

June 24, 2021

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 Jason M. Bennett; and Assistant County Attorney Ramon Rozas, III. County Attorney T. Lee Beeman, Jr., was out of town and unable to attend this meeting. The following business was transacted:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

#### **MOTION**

There were no additions or deletions to the Agenda.

#### **MOTION**

Upon Motion by Commissioner Brodie, seconded by Commissioner Caporale, and Motion carried, the Commissioners approved the Minutes of the June 10, 2021, public business meeting.

#### **PRESENTATION**

**Item 1 – Recognition of Retirement** – Paul F. Kahl, PE, Allegany County Department of Public Works, 1989-2021. County Commission President Jacob C. Shade first called forward Mr. Mark Widmyer from the Governor's Office, to present a Governor's Citation to Mr. Kahl. Mr. Widmyer read and presented this Citation on behalf of the Governor. A round of applause followed.

Commissioner Shade then called forward Mr. Adam Patterson, who has been named the new Public Works Director to replace Mr. Kahl. He described Mr. Kahl as a "great boss and a great friend" and remarked on how much he has done for Allegany County. Mr. Patterson also presented Mr. Kahl with a plaque, after which there was a round of applause.

Next, Commissioner Shade read and presented Mr. Kahl with an official Commissioners Citation in honor of his service as Public Works Director. There was another round of applause.

Mr. Kahl also spoke about his time at the County and thanked many people for their assistance and support to the Public Works Department.

The Commissioners all thanked Mr. Kahl and acknowledged his great work as Public Works Director. County Administrator Jason Bennett also thanked Mr. Kahl and expressed his appreciation for him being a great co-worker and friend.

#### **ACTION AGENDA**

Before presenting Items 2, 3, 4, and 5, Ratification of Labor Management Agreements, Assistant County Attorney Ramon Rozas, III explained that he was not involved in negotiating the Agreements, but that County Attorney Lee Beeman left with him some information to share with the Commissioners at this meeting. Attorney Rozas added that County Attorney Beeman recommended that the Commissioners approve and adopt these Agreements.

**Item 2 – Ratification of Labor Management Agreement with FOP Lodge #144 Allegany County Sheriff's Patrol and Judicial Division** – Board of County Commissioners to approve the final Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and the Sheriff's Road Patrol and Judicial Division FOP Lodge #144 – Ramon Rozas, III, Assistant County Attorney, provided the following information about the Labor Management Agreement with FOP Lodge #144 Allegany County Sheriff's Patrol and Judicial Division:

- This is a 6-year contract.
- This Agreement implements a new pay scale that will hopefully assist with officer attraction and retention.
- Because it has been a tough year for law enforcement in Maryland Legislature, the County wants to make sure they are still able to get quality officers capable of keeping citizens of Allegany County safe.
- County Attorney Beeman passed along his thanks via Attorney Rozas to Bargaining Unit members Chris Hill, Vinny Benson, Eric Rice, Derek Pierce, J. R. Grimm, and John Dowden, negotiating for the Employees, for doing a good job and for being reasonable and negotiating in good faith.

Commissioner Shade remarked that there were several officers from the Sheriff's Office present in this evening's audience, and asked if any of them had anything to say. Chris Hill, President of FOP Lodge #144, said that this Labor Management Agreement being entered into is a step in the right direction, and, for the rest of the State of Maryland, it shows a public support that seems to be

lacking in the middle of the State. He added that hopefully it will be a driving force to change some minds in that area, and commented that while it has become more dangerous and hostile to do this job, it is a pleasure to work in Allegany County, especially with the support of its elected officials.

The Commissioners voiced their support for Law Enforcement in Allegany County.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Caporale and seconded by Commissioner Brodie, the Board of County Commissioners approved the final Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and the Sheriff's Road Patrol and Judicial Division FOP Lodge #144.

**Item 3 – Ratification of 911 Emergency Communications Bargaining Unit Local #1521 C Contract** – Board of County Commissioners to approve the final Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and 911 Emergency Communications Bargaining Unit Local #1521 C – Ramon Rozas, III, Assistant County Attorney, provided the following information about the Labor Management Agreement with 911 Emergency Communications Bargaining Unit Local #1521 C.

