

## HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, September 21, 2009, at 8:30 a.m. in the Administration Center, Room 338. Those in attendance included President Dave Trine, Vice President William Thompson, and Member Tyler Moore. Also in attendance were County Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Ann Wells.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Marshall Talbert and conducted by President Trine. Commissioner Moore led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

*At this time, Commissioner Moore recognized the recent birthday of Commissioner Thompson, September 19, 2009, and all present sang "Happy Birthday" in his honor.*

### IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the September 8, 2009 meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

### IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

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

1. **Stimulus Package Pre-Construction Meeting:** The Pre-Construction meeting for the Stimulus Package projects is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Cain has submitted several concerns to the State, including signage for the projects, and grinding of the roads, and they have agreed with Mr. Cain. He reminded the Board that eighteen sections of Howard County Road will be paved with funds from this project. He believes they will be bringing in two crews to do the work but does not have the start date scheduled. When the Stimulus project is finished, his department will complete the EMA paving project.
2. **School Bus Turn Around Requests:** Two School Bus Turn Around requests have been received and Mr. Cain recommends approval for both requests. He reminded the Board that the stone is provided and the County does the work of hauling the stone and smoothing the area. The first request is for construction on real estate owned by Max & Rebecca Schaaf and located at 13337 East County Road 100 South. A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to approve the School Bus Turn Around request for the location of 13337 East County Road 100 South, Greentown.  
  
The second request is for the location of 13614 East County Road 100 South, Greentown, owned by Todd & Susan Thieke. The request for a School Bus Turn Around at 13614 East County Road 100 South, Greentown, is approved on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.
3. **Thank You:** Sheriff Talbert thanked Mr. Cain and his department for their help in installing Crime Watch signs in the Norwood Park Edition.
4. **Greentown Firing Range:** Sheriff Talbert informed the Board that there are drainage issues that need to be addressed at the Greentown Range. Mr. John Ripberger of Ripberger Drainage in Tipton is willing to donate his labor and the Sheriff's Department will supply the materials from their Fire Arms Training Fund. They will need stone around the tiles and asked Mr. Cain if his department would be willing to haul the stone needed for the project. Mr. Cain answered that his department is always willing to work with the Sheriff's Department, and gave his affirmation. He requested a couple of days notice. A short time ago, the Highway Department had been contacted by the Greentown Marshall for the possibility of cutting a ditch at that location. He will check with the Sheriff's Department before proceeding.
5. **Nickel Plate Trail Signage:** Commissioner Thompson thanked Mr. Cain and his Department for the installation of the Nickel Plate Trail Signs.
6. **Inmate Work Crew:** Mr. Cain thanked the Sheriff for the services of the Inmate Work Crew in mowing the Highway Department's property. The Highway Department's mower is in disrepair at this time and the Work Crew did a fine job of mowing, saving the department money.

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

Sheriff Talbert submitted the following issues for the Commissioner’s information and approval:

1. **Jail Population:** The current inmate population is three hundred forty-seven (347) with fifty-three (53) being female. Thirty-five of the inmates are serving local sentences.
2. **Fire Range Drainage Issues:** Sheriff Talbert reminded the Board that the supplies needed for the previously discussed drainage issues at the Greentown facility will be purchased with money from the Firearms Training Fund. The Highway Department will be assisting.
3. **Reserve Deputies:** The Department has added two new Reserve Deputies; Mr. Carl Schwann, a full-time Logansport Police officer, and Mr. Steve Holland. Mr. Holland was present and stepped to the podium to address the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Holland has been a resident of Howard County since 1963 and talked of his family. He is retired from Delphi and has had a long time interest in law enforcement. Upon retirement he wanted to do something that would challenge his abilities and something he would be proud to do. He thanked Howard County for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and was then welcomed by the Board of Commissioners. Sheriff Talbert informed the Board that Mr. Holland finished number one on the Merit Deputy written test. He also completed all the physical standards required of Merit Deputies. We presently have five Reserve Deputies as follows: Dr. Steve Seele, Denny Butler, Shane Gibson, Carl Shwann and Steve Holland. Sheriff Talbert would like to add one more Reserve position. He appreciates the support and cooperation of the Board of Commissioners and the County Council. The Reserve Deputies are given vehicles and they have to pass inspection like the Merit Deputies.
4. **Inmate Work Crew:** Sheriff Talbert offered the services of the Inmate Work Crew to do all the mowing for the County Government buildings, believing it will relieve the employees to do other jobs. He believes there is enough work to sponsor two crews, next summer, with one crew being a seasonal crew. The charge is \$45.00 per hour and includes a six-man crew and the equipment.
5. **Pink Heels Fund Raiser:** Deputy Stacy Wines is involved with Breast Cancer Awareness, and a fish fry and activities are being held to raise funds to fight breast cancer. The event will be held at UAW 292, on Hoffer Street, on Tuesday, September 22, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sheriff Talbert will be in the dunk tank.

