

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING AUGUST 4, 2008

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, August 4, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in Hearing Room No. 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Bradley Bagwell, Vice President David Trine, and Member Paul Raver. Also in attendance were County Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Ann Wells.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Marshall Talbert and conducted by President Bagwell.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the Regular Commissioner Meeting dated July 21, 2008, Special Meeting dated July 28, 2008 and Special Meeting dated July 30, 2008, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Trine and seconded by Mr. Raver.

IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

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

1. **Jail Population:** The current inmate population is three hundred fifteen (315) with forty-eight (48) being females.
2. **Contracts With JTAC:** Lieutenant Jerry Asher submitted three contracts with JTAC for the E-Citations Electronic Ticket project. Lieutenant Asher would like to purchase fifteen (15) units that include a scanner, printer and software license to be used with the mobile lap-top computers in patrol vehicles. The system will enable Deputies to scan the license and registration, connect with the State's traffic system, and issue traffic warrants from their vehicles, decreasing the amount of time used for the traffic stop. Lieutenant Asher was informed of additional funds available in the 2008 Big City - Big County Operation Pullover Grant, in the amount of \$7,586.56. The cost of the project has to be paid up front, and the State will reimburse the County at 75%. A motion was made by Mr. Trine, seconded by Mr. Raver and carried to approve the contracts with JTAC subject to Mr. Murrell's review and authorize Sheriff Talbert to sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

IN THE MATTER OF PLAN COMMISSION ISSUES:

Plan Commission Director Glen Boise submitted the following issues for Board information and approval:

1. **Flood Mitigation Grant:** Mr. Boise is still awaiting word from FEMA concerning the Flood Mitigation Grant. Mr. Boise had informed the Board of a missing piece of information that the State has forwarded to the FEMA (*please refer to page two, item one, "In The Matter of Plan Commission Issues" of the Regular Meeting minutes dated July 21, 2008*).
2. **Unsafe Building Issues:** Mr. Boise has received new complaints of an unsafe building at 6209 Jeff Court. Close inspection of the building at that location shows that it has not been maintained and that there are some unsafe building issues to address. An Unsafe Building Order has been sent to owners Thomas and Shirley Miller in Sharpsville. There are about six properties on the active unsafe building list. The worst property is located at 360 South County Road 350 East.
3. **US 31 Freeway Project Land Study:** The Plan Commission Office has received six (6) proposals from vendors interested in performing the land study for the US 31 Freeway Project. Mr. Boise will be approving the committee that will be responsible to review the proposals later this week.

IN THE MATTER OF MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Buildings & Grounds Assistant Superintendent Scott Reed submitted the following issues for Board information and approval:

1. **HVAC Coils On Roof Of Administration Center:** Damaged HVAC coils on the roof of the Administration Center were responsible for roof damage and flooding into the Information Systems offices on the fourth floor. The problem has been reported to the insurance company and they have agreed to replace the coils. Replacement coils have been ordered and will arrive sometime in September.
2. **Courthouse Concrete Pad Project:** The concrete has been poured for the project located on the west side of the Courthouse. After it has cured, parking spaces will be marked out.
3. **Generators Inspected:** MacAllister Machinery Company has inspected the generators at the Criminal Justice Center and the new emergency tower. Both have passed inspection. Mr. Reed has not received quotes from McAllister on generators for the Administration Center and Courthouse, at this time
4. **Government Center Roofing:** Mr. John Jarrett has worked on the roof at the Government Center.
5. **Hail Damage Claim:** Hail damage claims and the coil damage claims to the Administration Center will be turned in to the insurance company together, for reimbursement. Globes for the outdoor lights have been ordered. Mr. Murrell commended the efforts of Mr. Reed and Insurance Agent Phil Thatcher.
6. **Howard Haven Kitchen Sink:** Commissioner Trine asked Mr. Reed to have the maintenance department look at the kitchen sink at Howard Haven for possible needed repair.

IN THE MATTER OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Information Systems Director Terry Tribby presented the following issues for Board information and approval:

1. **Comcast:** The technicians for Comcast have been willing to work with the County in solving problems. Some of the problems with a signal were tracked back to a faulty cable. That has been replaced. Mr. Tribby expressed appreciation to Comcast for their quick and effective service.
2. **Web Server Replacement:** The web server in the Administration Center is being replaced so service will be interrupted beginning at 9:30 a.m., today. They will need to copy files from the old server to the new. The new server will be using the same system because it integrates well and has good support. This replacement is being done during regular business hours so that support can be called in if problems are experienced.

