, County Administrator, told the Commissioners that the second year of the Allegany County Commissioners' Fellowship Program is approaching. He confirmed that the Program started under the Commissioners' leadership last year. Mr. Butler explained that the Fellowship Program provides an opportunity for youth in this community and also provides a talent pipeline for individuals into good-paying jobs. He added that it is also an investment in the future in the community. Mr. Butler discussed the two participants in the Program last year, Samantha Vega, a student at Allegany College of Maryland, and Carter Imes, a Frostburg State University student.

He read a short message from Ms. Vega: "Being able to be a part of the Commissioners' Fellows gave me a chance to be involved with local government in a way that helped me become a more rounded professional. Having the ability to ask questions about our government and grow as a person is an opportunity, I don't think I could have gotten anywhere else." Mr. Butler went on to also read a message from Carter Imes: "This Program led me to a career path and displayed how many opportunities that are out there for the taking. I am truly grateful for the experience I had working as a Commissioners' Fellow. The connections and networking that I was able to experience are unmatched, and because of this, I now work for Delegate Wendell Beitzel. Without this internship, where I am today would not be possible, and I owe a lot of that to Allegany County's Commissioners."

Mr. Butler said that the Commissioners' Fellowship Program is launching again this evening, as a presentation because the Commissioners took action to establish the Program last year. He went over the requirements for the Program:

- These students must be a rising junior or senior in the upcoming summer, or have at least 30 credit hours at Allegany College of Maryland.
- They must maintain an overall GPA of 2.7 or above.
- Students must be available between May 27 and August 9 of 2019.

Mr. Butler explained that Fellows receive a \$2,000 stipend for their participation in the Program, and that the Program is an on-the-job training that provides a number of opportunities to interact with County staff as well as with the County Commissioners. He added that the Fellows will be working on a Capstone Project for the Commissioners' consideration at the end of their time here.

Mr. Butler pointed out that Allegany County benefits from the Program in many ways, potentially finding its next great employee.

He announced that the application deadline for the Fellowship Program is on April 30, 2019, and thanked the Commissioners for making this Program possible through their leadership.

Commissioner Shade remarked that this is a great Program and thanked Mr. Butler for spearheading it. He added that the County is "two for two" with the Fellows the County got last year.

ACTION AGENDA

Item 4 – Road Opening Petition – Possible Action – Christopher L. Owens, Teresa M. Owens, Frances Ann Hixon, Kathy L. Robinette, Genevieve Yonker, and Magnolia Greene Limited Partnership – The road opening petition is with the intent of closing a certain portion of an unnamed public alley shown on the plat of "Lands of Lewis Heirs and Lewis First Addition" and intersecting the easterly side of Winchester Road in Election District 29, Allegany County, Maryland – Stephen C. Wilkinson, LLC, and Saad & Saad, LLP, Star Title Agency, LLC. County Attorney William M. Rudd reminded the Commissioners that they already held a public hearing on this road closing several months ago, and that is located on upper Winchester Road in LaVale. He told the Commissioners that it would be appropriate for them to take action this evening to open the road, and that if the applicants are going to conclude the matter, they will have to come back and petition for the closing of the road.

Commissioner Shade confirmed that public hearing was held and that no public comment was received, and that action could now be taken.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Brodie, seconded by Commissioner Caporale, and duly carried, the Board of County Commissioners approved the Road Opening Petition of Christopher L. Owens, Teresa M. Owens, Frances Ann Hixon, Kathy L. Robinette, Genevieve Yonker, and Magnolia Greene Limited Partnership.

Item 5 – Coal Miner Memorial Statue – Board of County Commissioners to approve a Capital Projects Grant Agreement with the State of Maryland in the amount of \$75,000 for consideration of a Coal Miner Memorial Statue near the Frostburg Depot and authorize the President to sign the agreement. The Foundation of Frostburg will provide a matching amount of \$75,000 – Paul F. Kahl, PE, Director of Public Works, mentioned the several tourist attractions already in place in Frostburg: The Great Allegheny Passage; the Scenic Railroad; and the Thrasher Museum. He explained that now another attraction is being proposed this evening. Mr. Kahl introduced Barb Armstrong, remarking that she helps with libraries and recreation, and pretty much anything that needs done in Frostburg; and also, Paula Horn. He said that Ms. Horn would be giving a power point presentation at this meeting.

