

## **HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING JANUARY 20, 2009**

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in Hearing Room No. 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Dave Trine, Vice President William Thompson and Member Tyler Moore. 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 Trine.

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

The minutes of the December 29, 2008 Regular Meeting were submitted for review on January 5, 2009. The minutes were approved on a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore. The minutes of the January 5, 2009 meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore. The minutes of the Executive Session held January 13, 2009 and the minutes of the Administrative Meeting held January 13, 2009 were submitted and will be addressed later in the meeting.

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

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

1. **Road Salt Information:** Currently the barn used for salt storage is full. Mr. Cain tries to keep on a weekly schedule for salt pick-up. He is receiving salt from supplies in Port of Indiana, of which there are sixty (60) tons still available, and Cincinnati, of which there are four hundred thirty-two (432) tons left. It costs about \$9.80 per ton for the salt in Port of Indiana and about \$11.00 per ton in Cincinnati.
2. **EMA Reconstruction Project:** Several construction issues were settled at last Friday's meeting. One issue to be addressed when the weather is warmer is the cost of the asphalt. The Highway Department can do all the grading and hauling of the asphalt. Mr. Cain will address that issue at a later date. Currently, mudding of the drywall is progressing and some painting is being done. Mr. Cain hopes to be able to park some of the EMA vehicles in the building by the end of the month. The heat is not hooked up yet. Commissioner Thompson asked concerning the wall water-proofing changes and the additional number of oil lines. Those changes are to be e-mailed to Mr. Cain and Mr. Thompson. Mr. Cain will check into those issues. Mr. Tribby informed Mr. Cain that there will be someone out this morning to begin installing communication lines to the new EMA building, for computer and wireless capabilities.

### **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 two hundred ninety-four (294), with forty-seven (47) being females. Twenty-three (23) inmates were moved to the Department of Corrections last week and eleven to thirteen inmates will be transported this week.
2. **Complaints Of Radio Interference:** Sheriff Talbert has received several complaints from the Sheriff's Deputies concerning radio interference. Sheriff Talbert has not personally experienced the interference but is aware that it is happening. E911 Coordinator Nick Capozzoli took the floor to give additional information. When he spoke with Integrity Communications they informed Mr. Capozzoli that it could possibly be a broken antennae that is putting out too high of a frequency, so it's "stepping" on our frequency. They do not know where it is coming from so the next step is to bring in the FCC and use their equipment to locate the interference. That interference is hindering the portable and patrol vehicle radios from transmitting information to dispatch. The interference seems to be centered in the Alto Road, Kingston Green, Albright area, but there have been reports in other locations as well. This problem did not occur during the Sprint/Nextel Rebanding project so he does not know if it is associated with the rebanding project. The problem was noticeable after a lightning strike about three weeks ago. Sprint/Nextel has been notified and will continue to be in communication until the close of the rebanding project. Commissioner Thompson asked Sheriff Talbert if the Deputies had back-up cell phones, in case of an emergency. There are no department issued cell phones for the Deputies at this time. Some

deputies do have their own personal cell phone or pagers, but not all. The Department would need twenty-five (25) cell phones. Disposable cell phones could be a possibility. Sheriff Talbert will review this situation.

3. **Bereaved Employee:** Head Matron Loretta (Ree) Moon's father passed away last week, with the funeral being on Monday. Ree and her family will be remembered.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF PLAN COMMISSION ISSUES:**

Plan Commission Director Glen Boise has no plats or Ordinances to submit for today but did proceed with other matters concerning the Plan Commission as follows:

1. **Flood Mitigation:** The contract for the Flood Mitigation Grant is to be at the State Attorney's office for their approval so we continue to wait for the chain of signatures (*please refer to page four, Item two, "In The Matter Of Plan Commission Issues" of the Regular Meeting minutes dated January 5, 2009*).
2. **Highway 31 Corridors Plans:** Encumbrance forms for the local match fund have been misplaced. Mr. Boise has petitioned the City Controller and the County Auditor to initiate the proper paperwork needed to re-appropriate the funds for the year 2009.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT ISSUES:**

