

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING DECEMBER 7, 2009

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, December 7, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Administration Center. Those in attendance included President David 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.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Three sets of minutes were submitted to be acted upon by the Board of Commissioners. The minutes of the November 2, 2009 were submitted on November 16, and tabled for further review by the Board (*please refer to page one, "In The Matter Of Approval Of Minutes" of the Regular Meeting dated November 16, 2009*). A motion was made by Mr. Moore to approve the minutes of the November 2nd meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.

The minutes of the November 16, 2009 meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

The minutes of the November 23, 2009 Executive minutes were submitted and approved on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

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

1. **2010 Highway Material Bids:** At the November 16th meeting the Board of Commissioners voted to take the 2010 Highway Bids under advisement for Mr. Cain's review (*please refer to pages one and two, item one, "In The Matter Of Highway Matters" of the Regular Meeting minutes dated November 16, 2009*). Mr. Cain has reviewed the bid packages as they were submitted and offers a recommendation to accept all the bids as submitted. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to accept all the 2010 Highway Materials Bids as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried.
2. **Permanent Right-Of-Way For Bridge:** Preparations are being made to raise and widen Bridge #72 located on County Road 200 East and 275 West, over the Martin-Youngman ditch. A permanent Grant of Right-of Way is needed from the current land-owners and Mr. Cain now submits the first of three right-of-ways to the Board of Commissioners for their approval and signature. Mr. Murrell and Mr. Cain have reviewed the forms used for this Right-Of-Way and Mr. Murrell gives his recommendation. The right-of-way is in the amount of \$800.00. Mr. Cain would like to begin work on the bridge in spring/summer of 2010, and this is not a detour route for the new US 31 Freeway. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to approve the Permanent Right-Of-Way for property owned by Mr. E. Lou Lowe, for the improvement of Howard County Bridge #72.
3. **EMA Drainage:** The Highway Department has installed tiles in the back of the EMA building in order to properly drain water from the roof of the building to the drainage pond. Top soil (\$10 per ton) will be installed at that location as the weather permits, to be completed in the spring.
4. **Sunday Night's Snow:** Mr. Cain reported that last night's snow storm did leave some ice on the County's roads, and the Highway Department started with the school routes, as the schools were not closed.

IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

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

1. **Jail Population:** The current inmate population is three hundred twenty-five (325), fifty-two (52) which are females.
2. **Open House:** The Open House for the new Criminal Justice facility in Miami County will be held after the first of the year. Sheriff Talbert would like the Board of Commissioners to tour the facility, if possible.
3. **Christmas Behind Bars:** This Thursday will be the Christmas Behind Bars program and Sheriff Talbert invites the Board to attend. The event will take place between 5:00 and 10:00 p.m. and will provide a program to make literature and gift bags available to the inmates. This is not an endorsement of any religious organization nor is it mandatory.
4. **Weather Related Incidents:** The Sheriff's Department reported eighteen (18) slide-offs this morning, six (6) property damage accidents and, and one deputy who was injured in a fall on the slick pavement. He was transported to the hospital, treated and released.

IN THE MATTER OF PLAN COMMISSION DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

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

1. **U.S. 31 Corridors Plans:** The most recent planning session at IUK, held a few weeks ago, went very well. There was a smaller crowd, but all the interest groups were represented. Maps were available and Mr. Boise reported that there was a lot of consensus among the people there.
2. **Resolution No. 2009-BCCR-26:** Resolution No. 2009-BCCR-26 was submitted as a resolution to amend Resolutions BCCR No. 2005-1, 2007-17 and 2008-23, extending the US 31 Freeway Moratorium until:
 - a. Adoption by the Howard County Board of Commissioners of plans and ordinances resulting from the planning studies, or
 - b. The Indiana Department of Transportation completes purchase of all right of way for the Freeway as indicated by the Howard County Auditor's and Recorder's records, or
 - c. January 1, 2012,
 Which ever event or date occurs first.

This Resolution has not yet been to the Plan Commission Board for their consideration. Mr. Moore made a motion to take this resolution under advisement until the December 21st Commissioner meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.

