

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MARCH 3, 2008

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, March 3, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in Hearing Room No. 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included Board of Commissioner President Bradley J. Bagwell, Vice President David A. Trine and Member Paul J. Raver. Also present were Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Ann Wells.

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

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the February 18, 2008 meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Raver and seconded by Mr. Trine.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Highway Engineer / Superintendent Ted Cain submitted the following issues for the Board's information and approval:

1. **Maintenance Bonds:** Mr. Cain submitted Maintenance Bonds for Cotswald Hills, Section 2, Coventry Drive, and Hidden Creek, Section One. Both bonds are for three years and Mr. Cain recommends they be approved. Both bonds were approved on a motion made by Mr. Trine and seconded by Mr. Raver.
2. **Quotes For New Truck:** Mr. Cain informed the Board that the Highway Department needs to purchase at least one new pick-up truck and one dump truck. He would like to obtain quotes for a pick-up truck now and then work on the dump truck purchase later in the year. A motion was made by Mr. Raver, seconded by Mr. Trine and carried to authorize Mr. Cain to obtain quotes for the purchase of a new vehicle, to be submitted by March 28, 2008.
3. **Road Salt:** Mr. Cain believes his department has enough salt to last through the end of this season (*please refer to page one, item five, of the Regular Meeting minutes dated February 18, 2008*). He commended his employees for their conservation efforts, while keeping the roads as safe as possible. Mr. Cain did comment that people need to be careful of their driving, especially on straight stretches of road.

IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

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

1. **Jail Population:** The present population is three hundred thirteen (313) inmates, with fifty-two (52) of them being female. Mr. Talbert reminded the Board that the female pod was built to house thirty-two (32) inmates.
2. **Bomb-Sniffing K-9:** The bomb-sniffing K-9 finishes his training on Friday, March 7th. He will not be a single purpose K-9 but will also be trained for tracking and patrol. Beginning June 1st, the K-9 will be put on the day shift.
3. **Courthouse Security:** The Courthouse Security Officers are working well. They will be taking paid time off, soon, and there is the issue of replacement. The Sheriff's Department has trained several Corrections Officers but they are needed at the jail. Sheriff Talbert is in the process of discussing with retired former employees the possibility working part-time in the Courthouse. He plans to present the idea to the Council for permission to use part-time money. Sheriff Talbert will address this issue, again, at the March 17th meeting.
4. **A T & T Discontinuing Pay Phone Service:** Sheriff Talbert has received a letter from AT & T informing them that Pay Phone Service will be discontinued as of April 1st. Sheriff Talbert is meeting with a consultant concerning other companies that can supply the needed service.

Phone cards are needed that can be used inside and outside the Criminal Justice Facility. He is also looking at a company called Securest that can offer an e-mail service to inmates.

IN THE MATTER OF PLAN COMMISSION ISSUES:

Plan Commission Director Glen Boise presented the following issues for the Board's information and approval:

1. **Case 13-CP-07:** One lot in Twisted Timbers Subdivision, located at 2509 South County Road 1300 East, is approved on a motion made by Mr. Trine and seconded by Mr. Raver.
2. **Case 1-CP-08:** One lot in D. W. Mohring Subdivision located at 1083 South County Road 750 East, is approved on a motion made by Mr. Raver and seconded by Mr. Trine.
3. **Case 3-CP-08:** One lot in Downing Woods Subdivision located at 12724 East County Road 300 South is approved on a motion made by Mr. Trine and seconded by Mr. Raver.
4. **Case 13a-CP:** One lot in Eric James Estate located at 620 East County Road 450 North, is approved on a motion made by Mr. Trine and seconded by Mr. Raver.
5. **Demolition Quotes For Unsafe Property:** Quotes for the demolition of unsafe property located at 12541 East County Road 332 South, were opened and taken under advisement at the February 18th meeting (*please refer to page two, item one, "In The Matter Of Plan Commission Issues" of the Regular Meeting minutes dated February 18, 2008*). Mr. Boise visited the property and found no evidence of any further demolition attempts by the owner. A neighbor, Mr. Glen Wilson, also confirmed that there had been no further demolition activity at that location. Mr. Boise recommends that the Board accept the quote from Alliance Excavating, in the amount of \$12,445.00. A motion was made by Mr. Trine, seconded by Mr. Raver and carried to accept the quote from Alliance Excavating, in the amount of \$12,445.00.
6. **Flood Mitigation Grant Application:** Mr. Boise has received word from Mr. Garrett, the owner of the flood damaged property located at 2700 Dellwood, that he is agreeable to the proposal issued by the Board of Commissioners at their February 18th meeting (*please refer to page three, item three, "In The Matter Of Plan Commission Issues" of the February 18, 2008 Regular Meeting minutes*). The proposal is for Mr. Garrett to forgive the expenses incurred to demolish the property from the County's match money for the grant used to buy the flood damaged property. Mr. Boise now asks the Board to approve submission of the grant application and approve the Letter of Commitment for match funds in the amount of \$57,325.00. A motion was made by Mr. Trine to approve the grant application for Flood Mitigation funds, and approve the Letter of Commitment for county matching funds in the amount of \$57,325.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Raver and carried. The president was authorized to sign the application on behalf of the Board of Commissioners on a motion made by Mr. Raver and seconded by Mr. Trine.

