

January 27, 2022

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

Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr. was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

#### **MOTION**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

#### **MOTION**

Upon Motion by Commissioner Caporale, and seconded by Commissioner Shade, the Minutes of the January 13, 2022, public business meeting were approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

#### **ACTION AGENDA**

**Item 1 – Invest Allegany Program** – Board of County Commissioners to approve the Invest Allegany Program in the amount of \$2,000,000 to fund the initiation of Invest Allegany over two fiscal years to serve as a dollar-for-dollar match for development projects in the downtown core of our municipalities to encourage direct investment in our communities – Jacob C. Shade, President, provided some details about the Invest Allegany Program. He explained that the aim of this Program is to enable significant development in Downtown Cumberland and Frostburg and on Main Streets in the County. Commissioner Shade pointed out that this Program involves a one-to-one match, and gave an example: if an applicant qualifies and puts \$10,000 into a building, the County will match that \$10,000. He further explained that out of the \$2,000,000 allocated to the Invest Allegany Program, awards will be made to applicants in the amounts of \$20,000 to \$250,000. Commissioner Shade also talked about the Program being a loan to grant program, meaning that if required conditions are met, the loan would be forgiven. He stated that the requirements and qualifications to be met would be available on the County's website as of next Friday, February 4, 2022.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Caporale, seconded by Commissioner Shade, and duly carried, the Board of County Commissioners approved the Invest Allegany Program in the amount of \$2,000,000 to fund the initiation of Invest Allegany over two fiscal years, to serve as a dollar-for-dollar match for development projects in the downtown core of our municipalities, to encourage direct investment in our communities.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

As recommended by the County Administrator

Upon Motion by Commissioner Caporale, seconded by Commissioner Shade, and Motion carried, the Board of County Commissioners approved and adopted the Consent Agenda as recommended by the County Administrator.

**Item 2 – Allegany County Community Enhancement Program** – Board of County Commissioners approved giving the City of Frostburg \$125,000 from the Allegany County Community Enhancement Program towards reimbursement of acquisition and demolition costs for 167 Bowery Street for the Frostburg Gateway Enhancement Project.

**Item 3 – Request for Tax Abatement** – Board of County Commissioners approved the abatement of taxes in the total amount of \$2,557.25 for two properties located at 804 Maryland Avenue and 439 Andrews Street, Cumberland, Maryland. These properties have been acquired by the City of Cumberland and will be demolished for future development.

**Item 4 – Maryland State Department of Human Services Peer Support Services Grant Agreement** – Board of County Commissioners approved a Grant Agreement with Maryland State Department of Human Services for a Peer Support Services position for Allegany County Department of Social Services with a grant amount not to exceed \$27,755.

**Item 5 – Maryland State Department of Human Services Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) Administration Services Grant Agreement** – Board of County Commissioners approved a Grant Agreement with Maryland State Department of Human Services for a OHEP Administration Services position for Allegany County Department of Social Services with a grant amount not to exceed \$244,269.

**Item 6 – Maryland State Department of Human Services Mental Health Stabilization Services Grant Agreement** – Board of County Commissioners approved a Grant Agreement with Maryland State Department of Human Services for a Mental Health Stabilization Services position for Allegany County Department of Social Services with a grant amount not to exceed \$154,706.

**County Attorney Lee Beeman** had no further comments to make at this evening's meeting.

**County Administrator Jason M. Bennett** read into the record a letter addressed to Maryland Delegate Maggie McIntosh and gave it to the Commissioners to sign upon their approval. A copy of this letter, in support of the expansion of the MARC Brunswick Line into Western Maryland to add stops in Hancock and Cumberland, is attached to and made a part of these Minutes.

After Mr. Bennett finished reading the letter, Commissioner Caporale asked how far west the MARC line currently runs. Mr. Bennett replied that at this time, it goes to Brunswick. Commissioner Shade remarked on the benefit of this Project to Allegany County. The Commissioners then signed the letter.

**Commissioners' statements, comments, recognition –**

**Commissioner David Caporale** had no further comments to make at this evening's meeting.

**Commissioner Jacob Shade** had no further comments to make at this evening's meeting.

**Constituents** – In order of sign-up sheet (no one signed up to speak at this evening's meeting)

**Reminders/Upcoming Meetings –**

**Next Public Business Meeting** – Thursday, February 10, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jacob C. Shade, President

True Copy  
Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia A. Young  
Recording Secretary



# ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

## The Board of County Commissioners

701 Kelly Road  
Cumberland, MD 21502  
T 301 777-5911 F 301 724-6970  
[www.alleganygov.org](http://www.alleganygov.org)

Jacob C. Shade, *President*  
Creade V. Brodie, Jr.  
David J. Caporale

Jason M. Bennett, *CPA, County Administrator*  
T. Lee Beeman, Jr., *County Attorney*

January 27, 2022

The Honorable Delegate Maggie McIntosh  
House Appropriations Chair  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Delegate McIntosh:

We, the Allegany County Commissioners are writing today to support one of the Maryland Department of Transportation's key projects for this legislative session. The potential expansion of the existing MARC Brunswick Line into Western Maryland that would add service stops in both Hancock and Cumberland, would provide a greatly needed service to our residents. This potential expansion would allow Allegany County residents access to commuter rail that would dramatically increase our connectivity to the Washington Metro area.

The potential addition of a MARC rail stop in Cumberland is an exciting idea and would open many opportunities for our existing residents and continue to expand our opportunities to allow workers from the Washington Metro area to live, work, and play in Western Maryland.

We hope the house appropriations committee is able to move this important project forward and we'll help in any way needed.

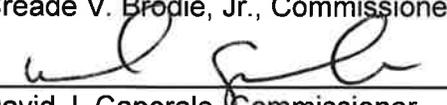
Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

**The Board of County Commissioners**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jacob C. Shade, President

*absent*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David J. Caporale, Commissioner

cc: Western Maryland Delegation  
Mark Widmyer, Western Maryland Outreach Coordinator