

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR AND 2008 BUDGET MEETINGS AUGUST 21, 22, 23,
AND SEPTEMBER 5, 2007**

The Howard County Council met Tuesday, August 21, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those present included Council President Richard Miller, Vice President James Papacek, and Members Stanley Ortman, Jeff Stout, Joseph Pencek and Paul Wyman. 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 Richard Miller.

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the July 24, 2007 meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Pencek.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNCIL OPENING COMMENTS:

Councilman Wyman informed the Council members that the Kokomo Symphony's previously scheduled Concert in The Park, at Foster Park, has been rescheduled for this Sunday, August 26, at Foster Park, because of weather conditions (*please refer to page one, "In The Matter Of Opening Comments", of the Regular Meeting minutes dated July 24, 2007*).

Councilman Wyman congratulated the Sheriff and his staff, the five judges, employees of the Courthouse, the County Council and the Board of Commissioners for their coordinated efforts concerning the new Courthouse Security Project. He feels it is good for the County and the Courthouse.

President Miller agrees with Mr. Wyman and added that the second day went more smoothly than the first day.

Attorney Larry Murrell reported that 11,081 people were counted entering the Courthouse on Monday.

In the real estate business, Councilman Pencek works with many homeowners over age sixty-five (65) that have had to sell their property because of the increase in property taxes. He submitted information concerning an issue that may come before the State legislature. The issue deals with the possibility of authorizing local government, by Resolution or Ordinance, to freeze taxes of property owners age sixty-five (65) years and older. Mr. Pencek would appreciate if Council members would consider supporting this type legislation.

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2007-HCCO-35 - ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Ordinance No. 2007-HCCO-35 - Additional Appropriations was read in full by Auditor Ann Wells and acted upon as follows:

<u>001</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>	<u>REQUESTED:</u>	<u>ALLOWED:</u>
<u>015</u>	<u>Howard County Veterans Services</u>		
01117.00	Part Time	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00

On behalf of Veteran's Service Officer Allen Polsgrove, Personnel Director Wanda McKillip submitted the request for a part-time line item to support a part-time worker needed to help in the Veteran's Office due to the sudden illness of Mr. Polsgrove.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve the request of \$7,000.00 to line item 01117.00, Part Time. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried.

<u>018</u>	<u>Howard County Maintenance Department</u>		
02253.00	Equipment Repair	\$ 8,120.00	\$ 8,120.00

Buildings and Ground Supervisor Art Fross informed the Council that this request is to reimburse the fund for the payment of an additional electrical bill for services on the generator at the New Emergency Tower.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Stout and carried to approve the request of \$8,000.00 to line item 02253.00, Equipment Repair.

<u>033</u>	<u>Howard County Superior Court III</u>		
04121.00	Equipment (2 fax machines)	\$ 2,000.00	\$-Withdrawn-

Superior Court III Judge Tate presented a request for two additional fax machines; one for the new Civil Office and one as a replacement for the fax machine in the Criminal Office.

A motion was made by Mr. Wyman, seconded by Mr. Pencek and carried to approve the purchase of two fax machines for Superior Court Three from the Cumulative Capital Fund, 150-000-04033-00, in the amount of \$2,000.00.

Judge Tate took this opportunity to request \$1,500.00 in line item 01117.00, Part Time - Superior Court III, in the Adult Probation Fund (105). He underestimated how much funds would be needed, by about \$600.00. He is asking for the extra \$500.00 to be able to employ both part-time workers over Christmas vacation. This issue will be addressed during the Cumulative Capital Fund requests.

TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL FUND		\$ 17,120.00	\$ 15,120.00
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<u>120</u>	<u>Howard County Drug Free Community Fund</u>		
03404.00	Conference Registration	\$ 500.00	\$
03401.00	Coordinator Salary	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
03402.00	Mileage	\$ 1,000.00	\$
03405.00	Office Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$
03100.00	Prevention & Education Services	\$ 24,550.00	\$ 10,000.00
03102.00	Turn Around Breakfast	\$ 2,500.00	\$
03103.00	Red Ribbon Week	\$ 750.00	\$
03104.00	Youth Representative	\$ 2,200.00	\$
03200.00	Intervention & Treatment Services	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
03300.00	Criminal Justice Services	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 10,000.00

Ms. Cheryl Sears, acting chairman of the Local Coordinating Council, submitted an amended 2007 budget for the Drug Free Community Fund. Although the entire budget is listed, the amended increases are only in 3401.00, Coordinator Salary, 10,000.00; 03100.00, Prevention & Education Services, \$10,000.00; 03200.00, Intervention & Treatment Services, \$10,000.00; and 03300.00, Criminal Justice Services, \$10,000.00, for a total of a \$40,000.00 increase in the 2007 budget.

