

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING JANUARY 17, 2012

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Tyler Moore, Vice President Paul Wyman and Member Bill Thompson. Also in attendance were County Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Ann Wells.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Steve Rogers and conducted by President Moore. Commissioner Thompson led all in the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Wyman offered a word of prayer.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the December 29, 2011, Regular meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Wyman and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

Minutes of the January 3, 2012, Regular meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Wyman and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

Minutes of the January 5, 2012, Administrative Meeting were submitted and approved on a motion made by Mr. Wyman and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Moore opened the floor for Public Comment as follows:

Plan Commission Director Greg Sheline submitted an update on the excavation of the meth house, 2295 South 300 West, previously deemed an unsafe property and scheduled for demolition (*please refer to page three, item one, "In The Matter Of Departmental Reports; Plan Commission", of the Regular Meeting minutes dated December 5, 2011*). Mr. Sheline had a meeting with excavator, Mr. Rice, and the Health Department, last Thursday. Demolition can proceed as soon as confirmation has been received from the utility companies that their lines have been removed. When he receives confirmation, Mr. Rice will continue with the demolition.

Commissioner Thompson expressed appreciation to Mr. Wyman for his remarks concerning Dr. Martin Luther King, during his prayer.

IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

Highway Engineer / Superintendent Ted Cain submitted Resolution No. 2012-BCCR-1. This resolution approves and supports the development of the United States Bicycle Route #35. The roads on the designated route are not specifically designed as a bike trail. Attorney Larry Murrell and Mr. Cain recommended passage of Version B of the resolution that does not include signage for the bike route on county roads, because of liability issues. At the conclusion of explanation, and discussion concerning the Nickel Plate Trail, a motion was made by Mr. Wyman to approve Resolution No. 2012-BCCR-1, version B, approving the development of the United States Bike Trail in Howard County, and authorize the President to sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.

RECORDER:

Howard County Recorder Brook Cleaver had submitted an Agreement for Contract Services with Karen Klein, at the January 3, 2012, meeting (*please refer to page one, "In The Matter Of Departmental Reports, Recorder", of the Regular Meeting minutes dated January 3, 2012*). Ms. Cleaver was asked by the Board to research the cost of having the back indexing done by someone other than an employee from the Recorder's Office. Ms. Cleaver did find that former Recorder, Linda Koontz, had begun the project several years ago, before any other company was offering that service. She found that doing the project, in house, was a cost savings. Ms. Cleaver contacted Fidlar Technologies, concerning back indexing services. Fidlar charges \$.75 per document, and \$.06 per image for redaction (documents with social security numbers on them). Doing the work in-house costs \$.57 per document and redacting is being done at the same time the back indexing is done, at no additional cost. This is a savings to the County and Ms. Cleaver feels comfortable keeping the present staff in place for the back indexing project. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to approve the Agreement for Contract Services with Karen Klein for back

indexing work for the Recorder's Office, effective January 1, 2012, and authorize the President to sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wyman and carried.

COUNTY ASSESSOR:

1) The 2012 annual session for PTABOA begins in February. Assessor Jamie Shepherd submitted the names of Ann Harrigan (Level II), Virginia Baker (Level II), and Andy Hardie (Associate Broker) as recommendations for Commissioners' appointees to the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals. A motion was made by Mr. Wyman to accept the Assessor's recommendations to reappoint Ms. Ann Harrigan, Ms. Virginia Baker and Mr. Andy Hardie to the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried, for 2012.

2) Ms. Shepherd submitted a Reassessment Update for the Commissioners' information. Howard County has a rolling (cyclical) reassessment process that enables us to keep on track. In our reassessment process we are currently at 94% of the data collected and entered for agricultural property (2012/2013); 93% of commercial / industrial property; over 90% of residential with all townships being entered, except for Harrison Township. A land order (land usage) was adopted in 2011. The Assessor's Office has also received Cost Tables; new since 1999. Depreciation tables are in process. In response to a question from journalist Ken de la Bastide, Ms. Shepherd replied that data for agricultural, commercial / industrial, and residential data is currently being collected for Harrison Township.

