

October 4, 2018

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 William R. Valentine; County Administrator Brandon S. Butler; and County Attorney William M. Rudd. The following business was transacted:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bryan Gowans.

MOTION

There were no additions or deletions to the Agenda.

MOTION

Upon Motion by Commissioner Valentine, seconded by Commissioner Shade, and Motion carried, the Commissioners approved the Minutes of the September 27, 2018, public business meeting.

Before proceeding with the meeting, Commissioner Shade mentioned that Commissioner Brodie, not present at this evening's meeting, was at the White House, participating in a conference along with Sheriff Robertson and some other local officials.

PRESENTATION

Item 1 – Domestic Violence Awareness Month, October 2018 – Sarah Kaiser, Executive Director, and Jessica Nolan, Lead Counselor, Family Crisis Resource Center, Inc. Ms. Sarah Kaiser, Executive Director of the Family Crisis Resource Center, Inc., provided some information regarding Domestic Violence Awareness Month, including statistics concerning this issue in Allegany County and also suggestions on how to prevent domestic violence. Ms. Kaiser thanked the Commissioners for their support. She also introduced Ms. Jessica Nolan, Lead Counselor at Family Crisis Resource Center, and Ms. Crystal Rowan, a Counseling Intern at Family Crisis Resource Center.

Commissioner Shade read and presented Ms. Kaiser, Ms. Nolan and Ms. Rowan with an official Proclamation of October 2018 as Domestic Violence Prevention Month in Allegany County. This was followed with a round of applause.

Item 2 – Allegany College of Maryland Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship Update – Dr. Cynthia S. Bambara, President, Allegany College of Maryland, David R. Jones, Vice President of Advancement and Community Relations & Executive Director of the ACM Foundation, and Dr. Audie G. Klingler, President, Allegany College of Maryland Foundation. Dr. Cynthia Bambara, President of Allegany College of Maryland, thanked the Commissioners for their support on behalf of the ACM Board of Trustees, the ACM Foundation Board of Directors, and ACM's faculty, staff and students. Dr. Bambara remarked that the Commissioners' investment in the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship Program has greatly increased economic opportunities for both citizens and communities.

Next, Mr. David Jones, Vice President of Advancement and Community Relations as well as Executive Director of the ACM Foundation, came forward to provide an update and report on the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship Program at Allegany College of Maryland. A copy of the report presented by Mr. Jones is attached to and made a part of these Minutes. Mr. Jones also acknowledged and thanked Mr. Carl "Buck" Belt and Mr. Peter Halmos of the ACM Foundation Board, also present at this meeting.

Following his presentation, Mr. Jones called the Commissioners' attention to the bound packet of thank you letters from ACM students who have received Opportunity Scholarships, and then called forward a few of the students present at this meeting. Ms. Samantha Vega, Mr. Noah Loar, Mr. Chandler Sagel, and one additional student all offered brief remarks and expressed their thanks, and presented plaques to County Administrator Brandon Butler, County Attorney Bill Rudd, County Commissioner Bill Valentine, and County Commissioner Jake Shade.

Mr. Belt spoke then of the benefits of the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship Program and the impact of ACM on the community. He thanked the Commissioners for their support.

Item 3 – Commissioners' Fellows Capstone Project – Samantha Vega and Carter Imes presented the project they worked on this summer while interns in the Allegany County Commissioners Office. They prepared a pitch book and presented it onscreen to those present at the meeting.

Mr. Imes and Ms. Vega expressed their appreciation for County Administrator Brandon Butler and what he is doing for Allegany County, and also expressed thanks for the opportunity to work with Allegany County over the summer. They acknowledged the kindness and helpfulness extended to them by County staff during the summer.

County Administrator Butler noted that Allegany County is the only County in Maryland to have a pitch book. He commented that Ms. Vega and Mr. Imes were a fantastic addition to County Government and left an impact with their pitch book. Commissioners Shade and Valentine also thanked Ms. Vega and Mr. Imes for their work.

Commissioner Shade then read and presented Ms. Vega and Mr. Imes each with an official Citation, followed by a round of applause.