At the conclusion of ensuing discussion which included funding sources, fund limits, and future years' income, a motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried to approve \$10,000.00 in 03401.00, Coordinator Salary, \$10,000.00 in 03100.00, Prevention & Education Services, \$10,000.00 in 03200.00, Intervention & Treatment Services, and \$10,000.00 in 03300.00, Criminal Justice Services.

TOTAL DRUG FREE COMMUNITY FUND		\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
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<u>150</u>	<u>Howard County Cumulative Capital Fund</u>		
04018.00	Equipment - Maintenance	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
04022.00	Building Repair - County Museum	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
04033.00	Equipment - Superior Court III (2 fax machines)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00

Buildings and Ground Supervisor Art Fross informed the Council that this request is for equipment replacement needs for all County Government buildings.

The request as stated was approved on a motion made by Mr. Ortman and seconded by Mr. Papacek.

Museum Director Kelly Karickhoff requested extra funds for an emergency repair of the guttering of the Seiberling Mansion. She continued to explain the scope of the repairs needed and explained that although repairs and maintenance of the mansion are usually paid by the Historical Society, the needed amount of repairs is beyond the costs budgeted from the Historical Society. They are requesting relief from Howard County in the amount of \$15,000.00 to help with the unexpected repair needs.

A motion was made by Mr. Wyman to approve the request of \$15,000.00 to line item 04022.00, Building Repair - County Museum. The motion was seconded by Mr. Papacek and carried.

The request for \$2,000.00 in line item 04033.00, Equipment - Superior Court III was previously approved (*please refer to the beginning of page two, under County General Appropriations request for Superior Court III*).

TOTAL CUMULATIVE CAPITAL FUND	\$ 77,000.00	\$ 77,000.00
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105 Howard County Adult Probation

01117.00	Part Time - Superior Court III	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
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Previously requested by Judge Tate, this request is approved on a motion made by Mr. Ortman and seconded by Mr. Stout.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2007-HCCR-22 - TRANSFERS:

Resolution No. 2007-HCCR-22 - Transfers was read by Auditor Wells and acted upon as follows:

	TRANSFER FROM:	TO:	AMOUNT REQUESTED:	ALLOWED:
<u>001</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>			
<u>002</u>	<u>Howard County Auditor</u>			
01114.00	2 nd Deputy	01115.00 Part Time	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00

Auditor Ann Wells requested this transfer to complete several projects before the preparation of the homestead rebate checks. She has some extra funds in her 2nd Deputy account from moving two mapping employees into positions caused from the retirement of the draftsman position, at this time.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Stout to approve the transfer of \$2,000.00 from 01114.00, 2nd Deputy to 01115.00, Part Time.

IN THE MATTER OF SALARY ORDINANCE NO. 2007-HCCO-36 - AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2007:

Auditor Ann Wells read Salary Ordinance No. 2007-HCCO-36 - Amending Salary Ordinance for 2007, in full and it was acted upon as follows:

		REQUESTED:	APPROVED:
<u>001</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>		
<u>005</u>	<u>Howard County Sheriff</u>		
01119.02	Jail Lieutenant <i>Title changed from Matron and Line Item Salary reduced from \$38,675</i>	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 36,000.00
<u>015</u>	<u>Howard County Veterans Service</u>		
01117.00	Part Time	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
<u>105</u>	<u>Howard County Adult Probation</u>		
01117.00	Part Time	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00

Sheriff Talbert informed the Council that, in the past, the State required two Matron Positions for the Criminal Justice Facility. That requirement has been changed to one Matron Position. The employee that filled one of the Matron positions has recently passed away, unfortunately, and Sheriff Talbert feels this is an opportune time to change one of the Matron positions to a Jail Lieutenant position.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Pencek and carried to approve Salary Ordinance No. 2007-HCCO-36 - Amending Salary Ordinance for 2007.

IN THE MATTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS' PROPOSED MERGER:

Councilman Wyman reported on the latest meeting of the Economic Development Organizations proposed merger. Each organization involved was given a Resolution for consideration. Resolutions were also given to the City Council, Mayor, Board of Commissioners and County Council to consider for possible funding opportunities. Mr. Wyman requested that this resolution be put on the agenda for the September meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2007-BCCR-20:

E-911 Coordinator Tony Ramsey presented Resolution No. 2007-BCCR-20, a resolution that increases the enhanced emergency land line telephone system monthly fee from \$.56 to \$.91, the maximum fee (3%) a second class city can collect. This fee has not increased since 1993. A wireless fee is collected (\$.50 per line) but not locally. The fee is set, collected and distributed by the State; Howard County receives about \$20,000.00 monthly. About \$430,000.00 was received from land lines and wireless lines in 2006. The projected 2008 budget amount for E-911, is \$750,000.00. This will generate a \$4.20 annual increase in the average homeowner's phone bill. At the conclusion of ensuing discussion President Miller informed the Council Members that this would be further addressed during the Budget Hearings.

