

## **HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: OCTOBER 16, 2023**

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, October 16, 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, County Attorney Alan Wilson, and County Auditor Jessica Secrease. Commissioner Jeff Lipinski was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Asher and conducted by President Brad Bray. President Bray led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Commissioner Dodd offered a word of prayer.

### **IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the October 2, 2023 regular meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd, Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS & REPORTS:**

#### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

##### ***Vehicle Purchase***

Emergency Management Director Janice Hart requested to purchase a bush truck from the Taylor Township Volunteer Fire Department for \$4,000.00. Ms. Hart stated that she does not have a vehicle line item but stated that the truck would be a great asset to her fleet. Commissioner Dodd stated that he wanted to table this decision until they can see if they have the funds for this truck purchase. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to table the vehicle purchase. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:**

##### ***Engie Solar Well protection***

Tom Schoder from Engie North America came to discuss ground water contamination and well testing. Mr. Schoder stated that Engie would be willing to test wells after a year in operations for those who would like their wells to be tested again. Mr. Schoder introduced Rob Wilhelm, who is a hydrogeologist for Tetra Tech. Mr. Wilhelm looked at how the ground water will be affected by the solar panels. He stated that the solar panels are mostly made of glass and contain no liquids. He stated that solar panels are built to withstand the environment. Mr. Wilhelm discussed that the soil where the solar panels are being proposed has very dense soil and that it is very hard for contaminants to get into the water bearing zones of the ground. Commissioner Dodd asked Mr. Wilhelm questions about wells and water protection. Mr. Schoder said that they will have an in-depth stormwater prevention plan and that they will work closely with the Stormwater Department. Mr. Schoder also stated that if construction begins, the neighboring properties will be offered well testing before construction, after construction, and a year into operation of the solar field.

### **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 October 6, 2023, in the amount of \$925,706.38 was submitted and approved on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
2. **Payroll Expenses:** The Commissioners' Payroll Expenses for payment on October 6, 2023, in the amount of \$925,706.38 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
3. **Operating Claims:** The Commissioners' Operating Claims to be paid October 16, 2023, in the amount of \$864,482.00 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bray, and the motion carried.
4. **Monthly Reports:** Auditor Jessica Secrease presented the following reports to be received into the record:
  - a. Weights & Measurers Monthly Report for September 16 - October 15, 2023
  - b. Treasurer's Monthly Report for August 2023

### **IN THE MATTER OF ATTORNEY ISSUES:**

County Attorney Alan Wilson presented Certificates of Appointment for the Howard County Redevelopment Commission for Mike Stegall, Brad Clark, and Lisa Washington. The appointments were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bray, and the motion carried.

*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 Bray.  
The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.*

**HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

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R. BRAD BRAY, PRESIDENT

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JACK W. DODD, VICE PRESIDENT

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JEFF S. LIPINSKI, MEMBER

**ATTEST:**

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JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR

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