PUBLIC HEARING

Item 4 – Code Home Rule Bill 5-18 – Public Hearing – Possible Action – “Public Improvement Bonds of 2018” – Jason M. Bennett, CPA, Director of Finance, announced that this evening was the scheduled public hearing on Code Home Rule Bill 5-18 – “Public Improvement Bonds of 2018”, and told the Commissioners that if no comment was received during this hearing, he would request they take action on Code Home Rule Bill 5-18 this evening as well. Mr. Bennett briefly reviewed the details of this Bond Bill, which were presented at the previous public business meeting.

Commissioner Shade read into the record the dollar amounts of the projects covered by this Bond Bill:

ACM Technology Building, \$2,700,000
ACM Roof Projects, \$450,000
County Buildings, \$250,000
County Bridges, \$2,500,000
Roads Garage and Waste Site, \$850,000
Roads Heavy Equipment, \$525,000
EMS CAD and Ambulances, \$3,000,000
LaVale Library Renovation, \$400,000
Bond closing costs, \$230,000

Commissioner Shade added that the borrowing covered by this Bond Bill will be over the next four or five years, and that there will not be another bond issuance.

Commissioner Shade then opened the Hearing to public comments. There were none. Hearing closed.

Mr. Bennett pointed out that this meeting date was advertised as a Legislative Day, so the Commissioners could take action on Code Home Rule Bill 5-18.

Commissioner Valentine moved that the Board of County Commissioners adopt Code Home Rule Bill 5-18 – “Public Improvement Bonds of 2018”. Commissioner Shade seconded the Motion. Motion carried to adopt Code Home Rule Bill 5-18.

ACTION AGENDA

Item 5 – State of Maryland Rural Legacy Program – Board of County Commissioners to sign an Agreement of Sale and a Deed of Easement pertaining to a 91.971-acre property in Election District 29. State funds associated with this grant will be used to acquire a development rights easement in the Mountain Ridge Rural Legacy Area – Siera N. Wigfield, Transportation Planner, asked the Commissioners to approve and sign an Agreement of Sale and Deed of Easement for a property located in the Mountain Ridge Rural Legacy Area, and presented information regarding this property. The information presented by Mrs. Wigfield is set forth on her staff report dated September 24, 2018, a copy of which is attached to and made a part of these Minutes.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Valentine, seconded by Commissioner Shade, and duly carried, the Board of County Commissioners approved and agreed to sign an Agreement of Sale and a Deed of Easement pertaining to a 91.971-acre property in Election District 29. State funds associated with this grant will be used to acquire a development rights easement in the Mountain Ridge Rural Legacy Area.

Item 6 – Resolution 18-30 – 2017 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan Amendment– Board of County Commissioners to approve the 2017 Allegany County Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan Amendment and forward it to the Maryland Department of Planning and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Siera N. Wigfield, Planner, presented background and information regarding the Amended 2017 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan. The

information presented by Mrs. Wigfield is set forth on her staff report dated October 1, 2018, a copy of which is attached to and made a part of these Minutes.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Shade, and seconded by Commissioner Valentine, the Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution 18-30 and approved and adopted the 2017 Allegany County Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan Amendment and approved its forwarding to the Maryland Department of Planning and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

CONSENT AGENDA

As recommended by the County Administrator

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

Item 7 – Allegany County Mental Health Advisory Board Appointments – Board of County Commissioners approved two appointments to the Allegany County Mental Health Advisory Board. Ginger Duykers will serve a three-year term expiring June 30, 2021, and Steve Haptonstahl, who is filling the vacant position of Donna Ray. His term will expire June 30, 2020.

Item 8 – Allegany County Board of Zoning Appeals Appointment – Board of County Commissioners approved the re-appointment of John Brant as an alternate member of the Allegany County Board of Zoning Appeals. His term will expire on September 25, 2021.

Item 9 – 2018 (2018-2019) Emergency Management Performance Grant Acceptance – Board of County Commissioners authorized the President to sign the Grant Adjustment Notice received from the Maryland Emergency Management Agency for the 2018 Emergency Management Performance Grant.

Item 10 – Frostburg State University Homecoming 2018 Grant – Board of County Commissioners authorized the Allegany County Sheriff's Office to accept funding from Frostburg State University funded by the FSU Foundation, in the amount of \$1,290. Funds will be used primarily for community policing during the FSU Homecoming 2018. This is a 100% grant with no cost to the County.

