

## HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING JANUARY 5, 2009

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, January 5, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in Hearing Room No. 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included Vice President Dave Trine, Member William Thompson and Member Tyler Moore. Also in attendance were Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Ann Wells.

The meeting was called to order and conducted by Vice President Trine.

### IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 29, 2008 Regular Meeting, having not been previously submitted and reviewed, were tabled until the January 20, 2009 meeting on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

### IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REORGANIZATION:

Vice President Trine called for the re-organization of the Board of Commissioners. A motion was made by Mr. Moore to appoint Commissioner David Trine as President. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried. A motion was then made by Mr. Moore to appoint Mr. William (Bill) Thompson as Vice President. President Trine vacated the chair to second the motion. The motion was carried. Let the record show that Mr. David Trine is now appointed as Board President and Mr. Bill Thompson is appointed Board Vice President for the year 2009. Congratulations were extended.

At this time the Board of Commissioners, led by Commissioner Moore, stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### IN THE MATTER OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS:

Acting on behalf of the Board, Personnel Director Wanda McKillip submitted Board of Commissioner Appointments as follows:

1. **Veteran Service Officer:** Ms. McKillip reminded the Board that the Veteran Service Officer position does not need to be re-appointed annually. Since this present Board has two new members a motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to appoint Mr. Robert Ladd as Howard County Veteran Service Officer for the year 2009, to be reviewed annually.
2. **County Attorney:** County Attorney Larry Murrell's two-year employment agreement expired December 31, 2008. On a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore, Mr. Murrell was accepted as the Attorney / Coordinator for a two-year term. Mr. Murrell submitted an Employment Agreement reflecting the appointment. The motion was then amended by Mr. Thompson to approve the Employment Agreement.
3. **Assistant County Attorney:** The agreement for Assistant County Attorney Brian Oaks also expired December 31, 2008. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to extend the Employment Agreement with Mr. Brian Oaks as Assistant County Attorney until March 31, 2009.
4. **Buildings And Grounds Superintendent:** A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to extend the current appointment of Art Fross as the Buildings And Grounds Superintendent until January 31, 2009. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried.
5. **Highway Engineer / Superintendent:** A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to appoint Ted Cain as the County's Highway Engineer / Superintendent for the year 2009. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried.
6. **Drainage Board:** Presently the Board of Commissioners' Appointment of Paul Sandy to the Drainage Board is a three year that expires in 2010. As a new Board of Commissioners, a motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to confirm the appointment of Mr. Paul Sandy to finish the remaining two years of his three year appointment, to expire in 2010.