IN THE MATTER OF HOWARD HAVEN ISSUES:

Interim Superintendent Jennifer Vary presented the following issues for Board information and approval:

1. **Increase In Daily Self Pay Residents:** Ms. Vary received word from the State that the ARCH reimbursement will be raised to \$37.00 per day. Ms. Vary recommends that the self pay rate be increased from \$33.62 to \$37.50 (the rate has to be above the state's rate of \$37.00). A motion was made by Mr. Raver, seconded by Mr. Trine and carried to approve the self pay rate increase to \$37.50 per day, effective September 1, 2008.
2. **Inventory:** Ms. Vary submitted the current inventory report.
3. **Resident Application:** An Application for Residency was submitted on behalf of Jeremiah Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton is twenty-six (26) years of age and has mild limitations. He would be an ARCH pay resident and Ms. Vary recommends admittance. A motion was made by Mr. Trine, seconded by Mr. Raver and carried to accept the Application for Residency for Jeremiah Hamilton with the usual ninety day probationary period.

Commissioner Trine commended Ms. Vary for the fine job she is doing as the Interim Superintendent of Howard Haven.

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST FOR USE OF THE COURTHOUSE SIDEWALK:

Ms. Pam Thornbloom, Howard County Coordinator for "Cry Out America", submitted a request to hold a Prayer Vigil on the sidewalk and steps of the County Courthouse on Thursday, September 11, 2008 from 11:00a.m. - 2:00 p.m. She has already spoken to the Maintenance Department concerning the request. A motion was made by Mr. Trine, seconded by Mr. Raver and carried to authorize the use of the Courthouse sidewalk and steps for a prayer vigil on September 11, 2008.

IN THE MATTER OF VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE REQUEST:

Veterans Service Officer Robert Ladd submitted a request for a new copier from Beckley, in the amount of \$6,250. Mr. Ladd had included a new copier in his 2009 proposed budget, but the copier is out of service and a temporary loaner is being used. The current copier is four years old, and needed repairs that were estimated at about \$1,015.00 for parts and labor. Mr. Raver spoke to this request concerning the fact that they do not have money in their budget for this expense. Mr. Raver spoke with Surveyor Grimme concerning the possible transfer of funds from his Cumulative Capital account line for equipment. The Surveyor's office recently purchased a new vehicle and after some additional light expenses, they would be willing to transfer funds for the purchase of this copier. A motion was made by Mr. Raver to approve the copier purchase request for the Veterans Service Office and authorize a transfer of funds from the Surveyor's Cumulative Capital equipment line item (4006) to the Veterans Service equipment line item (4015). The motion was seconded by Mr. Trine and carried. The copier request will be removed from the 2009 proposed budget request for the Veterans Service Office.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:

Auditor Ann Wells submitted the following issues for the Commissioners' information and approval:

1. **Commissioner Salary Claims:** Salary, hourly and overtime claims payable August 8 and 15, 2008, in the amount of \$337,929.59 each were submitted and approved on a motion made by Mr. Trine and seconded by Mr. Raver.
2. **Commissioner Operating Claims:** Operating Claims payable today, August 4, 2008, in the amount of \$730,156.39, were submitted. Of that amount \$178,194.40 were paid from County General money, \$1,077.99 from the Health Department Fund, and \$79,949.84 were paid from the Jail COIT Fund. The Board agreed by consensus that even though we have collected the first portion of taxes for this year, they would still like to have the breakdown of funds used, until the final settlement. The Operating Claims were approved as submitted on a motion made by Mr. Raver and seconded by Mr. Trine.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Monthly Report for the month ending June 30, 2008, was submitted and accepted on a motion made by Mr. Trine and seconded by Mr. Raver.
4. **Extension Of Budget Deadline:** Ms. Wells received notification from the Department of Local Government Finance extending the 2009 budget deadline from September 30, 2008 to December 1, 2008, and submitted copies of the new deadlines. Ms. Wells asked for input from the Board of Commissioners, whether to reschedule our local budget hearings. It was the consensus of the Board to continue the hearings as scheduled, with the understanding that the December deadline is for the convenience of the DLGF.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY ISSUES:

County Attorney Larry Murrell submitted the following issues for Board information and approval:

1. **Redevelopment Authority Appointments:** Mr. Murrell submitted Certificates of Appointment for the appointment of Michael Sale and the reappointment of Dave Steele and William Sahn to the Redevelopment Authority for a three year term to expire July 15, 2011 (*please refer to page five, item three, "In The Matter of County Attorney Issues", of the Regular Meeting minutes dated July 21, 2008*). A motion was made by Mr. Trine, seconded by Mr. Raver and carried to approve the appointment of Michael Sale and the reappointments of Dave Steele and William Sahn to the Redevelopment Authority for a term of three years. The Certificates of Appointment were signed by the Board of Commissioners.

2. **Rebanding Project Change Order:** Commissioner Bagwell signed a Change Order July 29, 2008, increasing the budget of the Sprint/Nextel Rebanding Project, and his signature needs to be confirmed by the Board of Commissioners. A motion was made by Mr. Raver, seconded by Mr. Trine and carried to confirm President Bagwell's signature on the Change Order for the Rebanding Project, increasing the budget by \$3,000.00.