IN THE MATTER OF ESTABLISHMENT OF A PETTY CASH FUND FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

The Health Department's Environmental Coordinator Sue Norris and Health Officer Dr. Don Zent presented a request to establish a Petty Cash Fund for the Health Department. Ms. Norris explained to the Council that a majority of the cash would be used to pay shipping costs at the Post Office for timely shipping of dead animals for rabies testing and septic and pool samples. This issue was presented at the August 20th Commissioner meeting and they gave their support and directed Ms. Norris to present the request to the Council. Ms. Norris has conferred with State Board of Accounts representative Rick Coles concerning this issue. In discussion with Dr. Zent, they concluded that funds to establish this account can be transferred from the Health Department's Postage account. At the end of ensuing discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Papacek to authorize the establishment of a Petty Cash Fund for the Health Department, in the maximum amount of \$100.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried.

At this time President Miller invited Public comment concerning the 2008 Budget, before the request Hearings begin.

There being no public comment at this time, President Miller continued with the meeting's Agenda.

IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Sheriff Marshall Talbert presented the following issues for Council information and approval:

1. **Courthouse Security:** Sheriff Talbert invited the Council members to introduce themselves to the two security officers that are operating the new security equipment at the Courthouse. They are Sonya Tsakonas and Mark Clark. Both are former Kokomo City Police Officers and prior academy graduates, and have been certified in the use of Tasers. They have also received special training in the use of the security equipment and are enthusiastic about their jobs. Because this is a two man operation, Sheriff Talbert is concerned with replacement issues. Already, both officers' have worked through their lunch hours. Sheriff Talbert hopes that an agreement can be reached with the Courts' security. He believes we may have to have one extra security position. He continued to inform the Council of the present Jail population.
2. **Need For Additional Nursing Staff:** The Sheriff's Department lost one LPN and a medical recruiter has been in contact with the Jail in regard to their nursing staff. Only two applications have been received since being advertised. Currently the nurses are making about \$15.00 per hour. Nursing homes, in the area are paying \$18.00 per hour. Sheriff Talbert would ask that the Council consider those facts as they work on the 2008 budget.
3. **Parking Access For Additional DAV Van:** The Veterans Service Office has contacted Sheriff Talbert concerning the request to store an additional Disabled American Veteran's Van at the Criminal Justice Center. Part of the stipulation to have it assigned to Howard County, is to insure that it have twenty-four hour access to sign it out whenever needed, and that there be a secure place to store the keys.
4. **Department Of Corrections Check:** Sheriff Talbert presented a check to Auditor Wells from the Department of Corrections, in the amount of \$26,775.00, for the housing of inmates for May, 2007.
5. **Monthly Commissary Reports:** The Commissary Reports for the months of May and June, 2007 were submitted for Council information. Sheriff Talbert plans to apply to the Community Based Drug Free Program for funds to help with the D.A.R.E. expenses.

6. **New Vehicle Purchase:** The Sheriff's Department has received their new transport van. This van was purchased with Misdemeanant funds and is currently being equipped with the Mavron insert.
7. **Retirement Gathering:** After thirty-two years of service on the Sheriff's Department, Captain Napoleon Leal is retiring, Friday, August 24th. Captain Leal has been a dependable, hard-working and good officer, as well as a much needed translator for Spanish speaking inmates. He will be greatly missed, and Sheriff Talbert extended an invitation to Council members to come to the retirement party and offer their congratulations. He will be the first officer to retire with a "drop-benefit" paid. Sheriff Talbert thanked the Council for approving that particular benefit.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONER TRINE:

At this time, President Miller recognized Commissioner David A. Trine, freshman member of the Howard County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Trine issued the following recommendation:

"As we prepare to go through the next few days, I would just like for the attention to go, you know we have a tendency to invest into things, and I think it's very important, this year, that we invest in people. County Government cannot run without people. Sometimes the things that we have we can forego and still run on a daily basis, but we cannot run without the people, and I'm just asking for when people come up from the Department Heads and the Elected Officials, that we take into consideration to invest in our people".

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was recessed at 8:14 p.m., until 8:30 a.m., August 22, 2007.

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The meeting was reopened on Wednesday, August 22, 2007, by President Richard Miller.

The following Office Holders and Department Heads appeared at the times scheduled to present detailed justification of their budget requests for 2007.