IN THE MATTER OF MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Art Fross submitted the following issues for Commissioners' information and approval:

1. **Centrex Contract:** Representatives from the County met with officials from A T & T concerning the Centrex Contract on February 19th. The meeting was productive and we are awaiting language changes to the final contract (*please refer to page seven, "In The Matter Of The Meeting With AT & T Concerning The Centrex Contract", of the Regular Meeting minutes dated February 18, 2008*).
2. **Courthouse Usage Requests:** Mr. Raver submitted two requests to the Maintenance Department for use of the Courthouse public area as follows:

National Day Of Prayer / Courthouse Public Area for evening meeting / 1st Thursday of May

The Board Of Commissioners will act on the Day of Prayer Request after a written request with more information is received from The National Day of Prayer Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Trine, seconded by Mr. Raver and carried to approve the request to display the Aviation Contest Exhibit in the Courthouse Rotunda. Mr. Raver will notify the chairperson and give information to Mr. Fross concerning location of the display.

IN THE MATTER OF PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Personnel Director Wanda McKillip submitted the following issues for the Board's information and approval:

1. **Annual Renewal Of Group And Voluntary Life Insurance:** Ms. McKillip invited Mr. Doug Heath of Miles & Finch Insurance Agency to the podium to present alternatives to the present life insurance plan. Mr. Heath distributed copies of a Howard County Life Summary Plan Description comparing coverage and costs of the present plan from AIG and proposed plans from Lafayette Life and Standard Life companies. At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Heath recommended Lafayette Life for the greatest savings to the employee or Standard Life for the greatest savings to the County. After ensuing discussion a motion was made by Mr. Raver, seconded by Mr. Trine and carried to authorize life insurance services from Lafayette Life Insurance Company.
2. **Training Seminar:** Ms. McKillip notified the Board that they would be attending an FMLA Conference on Thursday, March 6th. This seminar will deal with changes in the Family Medical Leave Act.

IN THE MATTER OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Information Systems Director Terry Tribby submitted the following issues for the Board's information and approval:

1. **Insight Service At The Criminal Justice Center:** Mr. Tribby informed the Board that Comcast Communications has purchased Insight Communications. Mr. Tribby received a letter last Tuesday informing him of the purchase, and that IP addresses will be changed beginning Sunday through March 7th. In the interest of making the transition as smooth possible, considering this involved Emergency Services, Mr. Tribby received word that Comcast would work with the Sheriff's facility. Mr. Tribby received a modem on Friday, with a note to make an appointment with Comcast. When Mr. Tribby came in this morning the internet was down. His department was able to bring the internet back up and reroute traffic to bring up the Sheriff's Department. It will all be resolved soon.
2. **Sound And Recording System In The Government Center:** The sound system in Room 101 of the Government Center is experiencing some difficulty. Sound Of Music did install a digital CD recorder in that room and Mr. Tribby directed Mr. Boise to use that recorder. It is not working. Sound of Music will check the system. Sound of Music will also check out the system in Room 338 of the Administration Center for the possibility of installing a CD recorder.
3. **Voice Over IP System:** Voice Over IP is a new technology for phone systems. It is a good technology and is being used by several counties, including Hamilton County. Mr. Tribby is looking at NetTech who currently holds the State contract, and will be meeting with them on March 18th.
4. **Verizon Wireless:** Mr. Tribby will be meeting with representatives from Verizon Wireless to review invoices involved in a billing dispute.
5. **Comcast Cable Provider:** Mr. Raver made reference to an article in the paper concerning a rate increase with Comcast Cable. Howard County is in the process of installing cable at the Courthouse and Mr. Raver inquired as to whether this increase pertained to the lines for the

Courthouse. Mr. Tribby has not been informed of a rate increase, at this time. Mr. Tribby is still in the process of negotiations concerning construction costs for the television cable lines to be installed at the Courthouse. Mr. Fross was directed by the Board to work with Mr. Tribby concerning the installation of the lines.