3. **Unsafe Building On Alto Road:** Mr. Boise received complaints on the property located at 1001 East Alto Road, last year, and Mr. Boise addressed the issue with the property owner who said he would fix the problem. It has not been done and Mr. Boise contacted the owner recently, who reported that he was currently unemployed and his wife is experiencing health problems. Mr. Boise asked the owner to at least clean up the property. Mr. Boise believes the Board of Commissioners may need to take action on this property in 2010. There is also a fire damaged property located at 3532 South County Road 350 East, in Center, that will also need attention. The owners have not responded to Mr. Boise's contact efforts.
4. **Proposed Zoning Ordinance Rejection Letter:** Mr. Boise submitted the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Rejection Letter to the Plan Commission Board (*please refer to page two, item three, of the Regular Meeting minutes dated November 16, 2009*). The forty-five day response limit expires January 1, 2010.
5. **Lighting Complaint Received:** Mr. Trine reported on a complaint he received concerning the lighting at the golf center on Boulevard: more lighting has been installed. Mr. Boise will investigate the issue.
6. **Flood Plain Property Considered:** Mr. Trine received a call from property owners east of Kokomo, who want to be considered for a buyout of their property located in the flood plain. Mr. Boise has four other properties whose owners want to be bought out by the County. Mr. Boise will add her name to the list and will look into available Federal Grants next year.

IN THE MATTER OF MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Building and Grounds Superintendent Scott Reed submitted the following issues to the Board of Commissioners for their information and approval:

1. **Vehicle Break-In:** Mr. Reed reported that the maintenance truck was broken into and a bag of tools was stolen. The Board members were reminded that the County's insurance provides a \$500.00 deductible on contents, and \$1,000.00 on the vehicle.
2. **Parking Place Needed For Maintenance Trucks With Blades:** The Maintenance trucks that have blades for plowing used to be parked in the street around the Courthouse. Now that the City has removed the reserved parking spaces used by the employees, around the Courthouse, the Maintenance Department needs a place to park the trucks. There is a concrete parking pad on the west side of the Courthouse, but that is needed for the Criminal Justice transport van and Courthouse Security vehicle. He would like the Board to seek permission for the Security vehicle to park around the Courthouse without being ticketed.
3. **Maintenance Night Shift Change:** Mr. Reed has had to make a change in the night shift maintenance procedure. All the shift employees are to report to the Courthouse. When the Courthouse has been completed, the crew will attend to the remaining downtown buildings, after their lunch hour. Mr. Reed thanked the Commissioners and Information System Director Terry Tribby for permission to obtain a cell phone for the night shift supervisor.
4. **Section 106 Review For Lighting Project Grant For The Criminal Justice Center:** Mr. Reed and Mr. Tribby have completed an application for the \$50,000.00 Lighting Grant to retrofit the existing light fixtures at the Criminal Justice Center (*please refer to page three, item one, "In The Matter Of Information Department Issues", of the Regular Meeting minutes dated November 2, 2009*). An audit conducted by Englewood showed that expenses could be decreased by upgrading the existing light fixtures and bulbs. A Section 106 review (required to inform the Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology of Howard County's intent) is needed to attach to the grant application, and Commissioner Thompson signed the document. His signature needs to be ratified. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to ratify the signature of Commissioner Thompson on the letter to the Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology as required by the grant application.

A motion was also made by Mr. Thompson to ratify Mr. Reed's signature on the \$50,000.00 Lighting Grant application, on behalf of the County. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried.

5. **Year End Maintenance Contracts:** Mr. Reed will submit contracts to Mr. Murrell for his review, before bringing them to the Board of Commissioners.