- This is a 3-year contract.
- Wage adjustments for this group were necessary to ensure that our employees' wages are adjusting as the minimum wage increases in Maryland.
- County Attorney Beeman passed along his thanks via Attorney Rozas to Bargaining Unit members: Matt Ross, Melody Siemer, and John Jackson, who were very helpful in efforts to reach a fair and quick resolution, and to Carroll Braun for his representation on behalf of AFSCME and for facilitating everything.

Mr. Carroll Braun expressed his thanks to the County Commissioners, County Administrator Jason Bennett, and Director of Emergency Services Jim Pyles for realizing the importance of 911 Dispatchers and the job they do and for taking that into consideration.

Commissioner Shade spoke of the pay deficiencies that were able to be resolved and said that he hoped this would improve retention and morale at the 911 Center.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Brodie, seconded by Commissioner Caporale, and duly carried, the Board of County Commissioners approved the final Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and 911 Emergency Communications Bargaining Unit Local #1521 C.

**Item 4 – Ratification of Labor Management Agreement with International Association of Fire Fighters Local #1715 Allegany County Emergency Medical Services Division** – Board of County Commissioners to approve the final Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and the Emergency Medical Services Division IAFF Lodge #1715 – Ramon Rozas, III, Assistant County Attorney, provided the following information about the Labor Management Agreement with International Association of Fire Fighters Local #1715 Allegany County Emergency Medical Services Division:

- This is a 4-year contract.
- This contract Implements a new pay scale that will hopefully assist with attraction of medics and retention.
- County Attorney Beeman passed along his thanks via Attorney Rozas to Bargaining Unit members: Steve Corioni, Mark Blackburn, Derek Haines, Robert Sines, and Jason Wolfe, and thanks to Ken McKenzie for his representation on behalf of IAFF. It was pointed out that this particular negotiation was difficult, and everyone involved worked hard to get to a place where everyone was satisfied and it was in the best interest of the citizens of Allegany County.

Commissioner Caporale moved that the Board of County Commissioners approve the final Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and the Emergency Medical Services Division IAFF Lodge #1715. Commissioner Brodie seconded the Motion. Motion carried to approve.

**Item 5 – Ratification of Transit Bargaining Unit AFSCME Local #1633 Contract** – Board of County Commissioners to approve the final Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and Allegany County Transit AFSCME Local #1633 – Ramon Rozas, III, Assistant County Attorney, provided the following information about the Labor Management Agreement with Allegany County Transit AFSCME Local #1633:

- This is a 6-year contract.
- Wage adjustments for this group were necessary to ensure that our employees' wages are adjusting as the minimum wage increases in Maryland.

- County Attorney Beeman passed along his thanks via Attorney Rozas to Bargaining Unit Members Jack Davis and James Brant, as well as Carroll Braun as representative on behalf of AFSCME, for negotiating and being very reasonable in discussions.

Carroll Braun briefly remarked on the Transit Contract and thanked Adam Patterson and Paul Kahl from Public Works, who were also present during negotiations.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Shade, seconded by Commissioner Caporale, and duly carried, the Board of County Commissioners approved the final Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and Allegany County Transit AFSCME Local #1633.

**Item 6 – Appointment of Allegany County Human Resources Director** – Board of County Commissioners to ratify the appointment of Kristi D. Liller to the position of Allegany County Human Resources Director – Jason M. Bennett, CPA, County Administrator, reminded the Commissioners that Kristi Liller was brought in to the County two years ago as Human Resources Supervisor, and that she came to the County with more than 20 years of experience, including plenty of experience in the manufacturing world. Administrator Bennett remarked that in the two years Mrs. Liller has been with Allegany County, she has been an invaluable resource to County government, and that it is now time to move her up to the position of Human Resources Director. He asked the Commissioners for their approval of the appointment of Kristi Liller to the position of Human Resources Director.