Ms. Paula Horn came forward to make her presentation. She thanked the Commissioners for inviting her and Ms. Armstrong to the meeting, and for allowing her to talk about the Coal Miner Memorial Statue Committee. She explained that this Committee was formed about seven years ago, with the intent at that time to just have a statue; but it has grown exponentially since then. Ms. Horn presented some pictures and sketches of the current plans. She explained that the Coal Miner Memorial would be positioned a couple hundred yards past where the train is located, to the north, a few hundred feet just north of the Depot, between the Allegheny Highlands Trail and the Scenic Railroad tracks. Ms. Horn remarked that this would be an attraction for both the bikers and train riders. She showed a photo of the topography where the memorial would be located, and pointed out that the memorial would be educational. Ms. Horn went over the photos and sketches of the planned memorial to provide details of what the finished memorial would look like. She also presented a photo of the coal miner statue which would be part of the memorial.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Ms. Horn told the Commissioners about a book consisting of stories about life and death of local coal miners, which includes a list of about 640 names of miners. She explained that the books were sold for donations, at a suggested amount of \$20 per book, and that so far 600 of these books have sold. Ms. Horn added that the current book has almost sold out, and that a second volume with additional stories will be published this summer. She left some books with the Commissioners.

Before action was taken on this item, Mr. Kahl reported that Get Out and Play, a store located at the Depot, has agreed to work with the miner memorial people to put up some displays. He also reported that the Frostburg Foundation has already raised \$75,000 toward the memorial on their own. Mr. Kahl then asked the Commissioners to approve a capital grants agreement with the State of Maryland to provide a matching \$75,000 and allow the President of the Board of County Commissioners to sign the documents.

Commissioner Shade commented on this as a “great project”, and he acknowledged that raising \$75,000 is not easy and commended Ms. Armstrong and Ms. Horn, and everyone else involved in the project, for their efforts. Ms. Horn pointed out that the coal miner statue is already finished and paid for, and is just waiting in Ohio.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Caporale, and seconded by Commissioner Brodie, the Board of County Commissioners approved a Capital Projects Grant Agreement with the State of Maryland in the amount of \$75,000 for consideration of a Coal Miner Memorial Statue near the Frostburg Depot, and authorized the President to sign the agreement.

Commissioner Brodie added some remarks regarding the background for this memorial and talked about family members and ancestors who were coal miners. He acknowledged the George’s Creek Valley and its nine-billion-ton reserve of coal, and said that it needs to be recognized locally.

CONSENT AGENDA

As recommended by the County Administrator

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

Item 6 – Emergency Responder Reply System I Am Responding Subscription Agreement – Board of County Commissioners authorized Amendment No. 1 to the I Am Responding Emergency Responder Reply System. The term of the Subscription is extended through and including June 30, 2024.

Item 7 – Surplus Real Property Bid Awards – Board of County Commissioners accepted the following bids for surplus real property located in Allegany County, previously declared surplus and advertised: property known as 12600 Old Row Road, Mount Savage, Property Tax Account Number 13-003785 to Amanda Huggins in the amount of \$2,300; property known as Albright County Road, Corriganville, Property Tax Account Number 20-007648 to Kevin Baker in the amount of \$100; property known as 21401 Queenspoint Road, McCoole, Property Tax Account Number 31-002001 to Derrick Staggs in the amount of \$5,000; and property known as 24 Robin Street, Lonaconing, Property Tax Account Number 10-010160 to Chris Nightengale in the amount of \$250.

Item 8 – Declaration of Surplus Property – Board of County Commissioners approved the declaration of a road grader 1983 Dresser Model A560E, VIN 1000072 as surplus and authorized its disposal by advertised bids or by other means as outlined in Article 14.10 of the Rules and Regulations.

Item 9 – Drug Free Communities Program – Board of County Commissioners authorized the Sheriff’s Office to accept funding from Frostburg State University through the DFC Grant in the

amount of \$2,365 from March 23-April 27, 2019. This involves patrolling areas of Frostburg, Midland, Lonaconing, Barton, Westernport, and Mount Savage.