IN THE MATTER OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Mr. Tribby submitted the following issues for the Board's information and approval:

1. **Thank You:** Mr. Tribby thanked Mr. Reed and his department for their quick preparation of the energy saving grant Light Project Grant application.
2. **Cable Installation At The Courthouse:** Mr. Tribby informed the Board of Commissioners of his intention to contact Comcast to install cable for DSL service at the Courthouse. Originally Comcast was going to install cable at the County's expense. They have since installed the cable at their own expense. We can now look at lease line and cable services from Comcast, at a savings to the County.
3. **Harris Financials Webinar:** Mr. Tribby attended a Harris Financials Webinar with Auditor Ann Wells, Chief Deputy Laurie Martin and Treasurer Martha Lake. This webinar concerned software that gives the County employees the ability to view and print their direct deposit stubs and W-2 forms from their computer. Each employee who wants to participate in the program would be given an account and password. There are questions and issues to work out with Harris. One hundred percent of employees have access to a work computer and 90% of our employees have a computer at their work station.

Because there is an account number and password, the information could also be accessed from their home computer. This software will be a savings to the Auditor's office of supplies and time, but they are not yet ready to make a decision. He and the Auditor's office will keep researching this capability.

4. **Phase II Certification:** Mr. Tribby also participated in a conference call concerning the Phase II Certification project. The commitment letter for the Certification Project is due December 31st, to the vendor and /or consortium and it must include how and when the certification will be accomplished and what vendor will be used. Crowe Horwath is charging \$7,500.00 for this service; Mr. Tribby found another vendor for \$6,000.00. There are two counties in the State (Adams and Howard) that have been given the approval by the Department Of Local Government Finance to be certified testers (*please refer to page three, item three, "In The Matter Of Information Systems Department Issues", of the Regular Meeting dated June 15, 2009*). Adams County will certify Howard County and we will certify Adams County. There will be some costs involved, but nothing even close to the \$6,000 - \$7,500 price range. Mr. Tribby will set a certification date of April 30, 2010, to report by December 31st, but will probably be certified before that date. County Assessor Jamie Shepherd spoke about the certification, as well, and assured the Board of Commissioners that Adams County IT Department is exceptional. She will be out of the office during the certification testing in Adams County.
5. **Emergency Tower Request:** During the October 5th meeting, Mr. Tribby submitted a request from the John Deere Equipment Company to rent space on the County's emergency tower. John Deere Company has a software program that allows tractors to use GIS coordinates to help with weed control in their fields. This technology requires a radio signal, thus, the reason for the tower leasing request (*please refer to page four, item three, "In The Matter Of information Systems Department Issues", of the Regular Meeting minutes dated October 5, 2009*). The Board of Commissioners discussed this matter at their Special Called meeting dated October 8, 2009, and are waiting on further information from the company that submitted the request. Mr. Murrell reminded the Board that this is a policy issue, whether the Board wants to open the door to private businesses leasing a public emergency tower. If the Board decides they want to lease a portion of the tower to a certain number of vendors, they may want to consider opening a public bid. That is another issue. Mr. Trine reminded the Board that the vendor was to come back to the board with further statistics on benefits to the farmers. Sheriff Talbert is concerned about public safety issues with allowing other frequencies on the emergency tower. It was the consensus of the Board that they are not prepared to make a decision at this time, and asked Mr. Tribby to contact the vendor to see if they could attend a meeting to address the farmer benefit issue.

IN THE MATTER OF SERVER LEASE FOR JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT:

Chief Probation Officer Don Travis was in attendance to submit the lease for a new server for Kinsey Youth Center and the Juvenile Probation Department (*please refer to page five, item six, "In The Matter Of Information Systems Department Issues" of the Regular Meeting minutes dated November 16, 2009*). The server lease is with LeaseNet, and Mr. Murrell has reviewed the lease and made a few changes. Mr. Murrell reminded the Board that this is a third party lease. The server will come from the vendor SIS, but the lease is through LeaseNet. If anything happens to the server, we are still obligated to continue paying the lease. Mr. Travis commented that part of the equipment costs include a three year hardware and software support twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. If there is any problem with the equipment they are to call IBM, who will make the repairs. LeaseNet has agreed with the changes made by Mr. Murrell and have been very easy to work with. Mr. Murrell approves of the lease terms and considers there is no substantial risk involved. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to approve the lease agreement with LeaseNet for the lease of a new server subject to Mr. Murrell and Mr. Travis' final approval, and authorize the President to sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