7. **Voter's Registration:** The Republican and Democratic appointments to Voter's Registration are appointed by each Party Chairman. Ms. McKillip has not received word of change from any party appointment, at this time. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to confirm the appointments of Republican Carol Shallenberger and Democrat Shirley McCoy to the Voter's Registration Office.
8. **Howard Regional Health Systems Board Of Trustees:** At the November 3, 2008 Commissioner Meeting, Personnel Director Wanda McKillip submitted a letter she received from Mr. Jack Leckner stating that he did not wish to serve another term on the Howard Regional Health Systems Board of Trustees (*please refer to page two, item two, "In The Matter Of Personnel Department Issues" of the Regular Meeting minutes dated November 3, 2008*). The Board is still looking at possible candidates for this appointment. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to table this appointment until the January 20, 2009 meeting.
9. **Plan Commission Board:** The appointment of Mr. Ron Fritz expired December 31, 2008. A motion was made by Mr. Moore to appoint Mr. Andy Castner to the Plan Commission Board for a term of four years. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.
10. **Howard County Board Of Zoning Appeals:** Mr. Max Custer's appointment expired December 31, 2008. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to table this appointment until the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.
11. **Howard County Alcoholic Beverage Commission:** The one-year term of Beth Harshman expired December 31, 2008. The appointment for the Alcoholic Beverage Commission is tabled until the January 20, 2009 meeting on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.
12. **Kokomo / Howard County Public Library Board:** Mr. Ron Gilman of the Library Board will not be serving another term on the Library Board. A motion was made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson to appoint Mr. Tom Trine to a four-year term on the Kokomo/Howard County Public Library Board. President Trine abstained from the vote. The vote carried.
13. **Howard County Emergency Management Advisory Council:** Mr. Steve Laudenschlager's one-year term expired December 31, 2008. Emergency Management Director Larry Smith wishes to reappoint Mr. Laudenschlager. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to table this appointment until the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried.
14. **Howard County Convention & Visitors Board:** The terms of Ms. Kim Lafollette and Ms. Jennifer Rozzi expired December 31, 2008. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to table both 2-year appointments until the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.
15. **City Of Firsts Automotive Heritage Museum Board:** The three year terms for Peggy Hobson and Michelle Martin both expire December 31, 2008. President Trine asked for clarification from Attorney Murrell as to any statutory requirement for Ms. Hobson to serve on this Board because of her position in the Howard County Convention & Visitor's Board. Mr. Murrell will research the question and have an answer ready for the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to table the appointment of Peggy Hobson until the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, and to appoint Mr. Tom Trauring to the Automotive Heritage Museum Board upon the recommendation of the Automotive Heritage Museum Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried.
16. **Howard County Reassessment Board of Appeals:** Ms. McKillip informed the Board that Ms. Jamie Shepherd, Howard County Assessor, recommends the reappointments of Mr. Williams Jones and Mr. William Sahn. They both have their Level II Certification. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to reappoint Mr. William Jones and Mr. William Sahn to the Reassessment Board of Appeals based on County Assessor Jamie Shepherd's confirmation to Mr. Trine.
17. **Howard County Redevelopment Commission:** The Redevelopment Commission has consisted of Mr. E. P. Severns, Brad Newton, Phil Wise, Larry Hinesly and Dale Etherington. The Statute has changed regarding the reappointments for this Commission. Two members must now be appointed by the County

Council and three members by the Board of Commissioners. At their December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting the County Council approved re-appointment of E. P. Severns and Brad Newton to the Redevelopment Commission. On a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson, Mr. Phil Wise, Mr. Larry Hinesley and Mr. Dale Etherington were reappointed on the recommendation of Attorney Larry Murrell.

18. **Commissioner Committee Appointment To Drainage Board:** Because Commissioner Moore represents most of Center Township in District 2, that already has representation on the Drainage Board, a motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to appoint Mr. Trine and Mr. Thompson to the Howard County Drainage Board.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT ISSUES:**

Highway Engineer / Superintendent Ted Cain submitted the following issues for Board information and approval:

1. **Thank You:** Mr. Cain thanked the Board of Commissioners for his reappointment as the Highway Engineer / Superintendent for the 2009 calendar year. He looks forward to working with this Board. He asked for all their contact information so he can make them aware of action during inclement weather, or an emergency.
2. **EMA Building Reconstruction:** The Emergency Management Vehicle area will soon be to the point where heat can be turned on and some vehicles can be stored. Most of the drywall has been hung and taped in the office area. The west end of the building is the only end that the siding needs to be completed. The trench for the sewer line will be dug this week and Mr. Cain has been in contact with them, sharing his concern that the Highway Department's trucks access to the end of the property. Mr. Cain asked that a representative from the Board of Commissioners attend this Friday's 1:00 p.m. construction meeting. There are several issues that need to have decisions made by a Commissioner.
3. **Salt Situation:** The Highway Department has been able to get one hundred twenty-two (122) tons of salt from the State's facility. Greentown picked up fifteen tons from the County Highway Department. Five tandem trucks are on their way to Burn's Harbor (near Portage, Indiana) to pick up salt. There are 200 tons available from that area and 500 hundred tons available outside of Cincinnati. As long as the weather permits, Mr. Cain's department will make weekly trips to bring the salt to Howard County, since it can't all be stored, here. Commissioner Trine commended Mr. Cain and his department for the good condition of Howard County roads. During the holiday's ice storms, all the counties around Howard County had severe and sometimes fatal accidents. Several expressways were shut down for portions of time. Though Howard County experienced problems it wasn't as serious as what other Counties experienced. Mr. Cain reminded the Board that Highway Department vehicles also encounter dangerous situations when the roads are icy.
4. **E-mail Received From Concerned Citizen:** Mr. Cain did respond to an e-mail received from Dave Connerton concerning ice conditions near the US 31 construction area around Isaac Walton Road. He addressed a misunderstanding by his men over which roads are to be salted. Mr. Cain explained salting situations when there are icy roads and high winds, and how he works with the Sheriff's Department during inclement weather to make sure they are able to get to emergency locations. Because of the amount of roads, the County's department has to operate differently than the City or State departments.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF DEPARTMENT ISSUES:**

