

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

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, March 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 Capitan Jordan Buckley 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 March 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 SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS / RECONGINITION:

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

The Commissioners congratulated Kinsey Youth Center employee Minh-Thu Dang. Minh-Thu is always willing to adjust her schedule last minute and has learned new skills to fill in when needed. It is with great honor that the Commissioners extended congratulations and the memento from Kokomo Opalescent Glass to her. Pictures were taken, and congratulations were given by all.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Bray ask for a moment of silence in honor of it being the anniversary of Deputy Carl Koontz death.

IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS & REPORTS:

RECORDER'S OFFICE

Laredo Agreement

Recorder Torie Kelley submitted the agreements with A.S.K. Services and Stewart Title Guaranty for the Laredo Contracts. The agreements with A.S.K. Services and Stewart Title Guaranty for the Laredo Contracts were approved as submitted on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Concrete Sidewalk Replacement for Jail

Maintenance Superintendent Bill Stonestreet submitted a quote to replace the concrete sidewalks on the south side of the Howard County Jail from Bergman Construction in the amount of \$13,500.00. Mr. Stonestreet requested to pay this from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund (line item 1138.47241.000.0000). A motion was made by Commissioner Lipinski to approve the quotes to replace the concrete sidewalks at the Howard County Jail by Bergman Construction in the amount of \$13,500.00 and to be paid out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund (line item 1138.47241.000.0000) as presented. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

HOWARD HAVEN

Approval of New Residents at Howard Haven

Howard Haven Superintendent Jennifer Brower submitted two applications for new residents to be approved as a private pay. The residents' names are 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.

AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Malcon Agreement

Auditor Jessica Secrease submitted an agreement with Malcon for the preparation of claims for fuel tax refunds. The Malcon agreement was approved as submitted on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. 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 March 10, 2023, in the amount of \$943,953.00 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 March 10, 2023, in the amounts of \$943,953.00 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 March 20, 2023, in the amount of \$834,700.57 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:
 - i. Treasurer's Monthly Report for January 2023
 - ii. Treasurer's Monthly Report for February 2023

IN THE MATTER OF ATTORNEY ISSUES:

Resolution No. 2023-BCCR-4 – Howard County Capital Asset Policy

Attorney Alan Wilson presented Resolution No. 2023-BCCR-4 – Howard County Capital Asset Policy. Resolution No. 2023-BCCR-4 – Howard County Capital Asset Policy was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.

Electronic Participation Policy

Attorney Alan Wilson presented an Electronic Participation Policy. This policy allows the Commissioners to attend meetings electronically if deemed necessary. The Electronic Participation Policy was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Township Assistance Appeal

Commissioner Jack Dodd attended a township assistance appeal hearing. The applicant did not show up for the meeting; therefore, the appeal was denied. The township appeal denial was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.

Evaluation of Property

Commissioner Lipinski was contacted by the neighbors for a property nuisance located at 477 Hickory Lane. Attorney Wilson stated that the County filed a lawsuit against the Stevens last year for their property and was able to get a judgement against the Stevens to abate their property. Mr. Stevens has still not finished cleaning the property up since the lawsuit. Planning Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline stated that he has been working with Mr. Stevens and that Mr. Stevens only has excuses, and the property is horrendous. Commissioner Dodd would like to reach out to companies on getting quotes to clean up the property.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Resident Brad Semon of 10954 E. 100 S., Greentown, Indiana: Mr. Semon referenced the conversation about 477 Hickory lane property and how the property is a nuisance to its neighbors. He stated his concern that he feels if the residents in the eastern part of Howard County consider something a nuisance, it is ignored. He stated that he feels that the Commissioners are "playing on both sides of the fence" on how they pick and choose what is considered a nuisance or not.

***There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time,
the meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd.
The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.***

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

R. BRAD BRAY, PRESIDENT

JACK W. DODD, VICE PRESIDENT

JEFF S. LIPINSKI, MEMBER

ATTEST:

JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR
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