

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MARCH 24, 2009

The Howard County Council met Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those present included President Richard Miller, Vice President Paul Wyman, and members James Papacek, Stanley Ortman, Jeff Stout and Joseph Pencek.

The meeting was opened by Sheriff Marshall Talbert and conducted by President Miller.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the February 24, 2009 meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Stout.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2009-HCCR-3 – TRANSFERS:

Resolution No. 2009-HCCR-3 – Transfers was read in full one time by Auditor Ann Wells and acted upon as follows:

	Transfer From:	To:	Amount	Allowed
<u>001</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>			
<u>030</u>	<u>Howard County Public Defender</u>			
01113.00	Deputies (14)	01113.30 Full Time Dep (4)	\$ 49,500.00	\$ 49,500.00

In the absence of Steve Raquet, Personnel Director Wanda McKillip reminded the Council that at January's meeting, Public Defender Steve Raquet outlined a plan to transfer funds from his Part-Time line item to the Full Time line item making one of his part-time Defenders a full-time position, and not replacing one of his Part-Time Defenders who vacated his position at the end of December (*please refer to page seven, PUBLIC DEFENDER STEVE RAQUET, of the Regular Meeting minutes dated January 27, 2009*). This transfer request is to fulfill that plan.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried to approve the transfer of \$49,500.00 from line item 01113.00, Deputies to line item 01113.30, Full Time Deputies.

<u>010</u>	<u>Howard County Health Fund</u>				
01116.00	Environmental Health Specialist	01120.00 Admin Asst	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	
01116.00	Environmental Health Specialist	01120.01 Sec/Receptionist	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	
03321.00	Mileage	03500.00 Cash Drawer Chng	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00	

Health Department Director Kent Weaver informed the Council that the first two transfers reflect his plan to reduce the Health Department budget as requested by the Council and outlined in the PAC Committee Request. Both he and Nursing Coordinator Jennifer Sexton offered explanation for the request by stating that they were not going to replace the Environmental Health Specialist position and would take those funds to increase the salary and duties of the Administrative Assistant, as well as hire a part time Secretary / Receptionist. Mr. Ortman asked for a Point of Order saying that before any decisions are made, the Council would need to hear from the PAC Committee concerning their recommendation. Personnel Director Wanda McKillip submitted the PAC Committee's recommendation as follows, and reminded the Council that these transfers are from the Health Fund and not the County General Fund.

The PAC Committee recommends changing the job title from Secretary/Receptionist to Administrative Assistant.

The PAC Committee recommends increasing the salary from \$24,614 to \$27,841 not \$28,884 as requested. This decision was made after reviewing all comparable salaries for similar positions.

The PAC Committee recommends the request for a new position – P.T. Secretary/Receptionist with a \$12,000 line item instead of \$20,000.

The Howard County Board of Commissioners agrees with the PAC Committee's recommendations with regard to the above requests.

Mr. Weaver expressed appreciation for the work of the PAC Committee and the compromise that was recommended.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve the transfer request of \$4,000.00 from line item 01116.00, Environmental Health Specialist to line item 01120.00, Administrative Assistant; \$20,000.00 from line item 01116.00, Environmental Health Specialist to line item 01120.01, Part Time Secretary/Receptionist; \$80.00 from line item 03321.00, Mileage to line item 03500.00, Cash Change Drawer. Mr. Papacek amended his motion to approve \$12,000.00 from line item 01116.00 to line item 01120.01 in lieu of \$20,000.00. The motion as amended was seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF SALARY ORDINANCE NO. 2009-HCCO-12-AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2009:

Salary Ordinance No. 2009-HCCO-12 – Amending Salary Ordinance for 2009 was read in full one time by Ms. Wells and acted upon as follows:

<u>001</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>	REQUESTED:	APPROVED:
<u>030</u>	<u>Howard County Public Defender</u>		
01113.00	Deputies (14) <i>Reduces 2 positions</i>	\$ (80,740.00)	\$ (80,740.00)
01113.30	Full Time Deputies (4) <i>Increases 1 position</i>	\$ 51,500.00	\$ 51,500.00
<u>010</u>	<u>Howard County Health Fund</u>		
01116.00	Environmental Health Specialist	\$ (24,271.00)	\$ (24,271.00)
01120.00	Administrative Assistant Title Change From Secretary/Receptionist, increase from \$24,614.00	\$ 28,885.00	\$ 27,841.00

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman to approve Salary Ordinance No. 2009 – HCCO-12 Amending Salary Ordinance for 2009 as submitted with the amendment of \$27,841.00 in line item 010-0001120.00, Administrative Assistant in lieu of the requested \$28,885.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Papacek and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF BUDGET REDUCTION DISCUSSION:

Budget Reduction Committee Member Paul Wyman reported on the latest committee discussion concerning reduction suggestions, with emphasis on the word **suggestions**. These are only for purposes of discussion and the gathering of information; decisions have not yet been made. The committee invites opinions from the Council to help them formulate recommendations.