Sheriff Marshall Talbert submitted the following issues for the Commissioners' information and approval:

1. **Appreciation To The Highway Department:** Sheriff Talbert appreciates the Highway Department's efforts during the recent inclement weather.
2. **Jail Population:** The current inmate population is three hundred forty (340) with fifty-six (56) being female.

3. **Miami County Sheriff Department:** Miami County is starting to set their new steel cells. Sheriff Talbert invited the Board members to travel with him to see this type of construction and installation. He believes that at some point in time, we will have to deal with the overcrowding situation at the jail.
4. **New Dispatch Coordinator:** Sheriff Talbert introduced Mr. Nick Capozzoli, the new E911 Dispatch Coordinator. Mr. Capozzoli stepped to the podium to address the Board. He has been with the department for five years and he looks forward to working with this Board of Commissioners. He also would like contact information from the Commissioners. Sheriff Talbert invited the Board to come watch the Dispatch operation and to ride with the deputies in the patrol vehicles. It's interesting to see the operation "first hand".
5. **Reserve Deputies:** At the present time Sheriff Talbert has three Reserve Deputies on the job. They do a great job! The Reserve program is small but Sheriff Talbert is concerned with quality. He would like to add two more Reserve Deputies. There is no line item in the County's budget; their equipment is paid for by Commissary funds. They are allowed take home cars when on duty and are required to serve a minimum of 2 shifts per month. The deputies usually work more than the required hours. He has one deputy who put in over 800 hours last year. If his department knows enough in advance he will use reserve officers for transport duty. Last year Reserve Deputies served in excess of 1200 hours. They are required to participate in a 40 hour Pre-Basic Course at Grissom as well as qualifying on the firearms range; they wear the same uniforms. The rest of the training is done in-house. Commissioner Thompson asked that Sheriff Talbert compile a listing of equipment costs for the Reserve program. Commissioner Trine has worked side by side with Reserve Officers and commented that they do a good job and are in it for the right reasons.
6. **D.A.R.E. Graduation:** On Tuesday, January 6, at 1:30 p.m. at Eastern Elementary, there will be a D.A.R.E. graduation. Sheriff Talbert invites the Board members to attend. D.A.R.E. is still a valuable program in the County's schools reaching up to 900 students per year. He would like to increase the number of D.A.R.E. officers. There is no line item in the budget. Expenses are paid from the Commissary Fund and from some donations received for that purpose. He believes that this program also promotes a good relationship between officers and students.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF PLAN COMMISSION ISSUES:**

Plan Commission Director Glen Boise submitted the following issues for the Board's information and approval:

1. **New Plats:** Considering the present state of the economy Mr. Boise has no new plats to submit. He did inform the Board of Commissioners that they are currently working on a new Zoning Ordinance and will have revisions ready in June. He reminded the Board that he is their Unsafe Building authority. Mr. Boise then took the opportunity to inform the Board of his other job responsibilities.
2. **Flood Mitigation Program:** Mr. Boise informed the new Board members of the Flood Mitigation Program. We have one grant that has been approved locally and he is waiting word from the Attorney General's Office. He will contact that office again as to the status. Purchase procedures for the flooded property at 2700 Dellwood Drive have begun locally, but we cannot move ahead until the grant is signed off by the State.
3. **Unsafe Building:** There is an A-frame house located at 1759 North County Road 1050 West that has been condemned by the Health Department for an E-coli problem. It has sat empty for ten years and been on the Tax Sale list about ten to eleven years. The land owner to the south of the property may be interested in purchasing it. Mr. Trine will talk to them. The 2009 Budget has allowed for \$40,000.00 in the Unsafe Buildings line item. Mr. Murrell reviewed the process with the Board of Commissioners. The Plan Commission has not been able to contact the current owner.
4. **U.S. 31 Freeway Study:** Mr. Boise has been working on a US 31 Freeway Study to address land use issues for both the new US 31 Freeway and the current 31 By-Pass. A draft contract has been received by Mr. Boise and it has been forwarded to Mr. Murrell's office for his review. If it is deemed to be an acceptable contract, before signing, it will be sent to INDOT for their review, as well as a cost justification. When they have approved and signed off on the contract, it will be sent back to Mr. Boise's office for local action.

5. **Commissioner Committee Appointment For Plan Commission:** Commission Tyler Moore confirmed that he will be representing the Board of Commissioners on the Plan Commission Board.

**IN THE MATTER OF MAINTENANCE ISSUES:**

Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Art Fross submitted the following issues for Board information and approval:

1. **Receipt Of Building Keys:** Mr. Fross wanted to confirm with Mr. Thompson and Mr. Moore whether they had received keys to the Administration Center and their security cards for the Courthouse. He informed Mr. Moore that an access card can be made for him by contacting Officer Craig Trott at the Security Office of the Courthouse.
2. **Administration Center Elevator:** Commissioner Trine reported a faulty elevator at the Administration Center. Mr. Fross will call AMCO to have them check the elevator.
3. **Commissioner Committee Appointment To The Courthouse Security Committee:** Mr. Murrell informed the Board that a Commissioner needs to serve on the Courthouse Security Committee to help make decisions regarding security in that building and to determine who will be receiving frequent visitor passes. A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to appoint Mr. Thompson as President of the Courthouse Security Committee.

**IN THE MATTER OF PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT ISSUES:**

Personnel Director Wanda McKillip submitted the following issues for Commissioners' information and approval:

1. **Indiana Heartland Credit Union Flyer:** Ms. McKillip submitted a flyer from Indiana Heartland Federal Credit Union, requesting permission to distribute to Howard County Employees through the mail boxes in the Auditor's Office. At the conclusion of discussion a motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to approve the distribution of the memo if it is paid for by the Credit Union and then is changed to show membership as an option and not an official endorsement by the Board of Commissioners.
2. **Personnel Assistant Last Day:** Ms. McKillip informed the Board of Commissioners that her assistant Anne Williams's last day in the Personnel Office is today. She is leaving the position and will be working for the City of Kokomo. She has notified the County Council and is waiting for direction from them before posting the position for employment. Her part-time employee will be working full time hours until the position is filled.
3. **T.A.F. Seminar:** Ms. McKillip informed the Board that she and Part Time employee Brittany Campbell will be attending a free seminar sponsored by TAF. This seminar will deal with changes in the FMLA laws.
4. **Commissioner Phone Line:** The Personnel Office monitors and answers the Commissioners' phone line, 456-2234. She would like direction from the Board on how they want the Personnel Office to handle that phone line. She also requested phone numbers that could be distributed to the citizens when they call. She could set the Commissioners up with passwords so they can check the messages at any time.
5. **Wage Review Committee:** There has been much discussion at Commissioner and Council meetings concerning the need for a Wage Review Committee. She asked the Board to consider this request.
6. **Open Enrollment:** The Personnel Office is finishing up with the Anthem Open Enrollment for health insurance. Our employee count for 2009 should be around six hundred (600).