Commissioner Shade noted Mrs. Liller’s “wonderful professionalism.”

Commissioner Shade then moved that the Board of County Commissioners ratify the appointment of Kristi D. Liller to the position of Allegany County Human Resources Director. Commissioner Brodie seconded the Motion. Motion carried to approve and ratify the appointment of Mrs. Liller as Allegany County Human Resources Director. There was a round of applause.

Mrs. Liller came forward to speak, and she first congratulated Paul Kahl on his retirement. She told him that it has been a pleasure working with him during the past two years and thanked him for being supportive. Mrs. Liller also thanked the County Commissioners for ratifying her appointment to Director of Human Resources, and she also thanked Administrator Jason Bennett for being so supportive. She said that she was honored to serve the employees of County Government and the citizens of Allegany County.

**Item 7 – Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Amendments** – Board of County Commissioners to approve twelve budget amendments in the amount of \$8,925,217 representing vacation buyback program, workers compensation, CARES Act funding, and several other grant awards. These changes will be made to the Fiscal Year 2021 budget to appropriately reflect this activity in the adopted budget – Jason M. Bennett, CPA, County Administrator, reviewed the list of the twelve budget amendments to be made to the FY-21 Budget, as set forth on the Staff Report on the subject dated June 21, 2021, a copy of which is attached to and made a part of these Minutes. Mr. Bennett asked the Commissioners for their approval of the budget amendments.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Brodie, and seconded by Commissioner Caporale, the Board of County Commissioners approved twelve budget amendments in the amount of \$8,925,217 representing vacation buyback program, workers compensation, CARES Act funding, and several other grant awards, with changes to be made to the Fiscal Year 2021 budget to appropriately reflect this activity in the adopted budget.

**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 8 – Resolution 21-14– Rules & Regulations Governing Employees of Allegany County, Maryland Amendments** – Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution 21-4, amendments to the Rules & Regulations Governing Employees of Allegany County, Maryland.

**Item 9 – Fiscal Year 2022 Program Open Space Annual Plan** – Board of County Commissioners adopted the Fiscal Year 2022 Program Open Space Annual Plan.

**Item 10 – Bid Award for Emulsified Asphalt** – Board of County Commissioners awarded the purchase of emulsified asphalt for use by the Department of Public Works Roads Division from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 to Russel Standard, Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, in the amount of \$1.986 per gallon (July 1, 2021 to October 31, 2021) and \$1.986 per gallon (April 1, 2022 to June

30, 2022) for CRS2-PM.

**Item 11 – Bid Award for Delivered Cleaned-Washed Crushed Stone** – Board of County Commissioners awarded the purchase of delivered cleaned-washed crushed stone for use by the Department of Public Works Roads Division from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, to Allegany Aggregates, Cumberland, Maryland, in the amount of \$184,951.75.

**Item 12 – Allegany County Planning Commission Board Appointments** – Board of County Commissioners approved the re-appointments of Breann L. D’Atri and Jon N. Loff to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Their terms will expire on February 16, 2026.

**Item 13 – Allegany County Library Board of Trustees Appointment** – Board of County Commissioners approved the appointment of Renee Kniseley to the Allegany County Library Board of Trustees. Her term will expire on June 30, 2026.

**Item 14 – Potomac Highlands Airport Authority Re-Appointment** – Board of County Commissioners approved the re-appointment of Dr. Gregg Wolff to the Potomac Highlands Airport Authority. His term will expire on June 30, 2024.

**Item 15 – Allegany County Sanitary Commission** – Board of County Commissioners approved the appointment of Lee Heavner, Flintstone, Maryland, and approved the re-appointment of Steve Young, Dennis Blank, and George Shoemaker to the Allegany County Sanitary Commission. Their terms will expire on June 1, 2027.

**County Administrator Jason Bennett** discussed the personnel changes recently made, including the two appointments made this evening as well as the appointment of Pamela Diaz as Deputy Director of Finance. He explained that Mrs. Diaz will be assuming some of Mr. Bennett’s duties in Finance.

