

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 25, 2014

The Howard County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 25, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Richard Miller, Vice President James Papacek, and Members Stan Ortman, Les Ellison, Jeff Stout, John Roberts, and Dwight Singer. Also in attendance were County Attorney Larry Murrell and Deputy Auditor Konny Zurcher.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting dated January 28, 2014, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Roberts.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNCIL OPENING COMMENTS:

President Miller opened the floor for Council comment as follows:

Vice President Jim Papacek informed the Council that Auditor Martha Lake could not be here tonight because of injuries due to a fall over the weekend. He asked that everyone keep her in their prayers.

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014-HCCO-04 – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Deputy Auditor Konny Zurcher read Ordinance No. 2014-HCCO-04 – Additional Appropriations through one time and it was acted upon as follows:

<u>1000</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>APPROVED:</u>
<u>005</u>	<u>Howard County Sheriff Department</u>	<u>REQUESTED:</u>	
01114.00	Maintenance – Jail Sergeant	\$ 26,372.00	\$ 26,372.00

According to Sheriff Rogers, at one time the Maintenance position had been filled by a civilian, who has since moved to the Courthouse. Sheriff Rogers would like to fill the position with a promoted Corrections Officer, this time. It would be enable the Sheriff's Department to comply with PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) guidelines in supervising any inmate involvement when leaving the facility to maintain the grounds. The position would also be responsible for indoor maintenance. Interim Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Bill Stonestreet also gave explanation.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve the request of \$26,372.00 to line item 01114.00, Maintenance – Jail Sergeant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried.

<u>031</u>	<u>Information Systems</u>		
04722.00	Equipment	\$ 39,363.55	\$ 39,363.55

Information Systems Director Terry Tribby explained that during the November, 2013, tornado, a County owned communications tower on top of one of the City's fire stations as well as the fire station itself, was damaged. The insurance company sent money to replace the tower but the City of Kokomo confirmed that they did not need to have the tower replaced. Howard County does not need to replace the tower, either, so from the advice of the State Board of Accounts, the insurance check was receipted into County General. Mr. Tribby is now asking that the money be appropriated to the Equipment Line Item in the Information Systems Department to spend on other needed equipment for emergency services and for power backup in the Administration Center, as well as improved connectivity to the EMA and Highway buildings on Berkley.

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman to approve the request of \$39,363.55 to line item 04722.00, Equipment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellison and Mr. Stout, and carried.

TOTAL ADDITIONALS ALL FUNDS		\$ 65,735.55	\$ 65,735.55
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REDUCTIONS:

<u>1000</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>		
<u>018</u>	<u>Howard County Maintenance Department</u>		
01117.00	Maintenance Tech One	\$ -26,372.00	\$ -26,372.00

A motion was made by Mr. Stout, seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried to approve the Account Reduction as submitted.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2014-HCCR-04 – TRANSFERS:

Deputy Auditor Konny Zurcher read Resolution No. 2014-HCCR-04 – Transfers in full one time and it was acted upon as follows:

	Transfer From:	To:		AMOUNT REQUESTED:	ALLOWED:
<u>1000</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>				
<u>018</u>	<u>Howard County Maintenance Dept.</u>				
01114.00	Matron / Secretary	01115.00 Labor / Maintenance		\$ 26,825.52	\$ 26,825.52

Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Bill Stonestreet informed the Council that because of cell phone technology the Matron / Secretary position is antiquated. He believes there were not enough hours of work to justify the position. The secretarial duties will be given to the Assistant Superintendent, enabling an additional labor position, which is very much needed.

A motion was made by Mr. Singer to approve the transfer request of \$26,825.52 from line item 01114.00, Matron / Secretary, to line item 01115.00, Labor / Maintenance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Papacek and carried.

<u>029</u>	<u>Howard County Emergency Management Dept.</u>				
01111.00	EMA Director	01118.00 Overtime		\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,600.00

EMA Director Janice Hart explained that this request is to cover overtime costs during recent winter storms in the month of February, for the Interim EMA Director.