**IN THE MATTER OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT ISSUES:**

Information Systems Director Terry Tribby submitted the following issues for Board information and approval:

1. **Thank You From Auditor's Office:** Auditor Wells took this opportunity to thank Mr. Tribby and his department for allowing the Auditor's Office computers to be Priority One last week and this week.

Because of the volume of homeowners hurrying to apply for the Circuit Breaker 65 deduction, the Auditor's office was allowed to be at the top of the list for the trouble shooting of computer and printer problems. Ms. Wells also thanked the Treasurer, Recorder and Assessor offices for their help with this process. Commissioner Thompson offered thanks to the Mayor's office for their help and leniency with parking ticket situations because of the long waiting lines.

2. **County E-mail Addresses:** Mr. Tribby wanted the Board of Commissioners to understand the e-mail addressing system as follows:

First name.last [name@co.howard.in.us](mailto:name@co.howard.in.us)

Mr. Tribby's office is testing and checking the addresses for the Commissioners to make sure they are working correctly.

3. **Cell Phone Accounts For New Commissioners:** The cell phone accounts for Mr. Raver and Mr. Bagwell have been removed from the County's Verizon Wireless account. Two new accounts for Mr. Moore and Mr. Thompson have been opened and two blackberry phones have been ordered. County e-mails can be forwarded to those phones. Mr. Thompson will be transferring his old phone number to the new phone. Mr. Moore will receive a new number.

4. **Project CodeSpear Recommendation:** An Ad Hoc committee consisting of Mr. Tribby, Mr. Murrell, Gary Bates (dispatch), Larry Smith (EMA) and Commissioner Thompson have met together to review this reverse E911 system Public Notification System that was approved by the Board of Commissioners at their September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting (*please refer to page five, item one, "In The Matter Of County Attorney Issues, of the Regular Meeting minutes dated September 2, 2008 and page three, item five, "In The Matter of Information Systems Department" of the Regular Meeting minutes dated October 6, 2008*). The following four issues related to this project were reviewed by Mr. Tribby:

- a) Implementation and Administration
- b) Hidden Expenses
- c) Liability Issues
- d) System functionality

Mr. Tribby advised that since each of these issues remains unresolved the Committee recommends that the project be put on hold for six (6) months and continue to review. A motion was then made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to take the Project CodeSpear under advisement for six months and refer back to the Ad Hoc Committee.

**IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2009-BCCO-01:**

E911 Coordinator Tony Ramsey submitted Ordinance No. 2009-BCCO-01, the 2009 Budget for E911, as follows:

<u>145</u>	<u>Howard County 911 Enhancement Services Fund:</u>	<b>REQUESTED:</b>	<b>APPROVED:</b>
01110.00	Communications Coordinator	\$ 36,254.00	\$ 36,254.00
01111.00	Asst. Communications Coordinator	\$ 34,340.00	\$ 34,340.00
01112.00	Communication Supervisor (2)	\$ 65,240.00	\$ 65,240.00
01124.00	Part Time	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
01125.00	Overtime	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
01521.00	FICA	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
01522.00	PERF	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
01523.00	Employee Insurance	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
03213.00	Travel & Training	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
03216.00	Communications	\$ 135,000.00	\$ 135,000.00
03564.00	Rental / Lease Fees / A T & T	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 160,000.00
04720.00	Equipment	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
	<b>Total County 911 Enhancement Services Fund</b>	<b>\$ 593,834.00</b>	<b>\$ 593,834.00</b>

This proposed budget reflects a decrease from the 2008 Budget. Mr. Ramsey reminded the Board that last year, the E911 fee was increased to \$.91 per line. The CodeSpear amount of \$25,000.00 from the 2008 budget is not reflected in this year's budget. Ordinance No. 2009-BCCO-01, the 2009 E911 Budget in the amount of \$593,834.00, was approved on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE CONTRACT WITH WTH:**