- Require Employee Direct Deposit
- Reduction of overtime in all areas – possible twelve hour shifts at the Criminal Justice Center
- Reduction of paid Holidays and Personal Days (city currently has two less holidays per year)
- Mandatory Vacation days (shutdown)
- Salary schedule for re-hires, beginning with starting salary and not the higher end employee salary
- Thirty-five versus forty hour work week – change in time schedule
- Employee incentive program – bonus for implemented money saving suggestions

Mr. Wyman requests that Councilmen, employees, Department Heads, and the general public put their thoughts into writing and submit them to the Committee for consideration. Mr. Wyman reiterated that no decisions have been made at this time.

Between the 1.5% property tax cap and loss of interest Howard County is looking at a 2009 short fall of five to six hundred thousand dollars. That amount has been made up, now, with budget cuts already made. The year 2009 may be fine. By this year's budget hearings in August, the Council will have a better idea of tax money available and be able to set the 2010 budget accordingly.

Mr. Papacek was concerned for the EDIT Fund. At this time it was reported that the approved 2009 budget is \$646,082.00 and there is \$1.2 million in revenue for 2009. Mr. Wyman reported that about \$7,000.00 has been cut from that budget.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Miller invited Ms. Isabelle Suggs to the podium for public comment as follows:

Ms. Suggs referred to an article in the Kokomo Tribune, in the Public Eye, written by Ken de la Bastide and Scott Smith concerning one of Kokomo's citizens, Mr. Roger McConnell. She understands that the children of Howard County are

taught the issues of life not only in the classroom, but in the examples of the adults and situations in their life. She is concerned that children learn respect for the elderly and requests that Mr. McConnell be treated with respect and care by the City of Kokomo and Howard County.

IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

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

1. **Police Pension Fund:** Mr. Craig Dunn and Ms. Elaine Beatty could not attend this evening's meeting but will attend April's meeting.
2. **Thank You:** Sheriff Talbert thanked all who attended and all who helped with the fish fry benefit for Mr. Don England; it was a huge success.
3. **Checks Submitted To Auditor:** Sheriff Talbert submitted the following checks to Auditor Wells:

\$ 51.51	Blackford County Treasurer for shared fugitive transport
\$ 250.00	Auditor of State reward money for assistance in taking down marijuana growing Operation
\$28,595.00	Auditor of State, DOC prisoner holds reimbursement for August of 2008
4. **JAG Grant:** The Kokomo Police Department and the Howard County Sheriff's Department will share a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Law Enforcement Grant in the amount of \$207,000. Howard County's share of the grant is about \$49,000.00. There is a May 18th deadline date to obtain the money that can be used for general law enforcement purposes. Sheriff Talbert would like to finish the LED light bar project as well as purchase supplies for a couple of additional Reserve Officers.
5. **Inmate Pharmaceutical Costs:** Sheriff Talbert began by commending Head Nurse Andrea Stonestreet and her diligence in dealing with insurance companies and keeping accurate records. Currently she is working with Safe Dose Pharmaceuticals in reducing inmate pharmacy costs. Sheriff Talbert cited an example of a particular inmate's medical needs and the cost of those prescriptions from Safe Dose and from a local pharmacy. There was a substantial savings from Safe Dose. His department is looking into dental providers to ascertain the most fiscally responsible.

IN THE MATTER OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Information Systems Director Terry Tribby submitted for following issues for the Council's information:

1. **State Mandated Certification Of Software And Hardware:** Mr. Tribby informed the Council of a meeting he attended with Manatron Software's Advisory Board concerning the new State mandated certification process. We must not only certify assessment figures with the Department of Local Government Finance, but we must now also certify the hardware, software and computer network with the State. We currently use two basic software programs for assessing and taxing (smaller programs for sales disclosures and personal property). All this has to be implemented by December 31, 2009 and there are foreseeable expenses the County will have to undertake. All new high-end servers and work stations (with their associated network equipment) are required for the Assessor, Auditor and Treasurer offices. Fortunately Mr. Tribby had budgeted 2009 funds for some new work stations for the Administration Center. Through a consortium of counties around us, together, we are ordering large quantities of equipment at significant discounts. Even with all that, his equipment line item will probably be depleted by the second quarter. He will do all he can not to ask for additional funds. In the long run, the State will have better data and we will not have problems with double entries between the Auditor and Assessor offices.
2. **Voter Registration Application Software:** The State is running low on funds and has decided to give Voter Registration software, activities and processes back to the local government. At this point in time he has no idea of the cost figures, but will have more information after the April 17th meeting with Senator Brandt Hershman.