IN THE MATTER OF "CODE RED EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM":

Larry Smith, Director of the Emergency Management Agency, introduced Ms. Michelle Edthnington to submit a presentation of Code Red Emergency Communications System. Ms. Edthnington took the floor to make her presentation. "Code Red" is mass notification system, for any emergency, contacting 1,000 residents per minute, 60,000 residential households or cell phones per hour. There is no hardware or software to purchase. The information and service is internet based. Code Red weather warning is also available to contact households ahead of the storm. Citizens already listed in the current 911 database do not have to register for the service. Brand new residential or cell phone numbers will need to be registered on-line. The cost of the Code Red service is \$25,000.00. The Weather warning is an additional \$12,500.00. Automatic updates are included. The service is being used in forty-five (45) states and they are adding about 30 new customers per month. Text messaging and service to cell phones are available and the system will be tested before being used. The equipment used can determine the difference between a live voice and a machine. Automatic call backs are a part of the service. Mr. Smith confirmed that E-911 funds can be used to purchase this service. Being on a "Do Not Call List" does not negate this service. This system works on a bank of minutes. Minutes can be added in ten- percent increments; the weather warning is unlimited minutes. Ms. Edthnington informed the Board that she has made this presentation to the City of Kokomo. At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Bagwell thanked Ms. Edthnington for coming.

IN THE MATTER OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Dr. Zent, Howard County Health Officer presented the following issues for Commissioners' information:

1. **Announce Director's Retirement:** Dr. Zent announced the retirement of director Kristine Conyers. Ms. Conyers joined the Health Department in 1988 and has given twenty years of administrative service to the Health Department. The department has grown to fifteen (15) employees under her leadership and she has proven to be highly skilled and very innovative. Dr. Zent thanked her for her years of service and dedication concerning the health and welfare of the residents of Howard County, and wished her well in her retirement. Ms. Conyers received a standing ovation. The Board of Commissioners is invited to attend a reception given in her honor on Friday, March 7th, at 12:30.
2. **Introduce New Director:** Dr. Zent introduced Mr. David Seedam, Vice Chairman of the Board of Health, and then proceeded to review the selection process to the Board of Commissioners. He then introduced the new Health Department Director, Mr. Kent Weaver. Mr. Weaver was welcomed with a round of applause.

President Bagwell welcomed Mr. Weaver and spoke words of appreciation to Ms. Conyers for her twenty years of service to Howard County. Mr. Weaver has "small shoes to fill, but they're big shoes".

IN THE MATTER OF CITIZENS IN SUPPORT OF HOWARD HAVEN:

Rev. Ruth Lawson, Executive Director of Coordinated Assistance Ministries, Inc. (CAM) was in attendance to submit a letter to the Howard County Commissioners concerning Howard Haven, County Home. The letter was in support of Howard Haven, listing its accomplishments and service to Howard County. The present and past directors were commended for their accomplishments. The letter expressed concerns with "Rumors of 'privatizing' give the appearance of the County 'washing their hands' of our most needy citizens". Also of concern was the Home leaving the County's budget. "We as taxpayers believe it's our responsibility and duty and privilege to provide a facility for those who in their younger years made a valuable contribution to society."

Commissioner Trine, who is the Board liaison for Howard Haven responded to Rev. Lawson, assuring her that there have been no discussions, to this point, of closing the Home. The rumors may have started as a result of Mr.

Trine speaking to Howard Regional Hospital Board Member, David Shearer, concerning how to provide better services to the residents without jeopardizing the welfare of the taxpayers.

Paul Sutherland, Board Member of CAM: He asked Mr. Trine, directly, "Are you saying, Dave, that you are not looking into privatizing it?" Commissioner Trine gave further response. Mr. Sutherland also serves as Chaplain for the Guardian Angel Hospice. He spends 80% - 90% of his time in nursing homes. He challenged the Board members to visit nursing homes and other nursing facilities. They will see a big difference in the care of people when money is the bottom line. He commended both Kelly Spidell, the present superintendent, and Tom Tolen, past superintendent.