Mr. Ramsey and Mr. Murrell submitted an Agreement with WTH (Where Technology Happens) for the addition of five (5) mapping licenses, in the amount of \$1,250.00. Mr. Murrell has reviewed the agreement, and WHT has approved the recommended changes. The agreement is now ready for the Commissioners' action. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to approve the Agreement with WTH for the addition of five mapping licenses in the amount of \$1,250.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried. January 7, 2009 is Mr. Ramsey's last day as E911 Coordinator for Howard County. President Trine thanked Mr. Ramsey for the fine job he has done in the Dispatch Center for Howard County. Mr. Trine also wished Tony well in his new venture in Florida. "I may take you up on that Ft. Myers luncheon".

**IN THE MATTER OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN KINSEY YOUTH CENTER AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES:**

Kinsey Youth Center Director Brent Kelley submitted an agreement between the Howard County Kinsey Youth Center and the Department of Child Services. Beginning January 1, 2009, the State will begin paying all Child Services in lieu of the County paying them. Kinsey sent proposals to the State for three services. They have received confirmation for Diagnostic Services (already in place) and Functional Family Therapy Services (presently in development stage) in collaboration with the Juvenile Probation Department and Circuit Court. They are seeking a grant for start-up services so that is will not be an expense to the County. The third service is Transition Service (already in place) but only a verbal approval has been given. The agreement is only for Diagnostic Services and Functional Family Therapy (only if the program is workable) and Mr. Murrell has reviewed the Agreement and given his approval. A motion was made by Mr. Moore to approve the Agreement with the Department of Child Services for Diagnostic Services and FFT Services, and authorize the President to sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF RESERVE DEPUTY CLARIFICATION:**

Sheriff Talbert returned to the podium to clarify previous conversation concerning the Reserve Deputy Program. Reserve Deputies are not allowed to be paid employees of Howard County Government. This is a Department of Labor requirement. Auditor Wells took this opportunity to commend Deputy Craig Trott to Sheriff Talbert. Last week Deputy Trott stayed at the Administration Center every evening, to provide Security for the building until the public left, during the filing of exemptions.

**IN THE MATTER OF A QUESTION CONCERNING POSTAGE FOR THE COURTHOUSE:**

Commissioner Thompson posed a question to Clerk Mona Myers concerning whether the Courts meter their own mail. Ms. Myers replied that none of the Courts meter their mail. The Clerks' Office and the Probation Department are the only offices that meter their own mail. The courts had used D. L. & T. Pro-Sort to meter their mail. The courts would have to use stamps. Clerk Myers did make an offer to the Courts to allow them use of the postage meter in the Clerk's office and reimburse their fund. She has not received word back from any of the Courts concerning this issue. The Commissioners directed Ms. Wells to contact the Courts through e-mail to apprise them of the postage situation and possible options. According to the Postmaster of Kokomo the final address for the Courthouse is 104 North Buckeye Street, Kokomo, Indiana, 46901. The final address for the Administration Center is 220 North Main Street, Kokomo, Indiana, 46901.

**IN THE MATTER OF AN ADDITION TO FUTURE COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDAS:**

President Dave Trine asked that Auditor Wells add a new category to the Commissioner Meeting Agenda. He would like to add **PUBLIC COMMENTS** to the printed Agenda.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONERS' SALARY CLAIMS:**

Auditor Ann Wells submitted the Salary, Hourly and Overtime claims payable December 31, 2008 and January 9 and January 16, 2009, in the amount of \$341,476.30 each. The claims were approved on a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore.

## IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY ISSUES:

County Attorney Larry Murrell submitted the following issues for the Commissioners' information and approval:

1. **Burial Allowance Amendment:** On behalf of Veterans' Service Officer Robert Ladd, Mr. Murrell has prepared a draft of a proposed Burial Allowance amendment, reducing burial reimbursement from \$100.00 to \$50.00. This would be for Burial Allowances only. Marker allowances would remain at \$100.00. Mr. Ladd is suggesting this reduction in response to the Council's request for every department to cut 5% from their budgets. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to table this amendment to the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and ask Mr. Ladd to come to the meeting to explain the request and answer any questions. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried. This proposed amendment would be Ordinance No. 2009-BCCO-02.
2. **Animal Control Contract With Humane Society:** This Animal Control contract is for one year, expiring December 31, 2009, in the amount of \$180,180.00 (Council approved \$180,000.00 for the 2009 Budget). At the request of Commissioner Trine, the language was amended to read that services **will be provided by animal control personnel** to assist the Howard County Sheriff's Department when needed. This has been approved by the Humane Society. Commissioner Trine brought up the fact that each department of the County has been asked by the Council to review their approved 2009 Budget and find a way to decrease the budget by 5%. Mr. Trine suggested that the Board may want to consider applying that 5% decrease to outside entities that receive Howard County funding, such as the Humane Society. Mr. Thompson remarked that the City is looking to make changes in the Humane Society and he does not know how that will affect this process, this year. At the conclusion of ensuing discussion a motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to take this contract under advisement and meet with the Humane Society.
3. **Invoice From Brian Oaks:** Mr. Murrell submitted an invoice in the amount of \$313.50 for services in reference to the Angela Burton Litigation. The hourly rate is \$110.00 per hour. The invoice was approved for payment on a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore.
4. **Contract Log Update:** Mr. Murrell informed the Board of Commissioners that the contract log format has been made more user friendly and he will submit the updated log at the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.
5. **Thank You:** Mr. Murrell thanked the Board of Commissioners for their reappointment as the County's attorney. He looks forward to working with them and appreciates the opportunity to continue serving the citizens of Howard County.

## IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

1. **Acknowledgement Of Mr. Bagwell And Mr. Raver:** Commissioner Thompson took this opportunity to acknowledge Mr. Brad Bagwell and Mr. Paul Raver for the work they've done for the County. He asked that we keep Mr. Raver in our prayers as he deals with some physical issues.
2. **Explain The Tabling Of Several Issues:** Mr. Thompson wanted those in attendance to understand that so many issues were tabled until the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting to give he and Mr. Moore, as the newest members of the Board, an opportunity to review the issues, helping them to make informed decisions. On behalf of himself and Mr. Moore, he thanked all who came to today's meeting and invited them to contact them for any questions or needs.
3. **Thank You:** President Trine thanked Mr. Thompson and Mr. Moore for courage of "...placing their lives in the realm of public scrutiny. Your lives are gonna be forever changed...". He is proud to be a part of this three man team. He also thanked Larry Murrell for his guidance and patience. Mr. Trine would like to see County government take a more active role in Economic Development, offering tax incentives to leave empty downtown buildings up for possible immediate use of other businesses coming into Howard County. Mr. Trine continued to offer suggestions in the areas of partnering with other entities to fill downtown properties, use of abatements on new and updating businesses, meeting with surrounding Counties' Commissioners to round table concerning economic stimulus for the area. "I said before, Tipton County and Peru is not our competition. China is our competition." When Mr. Trine ran

for office, he ran on the need for change. He never dreamed that the change would mean that in two short years he would be the senior member of the Board of Commissioners. He asked that all would be patient and kind-hearted in this learning experience. He also pledges to work with the City, for the best interest of all the citizens. He thanked the Citizens of Howard County who elected him, the County employees for their hard work and dedication, often in the face of ridicule, and his wife, Melissa, "... who never asked to be thrown into the same realm of public scrutiny that I did...".

There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore.

**HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

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DAVID A. TRINE, PRESIDENT

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WILLIAM THOMPSON, VICE PRESIDENT

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TYLER O. MOORE, MEMBER

ATTEST:

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ANN WELLS, AUDITOR

Howard County Commissioner Meeting January 5, 2009