IN THE MATTER OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ISSUES:

Commissioner Trine submitted the following issues for the Council's information:

1. **Freezer Purchase For Howard Haven:** The donated chest freezers that Howard Haven has been using are no longer working. The Board of Commissioners is going to approve an appropriation from the Cumulative Capital Fund to purchase a 3 door 85 cubic foot reach-in freezer. Mr. Trine informed the Council that Howard Haven is one of the few Homes in the State that is holding its own. That is due largely to dedicated employees and the Friends of Howard Haven.
2. **Courthouse Beautification:** There have been articles in the newspapers concerning a challenge for Courthouse beautification projects. County government has one of the largest investments in the downtown area of Kokomo. The Board of Commissioners does want to have well kept lawns and buildings and at the same time be good stewards of the taxpayers' money. Speaking for himself, Mr. Trine has received phone calls from citizens, first, complaining about the lack of Christmas decorations, and second, stating that they believe the elected officials should be more concerned about job gains than beautification projects. The Urban Enterprise Agency provided gazebos for Kokomo Beach and Foster Park. There is possible funding from the UEA for a small gazebo on the Courthouse lawn. Mr. Wyman has been talking with Mr. Ron Harper of the Community Foundation, and with the assistance of the Kokomo Downtown Association, dress up the Courthouse Square without using taxpayer money. Discussions have also included the possibility of relocating the Chief Kokomo monument to the Courthouse Square. The Board of Commissioners will be the oversight committee for any improvements.
3. **Howard County / Kokomo Library Proposal:** A request will be submitted at the next Commissioner Meeting for \$150,000.00 from the EDIT Fund for the Library Project. This project will total about \$5 million dollars and organizations that will donate for the project include the County Commissioners, the City of Kokomo, Urban Enterprise Agency and Center Township Trustee. As the largest investor in the downtown area, the Board of Commissioners believes that the County should "step up" and become involved in the project. The County also owns the parking lot directly east of the Library, on the corner of Mulberry and Market Streets. They have agreed to release that property to the Library contingent on the scale of the actual project. In response to the question of Council involvement in the releasing of County owned property, submitted by President Miller, Attorney Larry Murrell responded that he is researching the provision of a Joint Resolution between Howard County and the Public Library that would not require Council approval. Both Mr. Murrell and Commissioner Trine commented that they would like the Council's consent before any action is taken.

Commissioner Trine invited Council comment on any of the projects submitted. Mr. Miller responded that he is concerned that before any beautification projects commence that the flooding problem in the basement of the Courthouse be resolved first. Mr. Trine responded that Commissioner Thompson is working on that issue at the present time. Also of concern to Mr. Miller is the Veteran's Memorial in the rotunda of the Courthouse that is visible from all three floors. He believes that the charges laid against the County of forsaking our Veterans, is a "stretch at the very least", and the requirement to install security devices in that area was a disappointment because it detracted from the "serene beauty of that space". Commissioner Trine agreed with that sentiment and reminded the Council that there is an outdoor veteran monument, as well. He believes that if Veterans Service Officer Robert Ladd were here, tonight, he would agree that Howard County has been a good friend to veterans.

Commissioner Thompson informed the Council that each member of the Board of Commissioners has contributed privately to an account to construct a new Veterans Memorial. The Mayor of Kokomo, as well as other service organizations, has expressed interest in supporting this organization without using taxpayer funds.

There being no further business to come before the County Council at this time, a motion was made by Mr. Papacek to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wyman and carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL:

RICHARD A. MILLER, PRESIDENT

PAUL G. WYMAN, VICE PRESIDENT

JAMES T. PAPACEK, COUNCILMAN

LESLIE ELLISON, COUNCILMAN

STANLEY ORTMAN, COUNCILMAN

JEFF STOUT, COUNCILMAN

JOSEPH PENCEK, COUNCILMAN

ATTEST:

ANN WELLS, AUDITOR
Howard County Council Meeting March 24, 2009