Item 11 – Resolution 18-31 – Housing Authority for Allegany County Transfer – Board of County Commissioners approved the transfer of the Housing Authority for Allegany County to the Housing Authority for the City of Cumberland.

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet –

Mr. Edward W. Taylor, Jr., 400 South Allegany Street, Cumberland, said that he was speaking on behalf of the Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization (CHCO), as its President. He called the Commissioners' attention to a notice he distributed at the meeting, regarding an event to be held by the CHCO on November 2, 2018, at 2 p.m. at St. Patrick Roman Catholic Cemetery at Fairview and Furnace Streets in Cumberland. Mr. Taylor explained that this will be the unveiling of a monument for WWI veteran Lester Umstot, who was killed in action in 1918. He also provided some details about the monument to be unveiled.

Mr. Taylor also followed up on an issue he had discussed at a public business meeting in early summer 2018, that of preserving monuments already in place in Allegany County. He asked County Attorney Bill Rudd if his office has come up with any kind of solution to protect the Ten Commandments Monument well into the future. Mr. Taylor recalled that Dr. Jeffrey Davis has attempted to have this monument removed multiple times.

Attorney Rudd explained that the County was successful in the last lawsuit filed by Dr. Davis, and added that Dr. Davis actually abandoned that lawsuit because of a recent Supreme Court case that rendered it moot. Attorney Rudd went on to explain that the County had volunteer counsel from Texas to defend the lawsuit. He pointed out a complication to removal of the monument, that the entire grounds of the Allegany County Courthouse are subject to a lien by the Maryland Historical Trust.

Mr. Kenneth Wilmont, Fort Avenue, Cumberland, offered remarks on the Animal Shelter and the issue of feral cats.

Reminders/Upcoming Meetings -

Next Public Business Meeting – Thursday, October 18, 2018, 5:00 p.m.

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



OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

FY2018 Report



**ALLEGANY
COLLEGE**
of
MARYLAND
ENGAGE YOUR FUTURE



Allegany County **OPPORTUNITY**

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The Allegany County Commissioners understand the impact of Allegany College of Maryland and the education and job training provided to the community. Funds will be provided to eligible community residents to receive education and job training, bettering themselves and the community.

FY 2018 FAST FACTS:

- Recipients of this investment represent every community in our County.
- Students from every public and private school in Allegany County, as well as homeschooled and GED students, have been awarded funding through this program.
- Recipients have included students from nearly every major curriculum.
- The age range of recipients is from 17-58, with an average age of 24 ½.
- The Allegany County Opportunity Jump Start Early College Scholarship is providing assistance to students from the Allegany County Public Schools who receive free and reduced-cost school meals. This \$100-per-course award covers the full family cost for taking a three-credit course.
- The Allegany County Opportunity Merit Scholarship encourages academic excellence. Over 300 awards have been made.
- The Allegany County Opportunity Tuition Subsidy for Credit Students is intended to offset tuition costs not covered by federal or state aid or by other support. Over 225 awards have been made.
- The Allegany County Opportunity Continuing Education and Workforce Development Scholarship supports Allegany County residents who are taking Professional and Workforce Training. Approximately 250 awards have been made.

Program **IMPACT**

CREDIT MAJORS:

Accounting	Hospitality Management
Applied Technical Studies	Human Service Associate
Art	Massage Therapy
Automotive Technology	Medical Assistant
Biology	Medical Laboratory Technology
Business Administration	Multimedia Technology
Computer Science and Technology	Nursing
Criminal Justice	Nursing Assistant / Geriatric Aide
Culinary Arts	Occupational Therapy Assistant
Dental Hygiene	Physical Therapist Assistant
Education (early childhood, elementary, and secondary)	Psychology
Forest Technology	Radiologic Technology
General Studies	Respiratory Therapist
Health and Physical Education	Social Work
History	Sociology

NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

- Summer 2017:
35 awards
- Fall 2017/
Spring 2018:
Over 600 awards
- Approximately 250 Workforce Development awards have been made

AVERAGE AGE AND RANGE

Average: 24 ½
Range: 17-58

GPA

- Average: 3.3
- 62 recipients had a GPA of 3.5 or above

SCHOLARSHIP

AWARD TYPES:

Allegheny County Opportunity Tuition Subsidy for Credit Students

Scholarships will be provided to help support the cost of tuition that is not covered by federal, state, and/or scholarship aid. Applicants must complete the FAFSA to determine federal and state awards, and apply for ACM Foundation scholarships. After these considerations, it is expected that up to ½ the Allegheny County cost per credit hour will be provided through this scholarship, if students apply and meet all other eligibility requirements.