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

1. **New Intern:** Ms. McKillip introduced Ms. Megan Brown, an intern from Indiana University, Kokomo. Ms. Brown will graduate from IUK in May with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resources and Management, and is also in the Air Force Reserves. This is the sixth year that the Personnel Office has used interns from IUK and Ms. Brown is the fourteenth intern. Her required term is one hundred twenty (120) days. Ms. Brown expressed appreciation to the Board for the opportunity to intern in the Personnel Office.
2. **Family Medical Leave Act Revisions:** Ms. McKillip is still in the process of reviewing the new regulations that are a part of the Family Medical Leave Act. She believes these new regulations will benefit the employer. The employer can now contact physicians directly, and has five days to respond to the employee after notification is received. Another new regulation is that job descriptions have to be sent to the physician. Those job descriptions will need to be reviewed and updated regularly. At the completion of her review of the revisions, Ms. McKillip will bring Employee Handbook changes to the Board in February, for their approval.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT:**

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

1. **Comcast Cable:** The lines that had been serviced by Insight Communications will now be serviced by Comcast Cable. This will result in a substantial decrease from \$239.00 monthly to \$101.00 monthly. Comcast originally asked for a three year contract. Because technology changes so quickly, Mr. Tribby has negotiated a yearly contract, based on the same format as the annual contract at the Kinsey Youth Center. Mr. Tribby is in direct contact with the supervisors and technicians in the event of any downtime in the system when problems occur. The contract must be approved and signed by January 21, 2009 in order to receive the special discount of a one-year contract. A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to approve the annual contract with Comcast Cable subject to Mr. Murrell and Mr. Tribby's review, and authorize President Trine to sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Moore thanked Mr. Tribby for his efforts in this situation.
2. **Server Replacement:** The maximum number of years for a warranty on a server is five (5). The server at the Criminal Justice Center was replaced in 2008. A new server for the Recorder was ordered in 2008 and will be installed in February. The Tax Server and the GIS Server will need to be replaced. The

Statewide Seamless Map Project offers an opportunity for a \$14,000.00 grant if we are able to configure and port all our data and information to them on a periodic basis. Our GIS vendor has already worked with other Counties who are taking advantage of the grant and knows how to fulfill the grant obligations. Mr. Tribby would like to take advantage of the grant in order to help with the purchase of the GIS server. Mr. Tribby has already spoken to EMA Director Larry Smith because this grant comes through the Homeland Security Office. Mr. Tribby hopes to have all paperwork done for the grant, and present it to the Board in the February Meeting. Auditor Wells offered Plat Book fund money to help purchase monitors and hard drives for her two employees who work with the GIS program. Commissioner Thompson asked concerning off-site storage service companies, instead of our own servers. Mr. Tribby responded that he has done some research into those kinds of companies. Howard County has massive amounts of data to be stored and currently he has a disk server back up system. It would be cost prohibitive at this time, and he believes it is best for the County to be able to service our systems ourselves, in a much more timely fashion. He will continue to monitor the situation. Currently the Recorder employs a company to help with data storage, plus our own back-up system.

3. **County Wireless Network System:** The County has installed and maintained the Wireless Network with the help of Grant money. All the Public Service Agencies worked to put the program together. Because the County was the sponsoring agent it is essentially considered the County's network, but is really the Public Safety Network that every one of those agencies takes advantage of (fire, police, dispatch, etc). Currently all expenses for maintenance of this system are being paid by the County through the Information Systems Department. Mr. Tribby has been talking with Mike Huffman, the City's IT Department Director, about the possibility of the City being able to take some responsibility to help fund the wireless system. The County is currently paying \$15,000.00 for maintenance contracts. Mr. Huffman agrees that the system is a Public Service Agency network and is looking into this issue. Commissioner Thompson and Commissioner Moore asked that the "Network" information and communications with Mr. Huffman be forwarded to them.
4. **Video Arraignment Project At Howard Regional:** Mr. Tribby's department has been working with the Criminal Justice Center, Howard Regional Hospital, the vendor, and the Public Defender's Office to complete the Video Arraignment Project (*please refer to page three, item six, "In The Matter Of Information Systems Department" of the Regular Meeting minutes dated October 6, 2008*). He plans to have the project completed by the end of this week.
5. **Maintenance Contracts:** Maintenance Contracts are the biggest portion of the Information Systems Department budget. Several years ago software contracts for the individual offices were moved together in the Information Systems Budget so they could be monitored and administered. Both Mr. Tribby and County Attorney Murrell carefully review the contracts. Mr. Tribby is drafting a letter to the maintenance vendors explaining the situation that the County is in, and that if there is a fund shortfall, some of these contracts will not be renewed. He will ask them to consider reducing their contract by 5%. Mr. Tribby will ask the Board of Commissioners and the County Council to sign the vendor letters, also.

