

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: OCTOBER 2, 2023

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, October 2, 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 County Auditor Jessica Secrease.

The meeting was called to order by Major Gary Cook 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 SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & RECONGINTION:

Employee Service Awards:

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

Employee	Years of Service
Olivia Berry	5
Larisa Williams	5
Minh-Thu Dang	5
Michael Hamilton	10
Lorraine Mundell	10
Joseph Underwood	10
Christa Pokrzywa	10
Kathryn Berry	10
Paul Cherry	25
Angela Kelly	30
Kathy Cates-Cullison	30

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the September 18, 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 DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS & REPORTS:

PLAN COMMISSION

Interlocal Agreement

Plan Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline presented an Interlocal Agreement between the City and the County to allow the city building inspectors to come into the county and do inspections on any new structure. The City Council has already passed this agreement. Commissioner Lipinski made the motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Kinsey Center Pole Barn

Maintenance Superintendent Bill Stonestreet submitted a quote to build a Pole facility at the Kinsey Youth Center from Hearn Construction not to exceed \$105,000.00. Kinsey Youth Center is covering the cost of the facility. A motion was made by Commissioner Dodd to approve the quote to build a Pole facility at the Kinsey Youth Center as presented. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:

HOWARD HAVEN

Approval of New Resident

Howard Haven Superintendent Jennifer Brower applied for a new resident to be approved as a private pay. The resident's name is on file in the Auditor's Office. A motion made by Commissioner Lipinski to approve the new resident subject to a 90-day probation period. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

K-9 for the Jail

Major Gary Cook submitted a claim to purchase a K-9 for the county jail. This dog will be on staff at the jail five days a week. The prosecutor's office has agreed to fund the purchase of the K-9 in full. The purchase of the K-9 for the jail was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, 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 September 22, 2023, in the amount of \$983,975.59 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 September 22, 2023, in the amount of \$983,975.59 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 October 02, 2023, in the amount of \$1,509,686.47 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.
4. **Ratify Claims:** Auditor Jessica Secrease presented a claim for Austin Bailey in the amount of \$372.40 to be ratified. The claim was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Lipinski thanked Dave Duncan for all the work he has done for the county since he has recently retired. Commissioner Bray wished him a happy retirement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Resident Rachel Jenkins of 9209 E 00 NS, Greentown, Indiana: Rachel Jenkins requested that the County needs more transportation options for those who live outside of city limits. Mrs. Jenkins stated that she needs services getting back and forth to Kokomo. She said in July of 2022 she attended a meeting that the need for transportation in the county was agreed upon but stated that nothing further has been done on the matter. She stated that there are some transportation options that cost money but it's not ideal. She stated that Cass and Fulton County have a bus that will go anywhere in the county. She said that maybe more people would move to the county if there was better transportation. She stated that she hopes that the Commissioners take action because the need is now.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time the meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

R. BRAD BRAY, PRESIDENT

JACK W. DODD, VICE PRESIDENT

JEFF S. LIPINSKI, MEMBER

ATTEST:

JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR

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