Item 10 – Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention Grant Acceptance – Board of County Commissioners accepted a \$2,675 grant from the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention to be utilized by Allegany County Sheriff’s Deputies to attend the Child Homicide Conference in Tempe, Arizona on September 4-6, 2019.

Item 11 – Allegany County Planning Commission Board Appointment – Board of County Commissioners re-appointed Steve K. MacGray as a member of the Allegany County Planning Commission Board. His term will expire on February 16, 2024.

Item 12 – Local Development Council for Allegany County Appointments – Board of County Commissioners appointed eligible candidates to serve as members of the Local Development Council for Allegany County.

County Administrator Brandon Butler read the list of appointees to the Local Development Council: Steve Hout, Brian Miller, Dottie Ruby, and Sam Wilson, to be reappointed for a four-year term ending in March of 2023; and Autumn Eirich, Jenny Alderton Krampf, Bob Mallow, and Cory McCagh, to be newly appointed to a four-year term ending in March of 2023.

Item 13 – Reconstitution of the Allegany County Commission for Women –

County Administrator Brandon Butler explained that the Allegany County Commission for Women currently does not exist as the requirements of law currently state. He told the County Commissioners that before the Commissioners this evening was a Motion to reconstitute the Allegany County Commission for Women and to appoint the following members to that Commission: Sharon Logsdon, Yvonne Perret, Danielle Lessard, Sarah Parsons, and Jody Oliver. Mr. Butler told the Commissioners that at the next meeting, in accordance with public local law, they will be appointing five more members to the Commissioner for Women. He pointed out that per the statute, because the Commission has essentially lapsed, the ten members (five appointed this evening, and five to be appointed at the next meeting) will select another five members to be approved, for a total of fifteen members.

Commissioners’ statements, comments, recognition –

Commissioner David J. Caporale thanked the ladies appointed to the Allegany County Commission for Women for their participation.

Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr. also thanked the members of the Commission for Women. He also expressed his hope that next year during Child Abuse Awareness Month there will be no pinwheels (one to represent each case of abuse handled during the year). He urged the public to call 911 if they cannot reach anyone else regarding suspected child abuse. The other two Commissioners echoed his remarks.

Commissioner Jacob C. Shade reported that budget sessions are continuing, with the second one with outside funding agencies held today. He pointed out that the new requests totaled over \$2,000,000 of new money, so over the next few weeks, the Commissioners will be reviewing those requests very closely and trying to put together a budget that is realistic. Commissioner Shade commented that he thinks if anyone in the public had to make the same decisions (as the Commissioners), they would come to the same decisions that the Commissioners try to make. He added that it sometimes takes a few years to get things funded, and that it is really about trying to put all the priorities into place. Commissioner Shade explained that the budget will be dominating the Commissioners’ time and efforts for the next couple of weeks and months, and that hopefully the budget will be heading toward passage at the beginning of June.

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet –

Edward Taylor, Jr. identified himself as president of the Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization. He explained that he attended the budget hearings earlier in the day, accompanied by some other members of the CHCO, and he introduced them. Mr. Taylor talked about negative comments that were made by Mr. Jeffrey Davis at the recent Cumberland Mayor & City Council meeting. He pointed out that Mr. Davis is not even a citizen of Allegany County, and that he has attempted four times to remove the Ten Commandments Monument in front of the Allegany County Courthouse on Washington Street. Mr. Taylor also provided some background and information about the CHCO.

Reminders/Upcoming Meetings –

Next Public Work Session – Thursday, April 11, 2019, 3:00 p.m.

Next Public Business Meeting – Thursday, April 11, 2019, 5:00 p.m.

Announcement – Allegany County Yard Waste and Mulch Site Spring Hours (See News Release)

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Jacob C. Shade, President

True Copy
Attest:

Cynthia A. Young
Recording Secretary

Choose Civility: Allegany County, Maryland



Principles of Civility

Pay Attention

Listen

Speak Kindly

Assume the Best

Respect Other's Opinions

Respect Other People's Time and Space

Be Inclusive

Acknowledge Others

Accept and Give Praise

Apologize Earnestly

Assert Yourself

Take Responsibility

Accept and Give Constructive Criticism

Refrain from Idle Complaints