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman to approve the transfer request of \$2,600.00 from line item 01111.00, EMA Director, to 01118.00, Overtime. The motion was seconded by Mr. Singer and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SHERIFF COMMISSARY REPORT:

Sheriff Steve Rogers distributed copies of the Commissary Report for January, 2014, and reviewed it with the Council members.

IN THE MATTER OF DRAIN MAINTENANCE / REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS:

Howard County Surveyor Dave Duncan submitted an update concerning the Drain Maintenance projects using Revolving Loan Funds from the EDIT Fund. Mr. Duncan thanked the County Council and the Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to address much needed drain repairs with the loan from the EDIT funds. He and Chief Deputy Greg Lake shared comments from the citizens who are benefiting from the repairs. Mr. Duncan continued to review the update with the Council members, concerning the first four of the nine drain maintenance projects: Deer Creek, McKay Dredge, William Hostetler, and William Johnson. He also reminded the Council Members that borrowing from the EDIT Fund now, and completing the projects now, although very much needed, has never been done this way before. He thanked Auditor Lake and her office for attending to the process of this new procedure, and commented that it is going very well. Mr. Duncan fielded questions from the Council.

IN THE MATTER OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ISSUES:

Commissioner President Wyman submitted the following issues for the Council's consideration:

1. Mr. Wyman thanked the Council Members and Mr. Duncan and his office for the maintenance work being done on nine drains. Even though many citizens have attended the Public Hearings informing them that their Ditch / Drain taxes will increase to cover the cost of repairs, they are very grateful that the County is acting now, in order to do the needed repairs.
2. Mr. Wyman spoke concerning the letter drafted by the Commissioners and sent to State Legislators concerning the Personal Property tax, and thanked Council members for their support of the letter. The letter focused on the transfer of the tax burden to individual tax payers and homeowners in communities if the Personal Property tax is eliminated. It

is believed that the transfer burden will have a greater negative impact on taxpayers than the possibility of communities losing business prospects. He believes the letter represented tax-payers well.

3. The Jackson Street Veterans Home Project is progressing and Mr. Wyman has received an e-mail from that project's committee, asking for possible dates the Council and Commissioners could attend a tour of the facility. At the conclusion of discussion, Mr. Wyman agreed to look at some dates in the middle of March and let the Council members chose the best date.

IN THE MATTER OF THE VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE MONTHLY REPORT:

Veterans Service Officer retired Colonel Ross Waltemath distributed copies of the Veterans Service Office monthly report for the month of January, 2014, and reviewed the report with the Council members. The Office has now activated the Survivor Outreach Assistance Program and in January was able to meet six of the families they reached out to. Of the twenty-eight veteran deaths in January, burial claims have not yet been received. The Office has contacted several of the funeral homes and those claims will be coming soon. Mr. Waltemath will continue to track out-of-county veterans supported by the Howard County office. The office recently helped a family from Boone County. Their son works for a funeral home in Indianapolis, and contacted his family, encouraging them to go to the Howard County Office for support because Howard County "takes good care of its veterans". Mr. Waltemath thanked the Council, again, for the fulltime office and employees to man it.

**Councilman Les Ellison reminded the Council of Summer Blakemore, who received recognition for her athletic performance, at the 2013 Budget Session. Ms. Blakemore has continued to excel in sports, and has received a full-ride four year scholarship from Indiana State. Mr. Ellison also reported that her little brother was very happy to see her leave.

*There being no further business to come before the Council at this time,
the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. on a motion made by
Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Stout and carried.*

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL:

RICHARD H. MILLER, PRESIDENT

JAMES T. PAPACEK, VICE PRESIDENT

STAN ORTMAN, MEMBER

LES ELLISON, MEMBER

JEFF STOUT, MEMBER

JOHN ROBERTS, MEMBER

DWIGHT V. SINGER, MEMBER

ATTEST:

MARTHA J. LAKE, AUDITOR
Howard County Council Meeting February 25, 2014