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

Plan Commission Director Glen Boise submitted the following issues for the Commissioners’ information and approval:

1. **Proposed Zoning Ordinance Committee Meeting:** There will be a meeting with the Committee, Mr. Boise and Attorney Oaks, tomorrow, to discuss the issues that led to the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance.
2. **Collins’ Property Demolition:** Mr. Boise submitted and distributed pictures of the Collins’ property showing that the demolition and clean-up process has been completed.
3. **Dellwood Property:** This flooded property, purchased by the County has been excavated. Because of illegal dumping concerns, it was decided that Mr. Boise would speak to the Wastewater Treatment Center and return with a recommendation for the Board of Commissioners at this meeting (*please refer to page one, item one, “In The Matter Of Plan Commission Department Issues”, of the Regular Meeting minutes dated September 8, 2009*). Mr. Boise has spoken with Mr. Cooper, from the Wastewater Treatment Center, and Mr. Cooper has agreed to move the present gate closer to the road. Mr. Boise will be meeting with Mr. Cooper to determine the exact location for the gate and that it meets the Highway Department’s specifications. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to authorize the Wastewater Facility to move the gate from its present location, to a location to be determined, that is close to the road, per our request.

4. **U. S. 31 Corridors Plan Steering Committee Meeting:** The Committee met and is discussing possible dates in October, for a charrette to gather input and information concerning the two U.S. 31 corridors. Mr. Thompson asked that he receive a copy of the meeting minutes.
5. **Unsafe Property:** Commissioner Trine informed Mr. Boise that he received a call concerning an unsafe property at 2220 East Vaile Street. It was reported that the property owner is behind on taxes and possibly living in the garage that does not have heat or water. Mr. Boise will check out the situation and ask the Health Department to join him.

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

Maintenance Department Superintendent Scott Reed submitted the following issues for the Board's information and approval:

1. **Oktoberfest:** This Friday is the date for the annual Oktoberfest. Buckeye Street will be the only "open" street around the Courthouse, during the day.
2. **Tile Issue In Basement Of Administration Center:** There was an issue with the tile in the basement of the Administration Center. At the time of the remodeling project, the tile had been installed into quickset that had already been sitting too long. Last week the tile was replaced in the basement and into a portion of the security office.
3. **KeyBank Remodeling Project:** At the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board of Commissioners tabled the approval of the KeyBank remodeling plans for further review by Mr. Reed and Commissioner Thompson (*please refer to page two, item two, "In The Matter of Maintenance Department Issues" of the Regular Meeting minutes dated September 8, 2009*). Mr. Murrell and Commissioner Thompson have been in contact with KeyBank and have agreed that Howard County will install the necessary duct work to allow KeyBank to tap into our vent to carry the heated air from their IT room to the outside. Mr. Thompson did concur with Mr. Reed's concern that venting from their IT room to an inside wall would cause problems for the whole building. Because it is the County's building, we will pay for the supplies and have our Maintenance Department install the duct work. KeyBank is spending \$300,000.00 for this project. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to approve the HVAC amendment to the original proposal, and approve the submitted KeyBank Remodeling project with the HVAC amendment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.
4. **Thank You:** Sheriff Talbert thanked the Maintenance Department for checking and fixing the lights in the parking lot of the Criminal Justice Center.

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

Personnel Department Director Wanda McKillip submitted the following issues for the Board's information and approval:

1. **Golf Outing:** Ms. McKillip thanked the Board of Commissioners for hosting the Golf Outing to underwrite the Employee Holiday Party in December. Ms. McKillip believes it was a success and she will send out Thank You cards.
2. **October Re-Appointments:** Ms. McKillip will submit several reappointments at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, for the Community Corrections Advisory Board.
3. **Government Employee Wellness & Benefits Fair:** Thursday October 29, 2009, is the date set for the Government Employee Wellness & Benefits Fair, from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The event will be located at the Kokomo Event Center, and Ms. McKillip has confirmed that employee and family flu shots will be distributed at that time. Those employees desiring a flu shot would need to go to the Fair in lieu of the Health Department. Ms. McKillip is trying to work out several issues including the possibility of distributing tickets to employees, making it easier for families to receive the flu shot at their convenience. Ms. McKillip would also like the Board to consider allowing employees to use morning and afternoon break times at their lunch hour, giving them travel time to and from the Event Center. The Sheriff's Inmate Work Crew will be used to set-up and tear down. The Health Department is currently

understaffed in their nursing department and Sheriff Talbert offered the use of one their nurses to help with the distribution of the flu shots.

