

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: FEBRUARY 20, 2023

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, February 20, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Brad Bray, Vice President Jack Dodd, Member Jeff Lipinski, County Attorney Alan Wilson, and County Auditor Jessica Secrease.

The meeting was called to order by Major Gary Cook and conducted by President Brad Bray. President Bray led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Commissioner Lipinski offered a word of prayer.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of February 6, 2023, regular meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd, Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS & REPORTS:

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE

Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-7

Stormwater Administrator Greg Lake submitted Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-7 – An Ordinance of the Howard County Board of Commissioners to Create an Instruction General Permit for Stormwater. This ordinance was drafted as a statewide ordinance through LTAP at Purdue University and was modified to meet Howard County's needs. Commissioner Lipinski made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-7 as presented. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Appointments for Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA)

Assessor Mindy Heady submitted the official appointments to the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals:

Name	Appointment	Date Range
Ann Harrigan	Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals	01/01/2023-12/31/2023
Cheryl Duncan	Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals	01/01/2023-12/31/2023

The official appointments were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PLAN COMMISSION

Rezoning (Case 1-CP-23)

Plan Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline submitted Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-6 for the rezoning of the property located at 797 N. 750 W., Kokomo, Indiana from AG (Agricultural) to RR (Rural Residential). There was a favorable recommendation by the board. There was no remonstrance. With the rezoning request having been heard, Commissioner Lipinski made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-6 as presented. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Subdivision (Case 1-CZ-23)

Plan Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline submitted a new subdivision, French Farm Subdivision, located on a new lot at 797 N. 750 W., Kokomo, Indiana. There was a favorable recommendation by the board. There was no remonstrance. French Farm has one lot and was approved. With the new subdivision request having been heard, Commissioner Lipinski made a motion to approve French Farm Subdivision, located on a new lot at 797 N. 750 W., Kokomo, Indiana as presented. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

HOWARD HAVEN

Approval of New Resident at Howard Haven

Howard Haven Superintendent Jennifer Brower submitted an application for a new resident to be approved as a private pay. The resident's name is on file in the Auditor's Office. A motion made by Commissioner Dodd to approve the new resident subject to a 90-day probation period. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Replace West Entry Door at the Courthouse:

Maintenance Superintendent Bill Stonestreet submitted a quote to replace the west entry door at the Courthouse from Kokomo Glass in the amount of \$6,979.74. Mr. Stonestreet requested to pay this from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund (line item 1138.47243.000.0000). A motion was made by Commissioner Dodd to approve the quote to replace the west entry door at the Courthouse by Kokomo Glass in the amount of \$6,979.74 and to be paid out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund (line item 1138.47243.000.0000) as presented. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:

Howard County Auditor Jessica Secrease submitted the following claims and reports for the Commissioners’ information and approval:

1. **Salary Claims:** The Commissioners’ Salary, Hourly, and Overtime Claims for payment on February 10, 2023 in the amount of \$947,480.73 were submitted and approved on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
2. **Payroll Expenses:** The Commissioners’ Payroll Expenses for payment on February 10, 2023, in the amounts of \$947,480.73 were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
3. **Operating Claims:** The Commissioners’ Operating Claims to be paid February 20, 2023. in the amount of \$1,064,520.21 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.
4. **Monthly Reports:** Auditor Jessica Secrease presented the following reports to be received into the record:
 - a. Weights and Measures Monthly Report for January 2023

IN THE MATTER OF ATTORNEY ISSUES:

Plan Commission Appointment

Attorney Alan Wilson presented an appointment to appoint Mikki Jeffers to the Howard County Plan Commission. A motion was made by Commissioner Lipinski to approve the appointment of Mikki Jeffers to the Plan Commission board as presented. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Resident Brad Semon of 10954 E. 100 S., Greentown, Indiana: Mr. Semon stated that he has a packet for the Commissioners to look over. This packet goes over property value studies related to solar farms being placed by properties individually. Mr. Semon is requesting that the Commissioners create a moratorium to set up and protect property values. Mr. Semon stated that his property values are not opinions, and they are factual.

Resident Stan Oyler of 1877 N. 1100 E., Greentown, Indiana: Mr. Oyler stated that the moratorium that was mentioned by Mr. Semon is requesting to protect the citizens of Howard County and not to just make things harder on the Commissioners and the solar companies. Mr. Oyler stated that people’s biggest investment is their home, and they want to protect that. He stated that he believes that the solar companies are going to ruin property values in eastern Howard County if something is not done to protect them.

Resident Clee Oliver of 5768 W. 00 N.S., Kokomo, Indiana: Mr. Oliver stated that the Zoning Board would not allow certain things to happen in city limits, so he doesn’t know why these things allowed to happen in the County. He stated that people in western Howard County are now being approached by solar companies. He asked how many acres Howard County is going to lose to the solar companies.

***There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time,
the meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski.
The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.***

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

ROBERT B. BRAY, PRESIDENT

JACK W. DODD, VICE PRESIDENT

JEFF S. LIPINSKI, MEMBER

ATTEST:

JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR
Howard County Commissioners’ Meeting: February 20, 2023