

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: MAY 15, 2023

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, May 15, 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 citizen Brad Semon 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 SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS / RECONGINTION:

NATIONAL POLICE OFFICER MEMORIAL Day

Commissioner Dodd stated that May 15th is National Police Officer Memorial Day. On March 20th, 2016, Howard County Sheriff's Deputy Carl Koontz lost his life in the line of duty. Commissioner Dodd asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Deputy Koontz.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of May 1, 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:

COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

Total Court Services Agreement

Director of Home Detention Brian Day submitted an updated Total Court Services Agreement. This agreement allows for the Probation Department to use new upgraded bracelets. The Total Court Services Agreement was approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Annual Operations Report

Highway Superintendent Amber Tolle submitted their Annual Operations Report. The Annual Operations Report was approved as presented.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Backflow Replacement at County Jail

Maintenance Superintendent Bill Stonestreet submitted a quote to replace the backflow preventer at the jail from Quality Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$5,132.95. Mr. Stonestreet requested to pay this from the LIT – Special Purpose Fund's Building and Structure Repair Account (line item 1114.32510.000.0313). A motion was made by Commissioner Lipinski to approve the quote to replace the backflow preventer at the jail by Quality Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$5,132.95 and to be paid out of the LIT – Special Purpose Fund's Building and Structure Repair Account (line item 1114.32510.000.0313) as presented. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:

Turning Point Annual Update

Turning Point CEO Matt Oliver gave an update on Turning Point's success since opening in November. He thanked the Commissioners for all the support they have given to Turning Point.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT

SpyGlass Agreement

Information Services Director Jeremy Stevens submitted an agreement with SpyGlass. SpyGlass is a communication assessment vendor that the County used in 2012. SpyGlass will look at the county's phone lines for discrepancies and try to stop them. The County's latest assessment showed that SpyGlass could save the County \$6,617.00 annually. They will charge the County a one-time fee of \$6,617.00 to use their services. A motion was made by Commissioner Dodd to pay SpyGlass \$6,617.00 to use their services as presented. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

County Website Update

Information Systems Director Jeremy Stevens presented the Commissioners with an update on the County Website. The last County website update was in 2015. The IT Department's intern has finished all the content for the new website, and it has been sent off to the State who will be building the website for free. The website will run off the same background as IN.gov. It will cost nothing to the County and should have a sample page ready by the end of June. Mr. Stevens would like to run a photo contest for the new website. The citizens of Howard County can submit their photos to be displayed on the new website. The website photo contest was approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. Commissioner Dodd 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 May 15, 2023, in the amounts of \$960,460.57 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 May 15, 2023, in the amounts of \$960,460.57 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 May 15, 2023, in the amount of \$1,285,554.80 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 & Measures Monthly Report for April 16th – May 15th, 2023

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Lipinski has checked on the Stevens property several times and has noticed that there has been no progress being made on the property. County Attorney Wilson has contacted three companies for quotes on the property and is waiting to hear back on those quotes.

Project Manager Pam Isaac presented the Commissioners with the nomination to appoint Wayne Mast to the Howard County Board of Zoning Appeals. Wayne Mast’s appointment was approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Resident Clee Oliver of 5768 W. 00 N.S., Kokomo, Indiana: Mr. Oliver wanted to thank Information Systems Director Jeremy Stevens for all his work on the County Website. Mr. Oliver stated that he would like to see government officials not use a personal email address when dealing with work related emails. He has seen officials in the past use a personal email when answering questions related to their work at the County. Mr. Stevens stated that starting on January 1, 2024, there will be no more forwarding of emails from employees’ Howard County email to their personal email. Mr. Stevens stated that it is very important for elected officials to use their County email when dealing with emails rated to their position.

Mr. Oliver also stated that he doesn’t believe that the County Ordinance for addresses on mailboxes is being enforced. Commissioner Dodd stated that while there is an Ordinance in place, they can not send Sheriff Deputies to people’s houses that are not following the Ordinance.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 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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