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

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

1. **Energy Grant:** At the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mr. Tribby had presented a request to apply for an Energy Grant to pursue the possibility of installing Wind Energy towers at one of the Howard County buildings. The Board of Commissioners authorized Mr. Tribby to pursue the available grant (*please refer to page two and three, item two, “In The Matter Of Information Systems Department Issues”, of the Regular Meeting minutes dated September 8, 2009*). After further study of the Wind Energy issue, with the help of Duncan Service Company, Mr. Tribby submitted a proposal for the installation of three towers at the Criminal Justice Center (not Administration Center as originally intended). The investment for Howard County would be about \$75,000.00. With the present low costs of energy, (6.5 kilowatts per hour) the cost does not justify the amount of savings. He believes that energy costs will increase in the next few years, but at this time, he does not recommend wind energy technology. Wind Energy will improve in a few years. This grant has been on-going since 1995 and the Board may want to consider geo-thermal technology to help save on utility expenses. Also discussed was solar technology, and Mr. Tribby plans to review that technology; possibly a combination of solar and wind technology. He does know that at this time, solar technology will not produce the same amount of energy as wind energy. Mr. Tribby does believe that these types are “down the road” for Howard County. The Board members thanked Mr. Tribby for all his research into alternative types of energy.
  
2. **Video Technology:** Presently all Howard County Sheriff Deputies have cellular connection in their vehicles for their lap top computers. Because this infrastructure is already in place, Mr. Tribby feels that a new software technology for video would be good for Howard County. This software allows officers to tap into a facility’s video equipment, such as a school or business, and view on the officer’s laptop what the facility’s camera is viewing. He continued to give a view of the possibilities this system could give to our law enforcement and fire safety entities. A vendor representative of the company that distributes the software is coming the second week of October to give a demonstration and to review costs of the software and what is needed to implement it. Mr. Tribby invited the Board to attend, if interested. He also invited the new Reserve Officer, Steve Holland, who was the technology consultant at Delphi. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Tribby for his research into this technology.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COURTHOUSE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT:**

At the previous meeting the Board of Commissioners had approved the Courthouse Beautification Project proposal as submitted, subject to the review and approval of Commissioner Thompson (*please refer to page three and four, “In The Matter Of A Proposal From The Courthouse Beautification Committee”, of the Regular Meeting minutes dated September 8, 2009*). Mr. Thompson took this opportunity to give a report on the proposal. He began by recognizing the efforts of the Project Committee in working on this proposal. There are four main areas of concern as follows:

- Security.....Haven’t had an opportunity to review the last proposal
- Legal.....Mr. Murrell gave his recommendation on two legal issues
- Money.....Not all in place, at this time
- Maintenance.....Upkeep and watering issues to address

Mr. Thompson will give this report to Mr. Moore to submit to the Project Committee. He believes all the aforementioned issues need to be addressed before approving the proposal and moving forward with the project. Mr. Murrell reported that the legal issues are as follows:

- 1) Would the project impact the current policy of Public Access to the Courthouse Grounds
  
- 2) Installation – Mr. Murrell recommends that plans need to be authorized by a Board resolution and the plantings installed under the supervision of Superintendent Scott Reed, and that the plantings become the property of Howard County. The Nurseries would agree to not hold

Howard County liable for any payment. The County would also have the right to re-locate or remove any plantings it feels would be necessary.

Mr. Moore informed Mr. Thompson that the landscapers involved assured the Board that all plantings are low maintenance and even the flowering varieties are low maintenance, and when the blooms have disappeared, the leaves would lend color to the landscaping. As far as Maintenance issues, there are two choices for the watering issues. The first would be irrigation, requiring a separate water meter. The second would be the installation of one or more additional outdoor water faucets. Mr. Thompson then cited pros and cons to each choice, that can be found in the copy of his report. Mr. Thompson recommends that the project be put on hold until all the issues have been resolved. Mr. Murrell will also delay the Resolution until the legal issues are resolved. Copies of the report and project proposal will be distributed to the Maintenance and Security offices. Concerning the possibility of waiving the water fee for the Courthouse landscaping, Mr. Randy Morris informed the Board that they would need to contact the Board of Works with that request. Mr. Murrell will distribute copies of the proposed resolution to the Commissioners.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMUNITY CORRECTION'S ANNUAL REPORT:**

Community Corrections Director Steve Maus informed the Commissioners that the Community Corrections Advisory Board has approved the Annual Report, of which copies have been distributed to the Board of Commissioners for their review and approval. Mr. Maus briefly reviewed the report. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to table approval until the October 5<sup>th</sup> Commissioner Meeting, for review by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Trine would like to review the Work Release Program with the Community Corrections Advisory Board (funding proposal approved). Mr. Murrell suggests that this meeting take place in conjunction with the Criminal Justice Committee at a public meeting. President Trine and Sheriff Talbert co-chair this committee and they will set a date for the proposed meeting.

