

February 13, 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 Acting County Attorney T. Lee Beeman, Jr. The following business was transacted:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone present.

#### **MOTION**

There were no 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 January 30, 2020, public business meeting.

#### **PRESENTATION**

**Item 1 – 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report – Financial Audit** – Jason M. Bennett, CPA, Director of Finance, and Rick Hoover, CPA, Turnbull, Hoover, & Kahl, PA. Rick Hoover, CPA, presented the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (audit report) for Fiscal Year 2019. A copy of this complete report is available on the Finance Department page of the County's website and is attached to and made a part of these Minutes by reference.

Mr. Hoover reported that the County once again got an unmodified clean opinion. He explained the meaning of that and then went over some of the details of the Report.

To conclude, Mr. Hoover thanked County Director of Finance Jason Bennett and his staff for another fine year dealing with Turnbull, Hoover & Kahl.

Commissioner Shade also thanked the Finance Department, and thanked the Board of Education for getting everything to the County on time this year.

#### **ACTION AGENDA**

**Item 2 – Berkeley Springs Instruments, LLC** – Board of County Commissioners to authorize the President of the County Commissioners to sign the necessary legal documents with Berkeley Springs Instruments, LLC (BSI) – Gregory B. Hildreth, Economic Development Specialist, and Eugene Silverman, President of BSI.

Gregory Hildreth, Economic Development Specialist with the County's Department of Economic and Community Development, pointed out that one of the core functions of economic development is business retention and expansion. He said that he was present at this meeting to talk about a very exciting expansion project for a local business, Berkeley Springs Instruments, LLC, also referred to as "BSI". Mr. Hildreth explained that his Department has been working for the last few years with the company on a project to facilitate their expansion in the Frostburg Industrial Park. He introduced Dr. Eugene Silverman, the founder and president of BSI, and called Mr. Silverman forward to talk about the company.

Mr. Silverman provided some background and information on BSI, and pointed out that the company was formed in 2007 in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. He also pointed out that a number of the company's employees live in Allegany County. Mr. Silverman explained that BSI builds sensors that are applied to pipelines, and potentially buildings, bridges, and roadways, to be used to monitor the mechanical integrity of a pipeline.

Mr. Silverman told the Commissioners that BSI has run out of space at its current location in Allegany County, in Mexico Farms, and wants to expand to a property located near Frostburg State University. He remarked that this would bring BSI closer to a brain trust of students, interns, and professors who could help the company staff up and provide an opportunity for training in the company's technology as well. Mr. Silverman reported that BSI currently has 20 to 25 employees, most of them in the Cumberland-Frostburg area, and a few out of state. He said that the company is looking to expand to 40 to 50 employees. Mr. Silverman then asked the Commissioners if they had any questions.

Commissioner Brodie commented that the Commissioners are extremely pleased that BSI is making an investment to stay in Allegany County.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Caporale, seconded by Commissioner Brodie, and duly carried, the Board of County Commissioners approved and authorized the President to sign the necessary legal documents with Berkeley Springs Instruments.

**Item 3 – Memorandum of Understanding with First Peoples Federal Credit Union for Willowbrook Outdoor Wellness Center Fitness Court** – Board of County Commissioners to authorize the President of the County Commissioners to sign the MOU with First Peoples Federal Credit Union to be a sponsor for the Willowbrook Outdoor Wellness Center Fitness Court – Siera N. Wigfield, Planner, told the Commissioners that she was present at this meeting to ask them to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with First Peoples Community Federal Credit Union. She explained that the MOU provides terms for sponsoring the Fitness Court, which is also partially sponsored by the National Fitness Campaign. Mrs. Wigfield remarked that the Fitness Court will be one of many amenities in the Willowbrook Outdoor Wellness Center adjacent to Allegany College of Maryland.

County Administrator Butler and Mrs. Wigfield briefly discussed some of the details of the Fitness Court.