Administrator Bennett also talked about the County’s tax sale, held in May, which was conducted online instead of in person this year. He reported that it seems the online sale worked rather well for the County: Back in 2019 the County sold about twenty-three percent (23%) of the properties at in-person tax sale, while this year the County sold thirty-eight percent (38%) of the properties online.

**Assistant County Attorney Ramon Rozas** said that he wanted to pass along some messages from County Attorney Lee Beeman. He congratulated Kristie Liller on her appointment to Human Resources Director, and told her that Attorney Beeman commented that Mrs. Liller was essential in helping him, especially with changes to the Rules and Regulations and also with the Union negotiations. He also passed along Attorney Beeman’s congratulations to Paul Kahl and added that he spoke very highly of him as well, and said that he would be missed.

**Commissioners’ statements, comments, recognition –**

**Commissioner Jacob Shade** commented on Covid grants and stimulus money.

**Commissioner David Caporale** said that he had nothing further to add this evening, except to wish Mr. Kahl all the best in the future in his retirement.

**Commissioner Creade Brodie** also congratulated Paul Kahl, and he remarked on the “fantastic group of employees County-wide”. He also thanked Chris Hill and Jack Davis for being instrumental in getting the Union contracts done.

Commissioner Jacob Shade said that at the next meeting the Commissioners should have a tally of how many grants were given out during Covid. He also said that decisions need to be made on how to spend the stimulus money received by the County/municipalities, on “something substantial that will last a long time”.

**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, July 8, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

**Announcement** – Allegany County Government Schedule (See News Release)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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Jacob C. Shade, President

True Copy  
Attest:

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

*JM*



# ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

## *Finance Office*

701 Kelly Road, Suite 205, Cumberland, Maryland 21502  
(301) 777-5916 FAX (301) 777-2072  
[finance@alleganygov.org](mailto:finance@alleganygov.org) [www.gov.allconet.org](http://www.gov.allconet.org)

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Jason M. Bennett, CPA, *Director of Finance*

## STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Jason M. Bennett , County Administrator  
**FROM:** Pamela S Diaz, CPA – Deputy Director of Finance  
**DATE:** June 21, 2021  
**RE:** Budget Amendments

For the Agenda of: June 24, 2021

### 1. BACKGROUND

Throughout the year, various activities require the approval of budget amendments to adjust our expectations for our budget.

### 2. ISSUES

At this point, we need to make twelve budget amendments for FY 2021 in the total amount of \$8,925,217. We need to recognize our annual vacation buyback, which utilizes fund balance by decreasing our compensated absences in the amount of \$162,789. Additionally, we need to allocate \$239,420 of workers comp that was in our employee benefits department to the departments that saw large costs from claims, including the Sheriff's department, Roads, the Detention Center, EMS, 911 and Public Works. We also need to recognize vehicles purchased in Roads and Sheriff Patrol in the amount of \$299,276. Also, the largest amendment represents \$6,903,346 in federal and state funds that was received from Federal Cares Act revenue and State of MD Dept of Commerce COVID-19 response monies. These dollars are largely being put back into the community in the form of small business grants, but has also been used to expand broadband capabilities, prepare to remote work, provide hazard pay to front line workers and also to

relaunch our economy as the crisis begins to lift. And, lastly, \$ 533,306 represents state grants for various items including health and social programs.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The total amount of these budget amendments is \$8,828,344 and of this \$239,420 is simply a transfer between departments, so our total general fund budget for FY 2021 will increase by \$995,371. We will utilize \$488,740 of fund balance for a portion of these budget amendments and the rest is covered with grant revenue. The \$6,903,346 in Covid-19 Relief Funds dollars are being accounted for in our special revenue funds and \$ 750,000 are being accounted for in our capital projects fund, both of which sit outside of our general fund.

**4. ALTERNATIVES**

There is not alternative to this budget amendment

**5. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

None.

**6. CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICY**

Conforms with County policy.

**7. RECOMMENDATION**

The Finance Department recommends approving this amendment to the FY 2021 budget.