Allegheny County Opportunity Merit Scholarship

Allegheny County Merit Scholarships, in the amount of \$1,000 or more, will be awarded each academic year to students who have at least a 3.0 grade point average and meet all other eligibility criteria. Special consideration will be given to students who express their intention to transfer to Frostburg State University upon graduation from Allegheny College of Maryland.

Allegheny County Opportunity Continuing Education and Workforce Development Scholarship

Funding will be utilized by the Center for Continuing Education to support Allegheny County residents who are taking Professional and Workforce Training.

Allegheny County Opportunity Jump Start Early College Scholarship

Early College students currently pay ½ of the regular tuition rate for early college courses. To make up the difference for early college courses offered in Allegheny County High Schools, students/families pay \$100 and the Board of Education pays the remainder. This fund will support FARM (Free and Reduced Meals) students who have resided in Allegheny County for a minimum of three years by paying 100% of the student/family cost of \$100 per course.

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COURSEWORK:

Allegany County Opportunity Continuing Education and Workforce Development Scholarship provides support for residents who are taking Professional and Workforce Training with a focus on Advanced Manufacturing and support of the Western Maryland IT Center for Excellence. This includes support for students who are entering the workforce, strengthening skills for a current job, or retraining for new careers. Examples of training supported include:

- 1) Shielded Metal Arc Welding
- 2) Mig Tig Welding
- 3) Computer Tech A+ Training
- 4) IT Workplace Essentials Training
- 5) Advanced Manufacturing CNC Tool Technology
- 6) Manual Machine Tool Technology
- 7) Project Management Professional
- 8) Computer Technician
- 9) Ethical Hacking
- 10) Advanced Manufacturing CNC Computer Numerical Control
- 11) CCNA Networking
- 12) Heart of a Leader
- 13) Principles of Real Estate
- 14) Hydraulics/Pneumatics
- 15) Electrical Control Systems
- 16) Industrial Maintenance

HIGH SCHOOLS:

Allegany High School
Bishop Walsh School
Calvary Christian Academy
Center for Career and Technical Education
Fort Hill High School
GED
Home School
Lighthouse Christian Academy
Mountain Ridge High School

CITIES REPRESENTED:

Barton	Little Orleans
Corriganville	Lonaconing
Cresaptown	Midland
Cumberland	Midlothian
Ellerslie	Mount Savage
Flintstone	Oldtown
Frostburg	Rawlings
LaVale	Westernport

Economic **IMPACT**

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND AND INVESTMENT IN TRAINING:

- Students enjoy a 15.4% rate of return on their investment in ACM.
- Higher earnings of ACM students and associated increases in state income expand the tax base in Maryland by about \$9.2 million each year.
- For every dollar of this support, taxpayers see a return of \$1.60 (in the form of higher tax receipts and avoided costs).
- State and local governments see an annual rate of return of 4.8% on their support for ACM.
- The 2015 Brookings Institution Study ranked ACM among the top 20 community and technical colleges in the nation for the value they add to the future economic success of graduates.

Direct Quotes FROM STUDENT

- As a working mom with two young children, going back to school is not easy. I will forever be grateful for your generosity, as it will allow me to better my future as well as my family's future.
- You have helped to lighten my financial burden. I will not take your investment for granted and will work very hard academically. It is my hope to someday give back to future students in the manner that you have helped me.
- I am overwhelmed by your faith and generosity towards me. Please know your investment will be returned as I pursue my career.
- Without scholarships like this one, I wouldn't be a successful full-time student. I am able to care for my family and not have to worry about if I have to make the choice of paying my bills or paying for class.
- It has been my dream to go to college. For a long time, I wondered how it would be possible. I recognize that it is only through the generosity of people such as yourself that my dream can become reality.
- Thank you for the tremendous work you do for the students of Allegany College of Maryland. Because of your work, a college education has never been so attainable.
- I am a single mother raising a three-year-old son while working a full-time job as a nursing assistant. Your award goes a long way towards minimizing the financial debt I must assume in my scholastic efforts.
- I treasure your investment in my education at Allegany College of Maryland. Together we will promote further growth in our local business community.
- I wasn't sure how I was going to pay for my college education with my current life-changing situation of recently becoming a widow with four children. This wonderful scholarship will help considerably to defray the costs of higher education.