Commissioner Brodie moved that the Board of County Commissioners approve and authorize the President to sign the MOU with First Peoples Federal Credit Union, to be a sponsor for the Willowbrook Outdoor Wellness Center Fitness Court. Commissioner Caporale seconded the Motion. Motion carried to approve and authorize the President of the Board of County Commissioners to sign the MOU.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

As recommended by the County Administrator

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

**Item 4 – Resolution 20-2 – Revisions to the “Rules and Regulations Governing Employees of Allegany County, Maryland”** – Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution 20-2 to revise and update the “Rules and Regulations Governing Employees of Allegany County, Maryland.”

**Item 5 – 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Alhambra Catholic Invitational Tournament** – Board of County Commissioners authorized the County Finance Department to remit \$3,000 budgeted from the Community Promotions Account to support the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Alhambra Catholic Invitational Tournament, Frostburg, Maryland, March 12-14, 2020.

**Item 6 – Agricultural Land Preservation Board Appointment** – Board of County Commissioners approved the appointment of Ronald Shipley to serve on the Agricultural Land Preservation Board of Allegany County for a five-year term, to replace the expired term of Larry Crossland.

**Item 7– Region 1 Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council Appointments** – Board of County Commissioners approved the re-appointments of Chris Biggs, Joseph Braithwaite, and Rick DeVore, to the Region 1 Emergency Services Advisory Council, for terms that will expire on January 15, 2023. The Board of County Commissioners also appointed Jonathan Dayton to fill a vacant position on the Region 1 Emergency Services Advisory Council, for a term to expire on January 15, 2023.

**Item 8 – Allegany High School Demolition – Hazardous Material Inspection Scope** – Board of County Commissioners awarded the hazardous materials inspection and design contract for the Allegany High School Demolition project to Apex Companies, LLC, Rockville, Maryland, in the amount of \$63,734.

**Item 9 – Drum Style Wood Chipper Bid Award** – Board of County Commissioners awarded the contract for the purchase of two new wood chippers to Vermeer All Roads, Dundalk, Maryland, in the amount of \$76,566.76.

**Item 10 – George’s Creek Shaft Stream Restoration Landowner Agreements** – Board of County Commissioners authorized the President of the County Commissioners to sign landowner agreements with Allegany Coal and Land Company, Jody L. Ritchie and Faith R. Ritchie, Richard Weimer c/o Braddock Construction, and Dorothy M. Workman, to seal two abandoned mine pits, restore 2,300 linear feet of George’s Creek, and construct a public use recreation pond in Shaft.

**Acting County Attorney T. Lee Beeman, Jr.** had no further comments to make at this meeting.

**County Administrator Brandon S. Butler** had no further comments to make at this meeting.

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

**Commissioner David J. Caporale** also had no further comments to make at this meeting.

**Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr.** reported that on Tuesday evening (February 11, 2020) he attended the first Job Training Center graduation up at the Makerspace. He added that the next morning, he received calls from several people who lost their jobs at the railroad, asking how they could get re-training at the Center. Commissioner Brodie asked Brandon if he could have information about the Job Training Center put on the website and arrange for more public outreach to be done. He commented that Allegany College of Maryland did a spectacular job with the training.

**Commissioner Jacob C. Shade** addressed the issue of the Opportunity Scholarships, recently in the news. He explained that the decision to end the scholarships was made by the Local Development Council for Allegany County, and not by the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Shade pointed out that the Council has to balance the needs of multiple requestors for funding. He commented that he personally would like to see the scholarships continue and is hopeful that the issue can be resolved.

**Constituents –** In order of sign-up sheet –

**Mr. Kenneth Wilmont**, 513 Fort Avenue, Cumberland, said that he was present “to defend our State Rocky Gap Park”. He talked about being part of a group of volunteers who worked to keep the Park clean, about 30 years ago, before the casino, the hotel and the golf course were there. Mr. Wilmont explained that the reason for that was that the State ran an article in the newspaper that said there was no money to keep Maryland’s state parks clean. He remarked that the scenery at that time was “breathtaking”, but several years later, 20 acres of the Park were taken down for construction of the hotel and golf course. Mr. Wilmont then expressed his dissatisfaction with current plans to install a water park at Rocky Gap State Park and cut down forty acres of trees to do this.

**Reminders/Upcoming Meetings –**

**Next Public Business Meeting –** Thursday, February 27, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

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Jacob C. Shade, President

True Copy  
Attest:

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Cynthia A. Young  
Recording Secretary