

**HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: AUGUST 7, 2023**

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, August 7, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Brad Bray, Vice President Jack Dodd, Member Jeff Lipinski, County Attorney Alan Wilson, and Auditor Jessica Secrease.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Jerry Asher and conducted by President Brad Bray. President Bray led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Commissioner Lipinski offered a word of prayer.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the July 17, 2023, regular meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd, Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & RECOGNITION:**

***Employee Service Awards***

The Commissioners congratulated the following County employees, and Commissioner Dodd read their Employee Service Awards into the record:

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
Brandon Needler	5
Bradley McGuire	5
Kristina Sommers	10
Karen Windsor	15
Jody Hamby	15
Christina Thatcher	20
Brent Dechert	25

**IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS & REPORTS:**

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

***Howard County Employee Survey Report***

Human Resources Director Kari Rennaker reported the results of the Employee Satisfaction Survey that the Human Resources Office sent to County employees in June 2023. This survey was intended to be a baseline survey to help narrow in on certain topics that needed to be looked into further. A total of 162 employees participated in the survey. Questions involving salaries, PTO, and benefits all ranked low. Employees stated they enjoyed the flexibility of their schedules, their coworkers, and working for the public. Ms. Rennaker stated that she would like to continue sending out surveys to the employees. Commissioner Dodd stated that he would like to look through the survey more before he makes any further statements on it.

**PLAN COMMISSION**

***Rezoning (Case 6-CZ-23)***

Plan Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline submitted Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-31 for the rezoning of the property located at 2262 S 700 W., Kokomo, Indiana from AG (Agriculture) to RR (Rural Residential). There was a favorable recommendation by the board. There was no remonstrance. With the rezoning request having been heard, Commissioner Lipinski made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-31 as presented. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

***Rezoning (Case 7-CZ-23)***

Plan Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline submitted Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-32 for the rezoning of the property located at 1225 W 350 S., Kokomo, Indiana from AG (Agriculture) to RR (Rural Residential). There was a favorable recommendation by the board. There was no remonstrance. With the rezoning request having been heard, Commissioner Dodd made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-32 as presented. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

***Rezoning (Case 8-CZ-23)***

Plan Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline submitted Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-33 for the rezoning of the property located at 1723 N 400 W., Kokomo, Indiana from (Rural Residential) to AG (Agriculture). There was a favorable recommendation by the board. There was no remonstrance. With the rezoning request having been heard, Commissioner Lipinski made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-33 as presented. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

***Subdivision (Case 4-CP-23)***

Plan Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline submitted a new subdivision, Pottersville Subdivision, located on a new lot at 2262 S. 700 W., Kokomo, Indiana. There was a favorable recommendation by the board. There was no remonstrance. With the new subdivision request having been heard, Commissioner Lipinski made a motion to approve Merrell Manor Subdivision, located on a new lot at 2262 S. 700 W., Kokomo, Indiana as presented. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

***Subdivision (Case 5-CP-23)***

Plan Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline submitted a new subdivision, Homestead Subdivision, located on a new lot at 630 S. 1200 E., Kokomo, Indiana. There was a favorable recommendation by the board. There was no remonstrance. With the new subdivision request having been heard, Commissioner Dodd made a motion to approve Homestead Subdivision, located on a new lot at 630 S. 1200 E., Kokomo, Indiana as presented. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

***Subdivision (Case 6-CP-23)***

Plan Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline submitted a new subdivision, Davis Divide Subdivision, located on a new lot at 1225 W. 350 N., Kokomo, Indiana. There was a favorable recommendation by the board. There was no remonstrance. Davis Divide has one lot and was approved. With the new subdivision request having been heard, Commissioner Dodd made a motion to approve Davis Divide Subdivision, located on a new lot at 1225 W. 350 N., Kokomo, Indiana as presented. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**HIGHWAY DEPARMENT**

***Brine Sprayer Slide-in Units***

Highway Superintendent Amber Tolle presented the Commissioners with an invoice from McGavic Outdoor Power Equipment to purchase two brine sprayer units. These would be two tantum slide-ins that are specifically designed for the Highway Department’s trucks. The total cost will be \$67,644.00. The brine operations will help make the County much more efficient in their snow removal. The invoice for the brine sprayer slide units was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

***ATM Placement License MOU***

Brain Day presented an MOU to the Commissioners to place an ATM inside the work release facility. This would help to limit the traffic going in and out of work release. There are vending machines inside work release that the ATM would allow people to have access to. Commissioner Dodd and Lipinski had concern over the \$3.00 charge that the ATM would charge people after using the ATM. Commissioner Dodd suggested contacting a local bank and seeing if they would put an ATM in work release. Mr. Day said they would look into it further.

**IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:**

***2023-2024 Malcon Agreement***

Malcon representative Daniel Vaughn presented the Commissioners with the 2023-2024 Malcon Agreement. Mr. Vaughn stated that Malcon works with the Auditor’s Office on their cost allocation plan. Malcon has worked with Howard County since 2017 and has brought the County over half a million dollars. Everything Malcon brings in goes into the County General Fund. The County’s incentive fund has to pay for the cost to keep Malcon’s services. The Malcon agreement was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried

**IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:**

Howard County Auditor Jessica Secrease submitted the following claims and reports for the Commissioners’ information and approval:

1. **Salary Claims:** The Commissioners’ Salary, Hourly, and Overtime Claims for payment on July 28, 2023, in the amount of \$953,758.72 was submitted and approved on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
2. **Payroll Expenses:** The Commissioners’ Payroll Expenses for payment on July 28, 2023, in the amount of \$953,758.72 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
3. **Operating Claims:** The Commissioners’ Operating Claims to be paid August 7, 2023, in the amount of \$1,528,400.05 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.
4. **Monthly Reports:** Auditor Jessica Secrease presented the following reports to be received into the record:
  - a. Weights and Measures Monthly Report for July 2023
  - b. Treasurer’s Report for May and June 2023

**IN THE MATTER OF ATTORNEY ISSUES:**

***Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-27 – READI Grant Fund***

Attorney Alan Wilson presented Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-27 – READI Grant Fund. The READI Grant will be used for the broadband project. Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-27 – READI Grant Fund was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.

***Resolution No. 2023-BCCR-12 – Amendment Renaming or Renumbering Precincts***

Attorney Alan Wilson presented Resolution No. 2023-BCCR-12 – Amendment to Renaming or Renumbering Precincts. The reason for the amendment is because there are new names and numbers for the precincts. Resolution

No. 2023-BCCR-12 – Amendment to Renaming or Renumbering Precincts was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.

***Resolution No. 2023-BCCR-11 – Adopting a Policy for Juror Parking***

Attorney Alan Wilson presented Resolution No. 2023-BCCR-11 – Adopting a Policy for Juror Parking. Resolution No. 2023-BCCR-11 – Adopting a Policy for Juror Parking was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.

***Resolution No. 2023-BCCR-13 – Adopting Conflict of Interest Policy***

Attorney Alan Wilson presented Resolution No. 2023-BCCR-13 – Adopting Conflict of Interest Policy. The State Board of Accounts requires the County to have a conflict of interest policy in place. Resolution No. 2023-BCCR-13 – Adopting a Conflict of Interest Policy was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.

***Solar Company Settlement Agreement***

Attorney Alan Wilson presented a Settlement Agreement between the Howard County Zoning Appeals and Emerald Green Solar. Emerald Green Solar was denied a special exception by Howard County Zoning Appeals last year. The solar company requested judicial review of the denial decision. The Solar company then waited six months to reapply and was granted the special exception. The County has reached a settlement agreement with the solar company to dismiss the first piece of litigation. The BZA also approved the settlement agreement at their last meeting. The ratifying of Commissioner President Bray’s signature on the settlement agreement was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER ISSUES:**

Commissioner Lipinski stated that he met with Berry-It and stated that the broadband project should be completed in September. They could also be working on additional projects for the County in the future.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

*Resident Brad Semon of 10954 E. 100 S., Greentown, Indiana:* Mr. Semon stated that he wants the solar land to be rezoned from agriculture to commercial use. He also stated that the Commissioners are worried about people at work release spending a \$3 fee at the ATM, but they are not worried about him having to pay \$500 to \$1,000 to get his well tested. He asked the Commissioners again to amend the ordinance to protect his well of contamination and to protect his property values. Mr. Semon is afraid that no one will want to purchase his home if his house is surrounded by solar panels.

***There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time  
the meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd.  
The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.***

**HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

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R. BRAD BRAY, PRESIDENT

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JACK W. DODD, VICE PRESIDENT

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JEFF S. LIPINSKI, MEMBER

**ATTEST:**

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JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR

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