8:30 a.m.	001-014	Superior Court I	Judge William Menges
	001-045	Unified Courts / Jury Pay, etc.	Judge William Menges
8:45 a.m.	001-001	Clerk / Election Board / Document Storage	Mona Myers
9:00 a.m.	001-004	Recorder / Recorder Perpetuation Fund	Linda Koontz, Lisa England
9:15 a.m.	002-000	Highway Department	Ted Cain
9:30 a.m.	001-005	Sheriff	Marshall Talbert
10:15 a.m.	001-012	Prosecuting Attorney	James Fleming
10:30 a.m.	001-018	Buildings & Grounds Department	Art Fross
10:45 a.m.	001-030	Public Defender	Steve Raquet

LUNCH AT THE ELLIOT HOUSE

1:00 p.m.	001-010	County Assessor / Twp Assessors / Reassessment	Jamie Shepherd
1:15 p.m.	001-011	Center Township Assessor	Sheila Pullen
1:30 p.m.	001-022	County Museum	Kelly Karickhoff
1:45 p.m.	001-027	Visitors' Bureau	Peggy Hobson
2:00 p.m.	001-034	Adult Probation / Superior III Supplement Adult	Gary Conwell
2:15 p.m.	001-021	Plan Commission	Glen Boise
2:30 p.m.	001-032	Soil & Water Conservation	Rene Weaver
2:45 p.m.	106-000	Heritage Museum / Civic Center / Convention Ctr	Kelli Austin

At this time, Treasurer Martha Lake presented a request, to the County Council, to accept \$3,276.40 into the County General Fund from the Inheritance Tax Fund. Ms. Lake informed the Council that the Treasurer's Office accepts Inheritance Tax money for the State, holds it in Trust for three (3) months, then sends 92% to the State and keeps 8% for

the County. In this year's tax audit, Ms. Lake was informed that the Inheritance Tax Fund needs to be brought to a -0-balance. She is requesting the Council accept \$3,276.40 into the County General Fund. The request to accept \$3,276.40 into the County General Fund was approved on a motion made by Mr. Stout and seconded by Mr. Pencek. The remainder of the schedule is observed.

3:00 p.m.	001-023	Howard Haven	Kelly Spidell
3:15 p.m.	001-015	Veteran Services	Pam Cheek

The meeting was recessed at 3:50 p.m. to reconvene on August 23rd at 8:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2007

8:30 a.m.	001-033	Superior Court III	Judge Doug Tate
8:45 a.m.	001-006	Surveyor	Coordinator Greg Lake
9:00 a.m.	001-013	Circuit Court / Juv Probation (104)	Judge Lynn Murray Don Travis
9:15 a.m.	001-035	Kinsey Youth Center (035, 037, 038)	Janet Weaver
9:30 a.m.	001-044	Superior Court IV	Judge George Hopkins Jennifer Lerche
9:45 a.m.	001-029	Emergency Management / Sara Title	Larry Smith
	500-3221	Governmental Coordinating Council	Larry Ives
10:00 a.m.	001-002	Auditor / Plat Book Fees	Ann Wells
10:15 a.m.	004-000	Family & Children	Marilyn Robinson
10:30 a.m.	001-007	County Agent	Susan Neher
10:45 a.m.	010-000	Health Department	Kristine Conyers

LUNCH AT KINSEY YOUTH CENTER

1:00 p.m.	001-023	Commissioners / Edit / Cumulative Capital	Commissioners Paul Raver, Brad Bagwell, Dave Trine
1:15 p.m.	001-031	Information System	Terry Tribby
1:30 p.m.	001-023	Humane Society	Jean McGroarty
1:45 p.m.	001-028	Weights & Measures	Charlie Hackett
2:00 p.m.	001-017	Voter Registration	Carol Shallenberger Shirley Mc Coy
2:15 p.m.	138-000	CASA	Katina Silver
2:30 p.m.	001-003	Treasurer	Martha Lake
2:45 p.m.	001-008	Superior Court II	Judge Stephen Jessup
3:00 p.m.	120-000	Community Based Drug Free	Cheryl Sears
3:15 p.m.	001-043	Harrison Township Assessor	Joyce Ancil

At this time, President Miller led a discussion pertaining to the State Legislature's allowance of additional income taxes to replace portions of the property tax in Howard County. This includes the Special County Option Income Tax and the Local Option Income Tax. At the conclusion of this discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wyman, seconded by Mr. Stout and carried, as follows:

"Be it resolved, that the Howard County Council hereby calls a special meeting and sets a public hearing for Monday, September 10, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 101 of the Howard County Government Center, 120 East Mulberry Street, Kokomo, Indiana, to consider a resolution proposing an ordinance by the Howard County Income Tax Council which would increase the county option income tax pursuant to IC 6-3.5-6-32. This motion was seconded by Mr. Stout and carried.

Be it further resolved, that the Howard County Auditor shall publish notice of this meeting and hearing as required by IC 5-3-1."

Attorney Larry Murrell set down the time line needed for the process of the passage and implementation of the additional taxes.