HOWARD HAVEN:

1) County Home Superintendent Jennifer Vary submitted a Residential Application on behalf of Ms. JoAnn Phelps. Ms. Phelps would be a private pay resident and she does have family that lives in Howard County. A motion was made by Mr. Wyman to approve the application of Ms. JoAnn Phelps to Howard Haven, with the usual 90-day probationary period. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.

2) Mr. Lowdermilk of Lowdermilk Electric has begun re-wiring for the installation of the new generator at Howard Haven. Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Scott Reed confirmed that the generator has been ordered and should arrive in February.

PERSONNEL:

1) Personnel Director Wanda McKillip submitted a proposed Employee Memo informing the employees of an additional vendor for the 457 Deferred Compensation Plan. The additional vendor is Edward Jones Investments Financial Advisors and the memo gives that information as well as meeting times, dates and locations. The employee memo was approved for distribution on a motion made by Mr. Wyman and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

2) The Commissioners acted on tabled appointments as follows:

Howard County Convention and Visitors Commission – a motion was made by Mr. Wyman to approve the appointment of Michelle Martin to the Howard County Convention and Visitor's Bureau. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.

Commissioners' Delegate to the Resource Conservation and Development Council – This appointment will be tabled until the February 6th meeting.

Howard Haven: A motion was made by Mr. Wyman, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to re-appoint Ms. Jennifer Vary as Superintendent of Howard Haven County Home, for four years.

Howard County Historical Society: This appointment will be tabled until the February 6th meeting.

Howard County Board of Health: Earlier Dr. Scherschel had given his resignation from the Board of Health. He would now like to withdraw his resignation request for one year. A motion was made by Mr. Wyman to accept the Withdrawal of Dr. Scherschel's resignation from the Howard County Board of Health. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOU FOR GOBLIN GAMES:

At the January 3rd meeting the Board of Commissioners approved a Small Business Grant for Goblin Games (*please refer to page three, "In The Matter Of Commissioner Issues: Commissioner Wyman", of the Regular Meeting minutes dated January 3, 2012*). Mr. Murrell submitted the Memorandum of Understanding with the Greater Kokomo Economic Development Alliance. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Goblin Games. President Moore vacated the chair to second the motion. The motion carried. Commissioner Wyman abstained from the vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMUNITY DRUG GRANT:

At the January 3rd meeting the Board of Commissioners received an approval letter for a \$600,000 Community Development Block Grants for the Darrough Chapel Project (*please refer to page three, "In The Matter Of Commissioner Issues: Commissioner Moore", of the Regular Meeting minutes dated January 3, 2012*). The letter was distributed to Mr. Murrell and MS4 Coordinator Greg Lake for their review. Mr. Murrell has reviewed the letter and confirmed with Grant Administrator Tina Henderson, and the letter is ready for the Board's signature. A motion was made by Mr. Wyman, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to approve the Community Block Grant, in the amount of \$600,000, and authorize President Moore to sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

As part of the Darrough Chapel Project, Mr. Moore signed A Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act paperwork and his signature needs to be ratified. Mr. Moore's signature was ratified on a motion made by Mr. Wyman and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

IN THE MATTER OF A REQUEST TO SELL PROPERTY BY HOWARD REGIONAL HOSPITAL:

Howard Regional Hospital has a buyer for property located at 516 W. Walnut Street, south of the First Congregational Christian Church, and the Commissioners' approval is needed before they can complete the sale. The purchase price is \$30,000 and the buyer is First Congregational Christian Church. A motion was made by Mr. Wyman to accept and approve the offer of purchase from First Congregational Christian Church, in the amount of \$30,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Sheriff Steve Rogers submitted the following issues for the Board's information and approval:

1. **Female Inmate Population:** The total of female inmates in custody is currently eighty-four (84). Nine (9) are being held at the Miami County Jail.