Mr. Bagwell thanked Rev. Lawson and Pastor Sutherland for coming. He would like to address the appointment of the Superintendent at this time. Discussion ensued concerning the statute regarding the length of the appointment term. Attorney Murrell observed that the term "privatizing" has many meanings. The Board is examining possible ways to better operate Howard Haven. It is not considering "washing its hands" of Howard Haven. Mr. Trine made the following motion that pursuant to IC 12-30-2-1, the Board hereby reappoints Kelly Spidell as Superintendent of Howard Haven for a four-year term effective and commencing on March 1, 2008. Provided, however, should this Board determine, in its sole discretion, that it is in the best interests of the Howard County taxpayers and Howard Haven residents to restructure the operation and/or management of Howard Haven, the Board in its further discretion may terminate this appointment upon sixty (60) days prior written notice to Kelly Spidell. The motion was seconded by Mr. Raver and carried.

Mr. Trine spoke to Mr. Fross about cleanup of the basement at Howard Haven. Upon Mr. Trine's directive, Ms. Spidell will inventory the contents before disposal. Attorney Murrell commended Mr. Trine for his work with Howard Haven, as well as Mr. Raver, before him. It exhibits the level of interest and dedication the Board of Commissioners have toward the County Home.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:

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

1. **Commissioner Salary Claims:** The Salary, hourly and overtime claims payable March 7 and 14, 2008, in the amount of \$337,929.59 each were approved on a motion made by Mr. Trine and seconded by Mr. Raver.
2. **Commissioner Operating Claims:** Operating Claims payable March 3, 2008, in the amount of \$319,160.12, were submitted. Of that amount, \$94,622.40 is being paid from County General and \$118,582.61 is being paid from the new Jail COIT funds, which are also coming out of County General, at this time. Ms. Wells was in question concerning two claims submitted by the Community Based Drug Free Program. That program does not have a director, according to word received by Ms. Wells. The former director signed the two claims submitted, but Ms. Wells has not received confirmation of her authority to do so. LCC Board Member Steve Maus was in attendance and informed the Commissioners that as of the most recent meeting, last Tuesday, Ms. Snow was not acting Director, and he does not know who was appointed as acting director at this time. At the conclusion of discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Raver to approve the operating claims with the exception of the two claims submitted by the Community Drug Free Program until such a time as the acting director position is verified. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trine and carried.
3. **INDOT Meeting Room Request:** Ms. Wells informed the Board that INDOT is holding a meeting on March 12, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., in the Commissioners' Hearing Room. These meetings are regarding field checks for the US 31 Freeway project.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY ISSUES:

County Attorney Larry Murrell informed the Board of Commissioners that he is working with Attorneys Brian Oaks, Corbin King and John Mays, as well as Judge Lynn Murray, on the legal issues in reference to Pandemic preparedness for Howard County. There will be a tabletop exercise, sponsored by the State Board of Health and

Purdue University, this Thursday afternoon. Mr. Murrell issued an invitation to the Board of Commissioners. He will continue to keep the Commissioners updated.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

1. **EMA Building Reconstruction Bids:** The Board is in receipt of revised site drawings for the potential rebuilding of the EMA building at its original site. They are ready for release for the bidding process, for the purposes of receiving actual costs. The north building is an optional alternative. At the conclusion of ensuing discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Raver, seconded by Mr. Trine and carried to authorize the invitation to bid on the reconstruction of the EMA building, with bids to be received no later than 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 26, 2008. A Special Called meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on March 26, 2008 for the purposes of receiving and opening the bids for the EMA Reconstruction. Mr. Murrell confirmed there is nothing in writing concerning the costs of using the City owned former compost building for an Emergency Management Agency site.
2. **Revisit The Emergency Medical Transport Boundaries:** Commissioner Trine would like to request that the Advanced Life Support System transport routes be revisited. A motion was made by Mr. Raver, seconded by Mr. Trine and carried to invite Howard Regional Hospital, St. Joseph Hospital and Burlington Fire Department transport representatives to the Regular Commissioner meeting dated April 7, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. for purposes of discussing the current transport routes for Howard County. Mr. Raver will contact both hospitals as well as Burlington Fire Department.
3. **Weights & Measures Monthly Report:** The Weights and Measures report for the month ending February 15, 2008 was accepted on a motion made by Mr. Raver and seconded by Mr. Trine.

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

Howard County Board of Commissioners Meeting March 3, 2008