Sheriff Talbert informed the Board that Howard County is now on the new frequencies. He is instituting a final plea to find any mobile radio that has not yet been rebanded. Commissioner Bagwell commented that the radios operating on the new frequency seem to have less interference. Sheriff Talbert expressed appreciation to Integrity Business Communications for their work during this Rebanding Project. Mr. Bagwell commented that there were very few complaints with the switchover.

3. **Incumbent Acknowledgement:** Tony Johnson of Integrity Business Communications compiled Project Legal Services from August, 2007 forward for rebanding, in the amount of \$2,357.50, for the Incumbent Acknowledgement. The Incumbent Acknowledgement was approved and the President authorized to sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners on a motion made by Mr. Raver and seconded by Mr. Trine.
4. **Lawsuit Settlement:** Mr. Murrell submitted a settlement claim from the lawsuit of Farmer v Howard County in the amount of \$3,000.00. The settlement will be paid from the Insurance Deductible line item in the Commissioners' budget. A motion was made by Mr. Trine, seconded by Mr. Raver and carried to approve the payment in the amount of \$3,000.00 and authorize Mr. Murrell to conclude the settlement.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

1. **Thank You From Grissom Air Museum:** On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Raver received a Thank You letter from Ms. Shirley Hartman of the Grissom Air Museum, thanking them and the Courthouse employees for hosting the Howard County Traveling Aviation Art Exhibit at the Howard County Courthouse.
2. **Health Insurance Report:** Mr. Raver submitted a Claim report from Anthem showing that claims for Howard County Employees are holding steady. Mr. Raver believes the Insurance Committee may make a recommendation to keep the 2008 rates for 2009.
3. **Recorder's Contract With US Imaging:** A proposal to scan information between the Recorder's Office and US Imaging was given to Mr. Murrell. He will review the proposal and include it on the Agenda for the August 18th Commissioner meeting.
4. **Township Appeal:** Commissioner Trine was the Hearing Officer for a Township Appeal on behalf of Sandy B. Jones, Harrison Township. A motion was made by Mr. Trine to uphold the trustee's denial. The motion was seconded by Mr. Raver and carried.
5. **Economic Development Umbrella Group Appointment:** The Board of Commissioners needs to appoint a representative to sit on the newly created Greater Kokomo Economic Development Authority Board. Commissioner Trine was appointed to that Board on a motion made by Mr. Raver and seconded by Mr. Trine.

At this time the Regular Meeting was recessed at 9:35 a.m. on a motion made by Mr. Raver and seconded by Mr. Trine. The meeting then reconvened at 10:00 a.m. to review alternate bids for the EMA Reconstruction Project.

President Bagwell reconvened the meeting and received the submitted alternate bids from Beau Mitchell Corporation and C & Z Construction. From a previous meeting with vendors, specification changes were made as follows:

- a) Addition of wall
- b) Add chain link fence
- c) Moving garage doors around
- d) Determination of needed doors on the south side to meet code requirements

Let it be noted for the record that both Beau Mitchell Corporation and C & Z Construction agree with the noted changes. The alternate bid specs were read by the Board, which then voted to take the alternate bids under advisement for their review and make a recommendation at the August 18th Regular meeting on a motion made by Mr. Raver and seconded by Mr. Trine.

A motion was made by Mr. Raver, seconded by Mr. Trine and carried to call a Special Meeting for Final Disposition of Bids for 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 20, 2008, in the Commissioners' meeting room 220D.

A motion was made by Mr. Raver, seconded by Mr. Trine and carried to prepare an Additional Appropriation Request for \$100,000.00 in the Cumulative Capital Fund's EMA Project line item (150-000-04725.01), for the August 19th Council Meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTION VEHICLE PURCHASE REQUEST:

Technical Assistant for Community Corrections Department, James Jackson, submitted a request to purchase a 2007 Ford Fusion from Brad Howell Ford. The Fusion has 32,000 miles and would sell for \$10,705.00, including the trade-in value of their current vehicle. Community Corrections currently has a 2004 Crown Victoria with 75,000 miles. The department would like to conserve fuel with a smaller vehicle that gets better gas mileage. Community Corrections does have money in their funds to cover the costs. A motion was made by Mr. Raver, seconded by Mr. Trine and carried to approve the purchase of a 2007 Ford Fusion from Brad Howell Ford for the amount of \$10,705.00.

At this time, County Attorney Larry Murrell made an observation concerning the EMA Reconstruction Bid process. He understands that the process has been slow and frustrating especially for the contractors. He wanted to remind those in attendance that while the City Of Kokomo, for example, has an engineering department with about seven employees, the County has no such department. It is up to the Board of Commissioners to work through this process with no staff and no engineers. Consequently, it takes much time, effort, and coordination among the three Commissioners to reach a well thought out conclusion.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m. on a motion made by Mr. Raver and seconded by Mr. Trine.

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

BRADLEY J. BAGWELL, PRESIDENT

DAVID A. TRINE, VICE PRESIDENT

PAUL J. RAVER, MEMBER

ATTEST:

ANN WELLS, AUDITOR

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