2. **Sheriff Vehicle Bids:** Captain Jerry Asher has been managing the vehicle fleet for the Sheriff's Department. He would like to replace nine high mileage vehicles. Five are patrol cars and two of the vehicles include a 2002 Tahoe (150,000 miles) and the truck used by Underwater Recovery (approaching 150,000 miles). The Emergency Management Agency has need of those types of vehicles and with the Board's approval Sheriff Rogers would like to transfer the vehicles to EMA. These special use vehicles are still usable for purposes needed by EMA, and Emergency Management has their own mechanic on duty that can maintain them. That would mean that the two vehicles would be removed from the trade-in pool of vehicles. It was the consensus of the Board to allow transfer of the Tahoe and the truck, to the Emergency Management Agency. Captain Asher has prepared an Invitation to Bid for nine vehicles, and asked Attorney Murrell to meet with him to finalize the Invitation and specification paperwork. Several of the vehicles were scheduled for replacement last year but Captain Asher waited. At the conclusion of the request, a motion was made by Mr. Wyman to approve the Invitation to Bid Sheriff Vehicles and to receive the bids on or before 8:00 a.m., February 20, 2012. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried. Captain Asher plans to hand deliver the bids to Eric's Chevrolet, Button Motors, Kokomo Auto World (Ford) and Brad Howell Ford.

IN THE MATTER OF A CITIZEN REQUEST FOR AUDIO COPY OF COMMISSIONER MEETING:

Brian Turnpaugh submitted a request for copies of audio from the December 29, 2011, meeting and the January 3, 2012, meeting. Mr. Turnpaugh was told that copies could be obtained from the Auditor's office for \$.50 per cd. It was clarified that audio recordings are not submitted to the website. Written copies of the minutes are put on the website after they have been approved by the Board of Commissioners at the following meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU UPDATE:

Director of the Greater Kokomo Economic Development Alliance, Mr. Jeb Conrad, was in attendance to update the Board of Commissioners concerning Convention and Visitor's Bureau activity. The Alliance has been transitioning with the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and preparing for Super Bowl activity. Kokomo has been included in the hotel pool for the Superbowl, rooms that have to be available an hour's drive from the destination of the game. A couple of our hotels have participated in the NFL Experience, hotel rooms that are attached to an event package. The Bureau, along with the Superbowl committee, held a frontline training program, including hotels, restaurants and other businesses that will come in contact with visitors. All the hotels have been given information about attractions in our city. This weekend the CVB will be launching their new Visitor's phone application. This app will be available for I Phones or Droid Smart Phone, and will continue after the Superbowl event, with advertisements in hotels, restaurants and bars in the area.

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 January 20, 27 and February 3, 2012, in the amount of \$346,348.97 each, were submitted and approved on a motion made by Mr. Wyman and seconded by Mr. Thompson.
2. **Ratify Signature On Early Pay Claim:** Ms. Wells submitted an early-pay claim for conference fees for the County Assessor's Office. President Moore signed the claim and Ms. Wells asks that his signature be ratified. A motion was made by Mr. Wyman to ratify Mr. Moore's signature on the early pay conference claim for the County Assessor's Office. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.
3. **Operating Claims:** Operating Claims effective today, in the amount of \$1,045,597.71, were submitted and approved on a motion made by Mr. Wyman and seconded by Mr. Thompson. Ms. Wells pointed out to the Commissioners that this docket included the LAST payment for the Jail and Juvenile Center mortgage (\$824,000.00). The County is now debt free.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Monthly Report for the month ending December 31, 2011, was submitted and accepted on a motion made by Mr. Wyman and seconded by Mr. Thompson.
5. **Monthly Clerk's Report:** The Clerk of the Circuit Court monthly report ending December 31, 2011, was submitted and accepted on a motion made by Mr. Wyman and seconded by Mr. Thompson.
6. **2011 Salary Report:** Ms. Wells submitted the 2011 Employee Wage Report and Publication for the Board's acceptance. The report and publication were accepted on a motion made by Mr. Wyman and seconded by Mr. Thompson.
7. **EMA Calendar:** The EMA Calendar and activity reports for December, 2011, and January, 2012, were submitted and accepted on a motion made by Mr. Wyman and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