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

Auditor Ann Wells submitted the following issues for the Board's information and approval:

1. **Salary Claims:** The Salary, hourly and overtime claims, payable September 25 and October 2, 2009, in the amount of \$335,386.35 each, is approved on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.
2. **Operating Claims:** The Commissioners' Operating Claims payable today, in the amount of \$521,206.75, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore. Ms. Wells also suggested that, because of current budget constraints, the Board of Commissioners consider sending a memo to Office Holders and Department Heads to continue to stay thrifty in spending funds in their budgets.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY ISSUES:**

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

1. **Kinsey Maintenance Agreement With Pitney Bowes:** Kinsey Youth Center has its own mailing system with machinery leased from Pitney Bowes. Mr. Brent Kelley, Youth Center Director, submitted this Maintenance Agreement for the postage machines. It is a three-year renewal contract and Mr. Murrell has reviewed it and made appropriate changes. A motion was made by Mr. Moore to approve the three year Maintenance Contract with Pitney Bowes for postage machinery. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.
2. **Update Capital Improvement Plan:** At their September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, the County Council approved the Additional Appropriation Request of \$50,000.00 for New Business – Employment Incentive in the EDIT Fund (*please refer to page five, "In The Matter Of A Letter Of Intent For A Prospective New Business In Downtown Kokomo", of the Regular Meeting minutes dated August 17, 2009*). At the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, Commissioner Thompson outlined the use of the \$50,000.00 as follows:

\$5,000.00	Front Money
\$5,000.00	End of 2009 contingent upon having 8 employees in place
\$40,000.00	Remainder in 2010, up to 1,000.00 per employee to be tracked and release of funds authorized by the Greater Kokomo Economic Development Alliance

This would entail an amendment to the 2008/2009 Capital Improvement plan in the amount of \$10,000.00 and an addition of \$40,000.00 to the 2010/2011 plan.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER ISSUES:**

1. **Commissioner Moore:** Mr. Moore has been asked to be the honorary Chair for the March of Dimes Signature Chef / Auction event on September 30, 2009 at 6:30 at Celebrations.

Mr. Moore is meeting with Mr. Boise and Attorney Oaks at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, to discuss the history and rationale behind the Proposed Zoning Ordinance. The Committee believes there is NOT a need for a total overhaul of the present Ordinance, but would like to address specific issues.

2. **Commissioner Thompson:** The second US 31 Corridors Plans meeting went well. The State showed much concern for the existing 31 Corridor. Mr. Thompson will distribute copies of the minutes for the Board's review.

Mr. Thompson met with the Maintenance Department concerning several issues including the KeyBank Remodeling Project and plans. He appreciates the work done by Mr. Murrell and Mr. Reed.

3. **Township Appeals:** Mr. Thompson submitted the Appeal Hearing for Keith Waymond Mills from Center Township. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to uphold the denial of the Township Trustee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried.

Mr. Thompson submitted the Appeal Hearing for Alton Lee Wilborn from Center Township. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to uphold the denial of the Township Trustee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried.

Commissioner Moore thanked Mr. Thompson for being the Hearing Officer for those two hearings.

4. **Commissioner Trine:** The Day of Caring was September 12<sup>th</sup> and Howard Haven reported a total of seventy to eighty people that came to the Home to clean the grounds. Mr. Trine reminded the Board that just a few years ago the Commissioners were considering the possibility of closing the facility. It is now a growing facility and Mr. Trine believes it is a true asset to Howard County. He encouraged people to visit Howard Haven.

Mr. Trine thanked Personnel Director Wanda McKillip for the work she and her office did for the Golf Outing.

Mr. Don Wilson of the Kokomo Perspective has received the Pillar of the Community Award for his services in creating a venue for local advertisers and small businesses, and for helping to keep elected officials accountable. Mr. Trine presented the award to Mr. Wilson, and he would like to acknowledge Mr. Wilson at the October 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

The Board needs to meet concerning the Government Center's space issues. The meeting is set for Thursday, October 8 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no other business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

**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 Board of Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 09/21/09