IN THE MATTER OF A FINANCIAL REQUEST FROM LIBERTY TOWNSHIP:

Liberty Township Trustee Linda Grove was in attendance to submit a request for a \$10,000.00 gift from the Board of Commissioners. She distributed packets of information to the Board members for their information, and began her request by giving a current job description. Liberty Township is operating in the negative in the Township Assistance portion of her budget, by \$5,276.00. If she pays any further township assistance, as required by law, she will not be able to make her Fire contract payments. It is that contract line item that has kept her afloat to this point. She has been Township Trustee for the past seven (7) years and has not been able to sustain a savings account (she did not inherit a savings account from the previous administration). Ms. Grove continued to give statistics concerning her budget and the increase in assistance needs that Liberty Township is currently addressing. She also informed the Board of changes in procedure and office

structure that she has instituted in her administration. Mrs. Grove has submitted two emergency appeals to the State Board of Appeals but has not been assigned a hearing date yet. That is why she has turned to the Board of Commissioners for their assistance. Liberty Township has received a clean audit without comment, during her tenure. At the conclusion of her request, the Board of Commissioners asked several questions. Center Township Trustee Jean Lushin spoke in defense of Liberty Township, commenting that, "...our turn has been turned upside down". He sympathizes with Liberty Township and their increased township assistance requests; he proceeded to give further statistics. The trustee's definition of "emergency" is not the same as the Department of Local Government Finance. Businesses do not want to wait for their money. At the conclusion of discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Thompson to table this request until she receives an answer from the State concerning the appeals that were filed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and approved.

IN THE MATTER OF A CONTRACT FROM THE RECORDER'S OFFICE:

Howard County Recorder Linda Koontz submitted a request to contract with ePN (eRecording Partners Network LLC) for a County Router. This router technology connects offices within the same county for electronic recordation, retrieval and transmission of land records. Howard County would be the host county of this software, allowing other counties to visit and view the program. eRecording will save the office man hours. The cost associated with this software is for deeds only. Both the Auditor and Assessor offices will also benefit from this software. Ms. Koontz continued to outline the process of this software. Attorney Murrell has reviewed the agreement and posed a question concerning "Exhibit A". It was the consensus of Mr. Murrell and Ms. Koontz that Exhibit A is a mistake and discard it from the contract. At the conclusion of the presentation and a brief time of questions and answers, a motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to approve the agreement between Howard County and ePN, and authorize the President to sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

IN THE MATTER OF E911 CONTRACT WITH INTEGRITY COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRONICS INC.:

E911 Coordinator Nick Capozzoli submitted a request for the annual monthly maintenance of the EDACS and Zetron dispatch equipment, in the amount of \$1,415.00 monthly. Integrity has been maintaining our Dispatch system since 2004 and they have not increased their maintenance costs. He believes that is a sign of an honest and high quality company. They offer a 2 hour response time, twenty-four hours a day. Mr. Capozzoli finds Integrity to be easy to work with and recommends we continue with them. Owners Jim Tower and Anthony Johnson were in attendance to answer any questions. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to approve the maintenance agreement with Integrity Communications & Electronics, effective December 2009.

IN THE MATTER OF AN ADDITIONAL SHERIFF COMMENT:

Sheriff Marshall Talbert submitted additional comments as follows:

1. Sheriff Talbert assured the Board of Commissioners that the Inmate Work Crew would do a good job of mowing in the Pioneer cemeteries. They have good equipment and are very well supervised. They could get the job done more quickly. The Inmate Work Crew receives accolades for the quality of work that they do. He believes there would also be enough inmates and work to form an additional "seasonal work crew".
2. Sheriff Talbert informed the Board that today the State Police fired forty-two (42) motor carrier inspectors. There was not enough money to pay them. This came without warning.
3. He acknowledged that today, December 7, is Pearl Harbor Day, and commended those who sacrificed their lives on that fateful day.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:

Auditor Ann Wells submitted the following issues for the Commissioners information and approval:

1. **Salary Claims:** Salary, hourly and overtime claims payable December 11 and 18, 2009, in the amount of \$335,386.35 each, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.
2. **Operating Claims:** Operating claims payable today, in the amount of \$1,124,951.10, were submitted and approved on a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore.

3. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report for the month ending October 31, 2009, was accepted on a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore.
4. **Request To Close Office:** Auditor Wells submitted a request to close the second floor offices to the public (except emergencies) on Wednesday, December 16, from 11:30a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in order to conduct a Christmas luncheon. It was the consensus of the Board to deny a full closing of the offices.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY ISSUES:

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

1. **2010 Animal Control Contract:** Mr. Murrell submitted the 2010 Animal Control Contract, in the amount of \$177,000.00. Verbiage has been added to the contract to address "emergency situations". A motion was made by Mr. Moore to approve the 2010 Animal Control Contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.
2. **Contract With Indiana Department Of Child Services:** The Indiana Department of Child Services has notified Brent Kelley that it is reducing by 4% payments for residential services. As we have no choice in the matter, Kinsey Youth Center Director Brent Kelley gave his recommendation to approve. Mr. Murrell submits the agreement evidencing the County's acceptance of this reduction. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to approve agreement 3408 GR1213 for Juvenile Residential Services with the Indiana Department of Child Services, and to authorize the President to sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.
3. **Barnes & Thornburg Invoice:** Mr. Murrell submitted an invoice from Barnes & Thornburg for services for the period ending October 31, 2009, in the amount of \$50,770.76. The matters involved include Delphi Bankruptcy matters in the amount of \$2,683.00, and Chrysler matters in the amount of \$48,087.76. The invoice was approved for payment as submitted on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.
4. **Contracted Work By Attorney Oaks:** On behalf of Assistant County Attorney Brian Oaks, Mr. Murrell informed the Board of a condemnation matter that the Health Department is working on with the City of Kokomo. Mr. Oaks is assisting the Health Department with representation that is beyond his role as the Assistant County Attorney. Before continuing in this capacity, he wanted the Board to be apprised of this situation, and seeks confirmation from them to continue. Expenses incurred thus far amount to approximately \$1,400.00. It was the consensus of the Board that Mr. Oaks continue with his legal representation and that the costs incurred be paid from the Contract Service line item in the Commissioners' budget.
5. **Right-Of-Way Purchases For US 31 Freeway:** On behalf of Mr. Cain, Mr. Murrell submitted Right-Of-Way Purchases for the new US 31 Freeway as follows:
 - a) Purchase of Right-Of-Way located at 2511 E. Boulevard, Kokomo, Indiana, owned by Evelyn Kibler and Wayne Albright as equal tenant in common, in the amount of \$1,800.00. A motion was made by Mr. Moore to approve the Sales Disclosure Form and authorize the President to sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.
 - b) Temporary Right-Of-Way located at 2535 E. Boulevard, Kokomo, Indiana, owned by Charles S. Kibler or Evelyn C. Kibler, trustees or successor trustees(s) of The Charles S. Kibler and Evelyn C. Kibler Trust dated September 8, 1998, in the amount of \$150.00. The Temporary Right-Of-Way was accepted as submitted and the President was authorized to sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.
 - c) Purchase of Right-Of-Way located at 2705 E. Boulevard, Kokomo, Indiana, owned by Wayne L and Anita L. Albright, in the amount of \$20,060.00. A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to approve the Sales Disclosure form and authorize the President to sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

d) Temporary Right-Of-Way located at 2705 E. Boulevard, Kokomo, Indiana owned by Wayne L. and Anita L. Albright, in the amount of \$25.00. A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to accept the Temporary Right-Of-Way, in the amount of \$25.00, and authorize the President to sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

6. **Sprint/Nextel Rebanding Project:** There are still issues pending before the rebanding project can be closed out. Mr. Murrell will be in a conference call with a mediator out of New York, to help settle the dispute.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Moore and Commissioner Thompson: Reappointments were submitted and acted upon as follows:

a) Veterans Service Officer: A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to reappoint Mr. Robert Ladd as the Veterans Service Officer, with a term to expire December 31, 2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried.