IN THE MATTER OF REDEVELOPMENT APPOINTMENTS:

Attorney Larry Murrell submitted his recommendation of re-appointing Dale E. Etherington, Larry Hinesley, and Philip E. Wise, to the Howard County Redevelopment Commission, to serve a one year term ending December 31, 2012. Mr. Murrell reminded the Board that the Redevelopment Commission has nothing to work on at this time, but Mr. Murrell feels that it's important to keep the Commission viable for any future projects. A motion was made by Mr. Wyman to appoint

Mr. Dale E. Etherington, Mr. Philip E. Wise and Mr. Larry Hinesley to the Howard County Redevelopment Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:

Mr. Thompson read the following statement:

“If you have been to the grocery store, filled up your truck with gas, or paid a utility bill this year, you know the cost of living has gone up. I would like the Board of Commissioners to discuss and consider sending to the County Council, a recommendation and request, for a five percent employee wage increase.”

COMMISSIONER MOORE:

Mr. Moore submitted a letter received from the Indiana Department of Labor, informing the Board that there was a change in the Indiana Common Construction Wage Act, and the process by which “prevailing wages” are determined. Beginning January 1, 2012, only construction projects where the value of construction is \$250,000 or greater are covered by the Act. On January 1, 2013, that threshold is scheduled to increase to \$350,000.

The Board of Commissioners received a notice from the City of Kokomo giving a time line of services to the Eastside properties that were annexed by the City of Kokomo effective January 1, 2012.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency would like to schedule a Howard County Community Official’s Meeting at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 24, 2012, in Hearing Room 101 of the Howard County Government Center. This meeting is specifically for local elected officials, building and code enforcement, and GIS staff. An Open House for a public question and answer time will be held at the same location from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., on January 24th. A flyer has been made and is available to be copied. A motion was made by Mr. Wyman to allow the posting of the FEMA flyer in Howard County Government buildings, for county employees to review. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.

The Indiana Courthouse Preservation Advisory Commission has compiled a booklet of Indiana’s Historic Courthouses, re-investing in community treasures. The book will be available in the Auditor’s Office for anyone who would like to review it.

Mr. Moore thanked the Veteran Associations for last week’s Award Ceremony. County Coroner Jay Price was honored for his efforts of arranging military burials for unclaimed veterans. Coroner Price was congratulated.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Information Systems Director Terry Tribby reported that the recent storm wreaked havoc on IT equipment. His department is continuing to work on storm damaged systems.

Clee Oliver, 5768 West County Road 00 North South, Kokomo: Mr. Oliver informed the Board of State House Bill 1006. This bill “...repeals the law governing the following professions including their professional licensing boards and license; beauty culture, cosmetology, barbers, commissions off dietetic, registration, licensed dieticians, hearing aid dealers, private investigating firms, and security guards..”. Mr. Clee commented that it sounds like they’re doing away with oversight of these licensed professions. Mr. Clee will be attending the Public Hearing on Friday, in Indianapolis. He believes it will affect a lot of jobs.

*There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time
the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m. on a motion made by Mr. Wyman
and seconded by Mr. Thompson.*

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

TYLER O. MOORE, PRESIDENT

PAUL G. WYMAN, VICE PRESIDENT

WILLIAM THOMPSON, MEMBER

ATTEST:

ANN WELLS, AUDITOR
Howard County Commissioner Meeting January 17, 2012