*Your investment greatly enhances
the economic opportunities
for our citizens and our community
by supporting education, job training,
and career preparation
as well as supporting families
and the core values
that reflect our community.*



THANK YOU LETTERS

- *My sincerest thanks for providing me with the means to better myself and provide a better life for my family.*
- *Without this type of financial assistance, my academic endeavors would be unattainable. Scholarships such as this are making my dreams of becoming a nurse a reality.*
- *You have lessened my financial burden of pursuing a higher education, and for that I am forever grateful. I hope that one day I am able to give back to the community and help other budding college students reach their goals.*
- *Without scholarships and financial assistance, college would be almost impossible for me to afford. Every dollar has helped more than you know.*
- *I am grateful that an investment has been made in me and I am currently re-investing that by offering my time in the Bridges to Opportunity/Getting Ahead program and the Adult Literacy program.*
- *I will now be able to focus less on working towards paying my student bills and more towards studying to succeed. With your support, I will be the first person in my family to obtain a college degree.*
- *Without your time, consideration, and financial assistance, students of Allegany County would struggle with the burden of student loans and debt. Thank you for allowing me to continue working towards getting my degree and building my future.*
- *Thank you for assisting me with my academic career and making it possible to achieve my lifelong goal of becoming a nurse.*
- *The generosity and kindness you have shown will assist me in reaching all of my educational goals while helping to reduce my financial burden.*
- *I am truly blessed to be able to pursue my dream in nursing because of people like you!*



ALLEGANY COLLEGE
of MARYLAND
FOUNDATION



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ALLEGANY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Alleganygov.org

Item 5

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Jacob C. Shade, *President*
Creade V. Brodie, Jr.
William R. Valentine

PAUL F. KAHL, P.E.
Director of Public Works
Adam Patterson, P.E.
Deputy Director

STAFF REPORT

TO: Brandon S. Butler, County Administrator
FROM: Paul Kahl, P.E., Director of Public Works,
Siera Wigfield, Transportation Planner *SW*
DATE: September 24, 2018
RE: Rural Legacy Easement Purchase

For the Agenda of: October 4, 2018

1. BACKGROUND

Rural Legacy land preservation easements are voluntary arrangements through which the Maryland Department of Natural Resources acquires the development rights of property located within the designated Mountain Ridge Rural Legacy Area. The properties within the area are prioritized by mostly environmental criteria. When the owners of the higher rated properties and the DNR agree on a value for the easement, the State funds the transaction. The easements are held by the County.

2. ISSUES

The owner of a 91.971-acre parcel on the eastern side of Piney Mountain in LaVale has applied to sell his development rights and has come to an agreed cost with the Rural Legacy Program. The purchase of the easement approval will be on by the State's Board of Public Works October 17th, 2018 agenda.

3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no cost to the County. In fact, the County is paid for administrative costs and is reimbursed for all incidental expenses.

4. ALTERNATIVES

N/A

5. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The property owner does not own the mineral rights, but a fracking assessment was done on the parcel, and it is an unfeasible location for future gas extraction. The easement protects 91.97 acres of woodland that are managed with a forest stewardship plan, and further protected with a Forest Non-Conversion Clause. The easement protects some of the lower eastern slopes of Piney Mountain. Forested mountain ridges are important travel corridors for a wide range of wildlife species such as bears, bobcats, porcupines and migrating birds. In addition, the forested slopes will provide important breeding habitat for forest interior dwelling bird species.

6. CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICY

The County Comprehensive Plan discourages development of steeped sloped properties such as the subject property.

7. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend the County Commissioners authorize Commissioner Shade to sign a Project Agreement and a Deed of Easement for the purchase of this easement through the Rural Legacy program.