b) Buildings & Grounds Superintendent: A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to reappoint Mr. Scott Reed as the Buildings & Grounds Superintendent whose term will expire December 31, 2010.

c) Highway Engineer / Superintendent: A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to reappoint Mr. Ted Cain as the Highway Engineer / Superintendent whose term will expire December 31, 2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried.

d) Assistant County Attorney: Assistant County Attorney Brian Oaks was reappointed as the Assistant County Attorney for a term of six months, to expire June 30, 2010 on a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore.

e) Community Corrections Board: Mr. Thompson made a motion to reappoint Ms. Ann Freeman to the Community Corrections Board for a term that expires September 30, 2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried.

f) Community Corrections Board: Mr. Thompson made a motion to appoint Ms. Tina Durham to the Community Corrections Board for a term of one year to expire October 31, 2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried.

g) Community Corrections Board: Mr. Bob Hayes was appointed to the Community Corrections Board for a term of one year to expire December 31, 2010 on a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore.

Commissioner Moore: Had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Scott Miller of the not-for-profit organization, Brick Industry. The Brick Industry is funded by suppliers of brick and stone. Mr. Miller is acting as a consultant for renovations and buildings, to promote the use of brick and stone products, at no cost.

On Tuesday morning Mr. Moore is meeting with Kathy Horton from the City of Kokomo, in order to do a walk-through of the building the City is using to house the NOVIA Employee Clinic.

The Kokomo Downtown Association expresses its appreciation to the Board of Commissioners for the use of the flagpole at the Courthouse for the lighting ceremony last Saturday. The event was a huge success!

Last Tuesday the County Extension Office staff and board held a breakfast to welcome the new Dean of the Agricultural School at Purdue. Mr. Moore and several of the Council members attended.

Commissioner Trine: Mr. Trine attended the Annual Commissioners' Conference last week, in Indianapolis, and learned a lot. One of the issues the association will be addressing, this year, is the sponsorship of an E911 Bill.

Presently landlines only make up about 20% of the phones used. Concerning the cell phones, about 30% do not pay any E911 fees. A new E911 bill is needed to adjust those fees.

Mr. Trine thanks Mr. Reed and the Buildings & Grounds employees for their assistance in installing the light display at the Courthouse.

Mr. Trine also acknowledged the “We Care” volunteers for a successful 2009 campaign. There was an increase in donations from last year. That says a lot about their hard work and this community, considering our current economic atmosphere.

Mr. Trine acknowledged, along with Sheriff Talbert, that today is Pearl Harbor Day.

Concerning the Holiday display at the Courthouse, Mr. Trine made the following statement:

“I would be the first one to step up and pay for a Nativity scene, or whatever scene that is, if we were legally able to do that. However, we’ve got to go by what Counsel says.” Mr. Murrell has advised against adding a nativity scene without further study, especially in light of our ordinance declaring the Courthouse lawn a non-public forum. “It makes no sense to ignore counsel’s recommendations.” He reminded all that no County taxpayer money was used for the decorations. There was a gentleman here in Kokomo that made the displays by hand at this home. He was having health issues and unable to put the decorations up by himself. Both Mr. Trine and Mr. Thompson, as well several of the maintenance employees, visited with him and were told that a few of the displays were to stay with him and that Mr. Trine and Mr. Thompson could have the rest. The displays to stay at his home were installed first, with the County’s help and the rest were taken to the Courthouse. There were no innuendos involved. They simply took what was available to them.

The time of the December 30th Commissioner meeting needs to be changed. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to change the time for the December 30th meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore.

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

DAVID A. TRINE, PRESIDENT

WILLIAM THOMPSON, VICE PRESIDENT

TYLER O. MOORE, MEMBER

ATTEST:

ANN WELLS, AUDITOR

Howard County Board of Commissioner Meeting December 7, 2009