*The Regular Meeting was recessed at 9:27 a.m. in order to hold a previously scheduled Board Of Finance Meeting.*

*The Regular Commissioner Meeting reconvened at 9:35 a.m.*

#### **IN THE MATTER OF STORMWATER DISTRICT BOARD DETERMINATION #2008-1:**

MS4 Coordinator Greg Lake submitted Stormwater District Board Determination #2008-1, designating the Stormwater user fee. The user fee determination was recommended by the Stormwater District Board, to be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners and the County Council for their approval. This process must be completed in February so that it can be placed on the Spring tax statements. At the conclusion of ensuing discussion a motion was made by Mr. Thompson to table the MS4 Stormwater District Board Determination #2008-1 until February 2, 2009, giving the County Council an opportunity to hear and address the Determination. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried. A Stormwater District Board Meeting will be called for February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF THE KITTY RUN WATERSHED RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT:**

Greg Lake reported to the Board of Commissioners that about five years ago the Surveyor's Office put into plan a reconstruction project for the Kitty Run Watershed. Currently there is a construction moratorium on this watershed because of poor drainage and flooding problems. The proposed amount for the reconstruction is about \$1.5 million dollars and was not cost effective for the Surveyor's Office and the Drainage Board to undertake. Last week an opportunity was presented to construct a huge retention basin with three structures and seeding for erosion control, with little cost to the County, as the first phase of the reconstruction project. Mr. Lake made a request for \$150,000.00 from the EDIT Fund to begin this project. Completion of this phase of the project would open the southwest side of Kokomo for development. Currently there are three projects on hold since 2005. There are 1700 acres along Dixon Road from Boulevard to Alto that could be affected and it would raise property values. Kitty Run is a regulated drain and under the authority of the Drainage Board, even if this area were annexed into the City. Mr. Lake informed the Board that some of the \$150,000.00 request could be partially offset by MS4 fees. A challenge for this project is the fact that the opportunity has come very quickly; they would like to break ground by March 1<sup>st</sup>. If this request is permitted the Capital Improvement Plan would need to be amended, and the Council would need to appropriate. In the interest of moving the project forward in a timely manner it was suggested that a Special Session be held the night of the Council Meeting on January 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to call a Special Commissioner Meeting for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2009. By a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore the motion was amended to reflect that the Board of Commissioners will be in Special Session at each Regular Council Meeting.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE 2009-BCCO-02:**

Veterans Service Officer Robert Ladd addressed the Board of Commissioners by first expressing appreciation to Auditor Wells for the service given to the citizens of Howard County by her employees during the recent Circuit Breaker Over 65 deduction filings. Mr. Ladd received a phone call from a Veteran that had applied for the deduction, and praised the services received from Second Deputy Kay Smith. Ms. Smith took the time to talk to this Veteran with simple words of appreciation to him, for his service to our country. Those words meant a great deal to that World War II veteran.

Mr. Ladd continued to submit Ordinance No. 2009-BCCO-02 in response to the 5% budget decrease requested by the County Council. After reviewing his 2009 Budget, if he is mandated to decrease the budget, he feels his only option is to decrease the Veteran burial allowance from \$100.00 to \$50.00. This would not include the placement of the marker; that would remain at \$100.00. He has also spoken with the seventeen Veterans organizations, asking them to re-use as many flags as possible to help save money. Mr. Ladd continued to say that without the Veteran's organizations and their donations, his office would not be able to operate efficiently. Commissioner Trine informed Mr. Ladd that it was the consensus of the Board to make up the money some other way – they do not want to take money from the Veterans. Mr. Thompson made a motion to reject Ordinance No. 2009-BCCO-02, allowing the Veteran Burial Allowance to remain at \$100.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried. Mr. Trine continued to assure Mr. Ladd that it was a 2009 goal of the Board to help find a better space to house the Veterans Service Office.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACT:**

Commissioner Thompson re-submitted the Animal Control Contract (*please refer to page eight, item two, "In The Matter Of County Attorney Issues" of the Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 5, 2009*). Because the Board of Commissioners is looking into all areas to help decrease the budget as requested by the County Council, the Commissioners met with the Humane Society to understand exactly what services the Society provides and what their monetary needs are to provide those services. They also discussed the City's desire to make building changes in the future. As a result of that meeting, Mr. Thompson brings a new contract for Animal Control and Shelter Services, in the amount of \$177,000.00, a decrease by \$3,000.00 from the original request of \$180,000.00. Because the Shelter has been operating without an approved contract and were expecting to receive payment at the beginning of the year, they asked for a check as quickly as possible. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to approve the contract for Animal Control and Shelter with the Humane Society in the amount of \$177,000.00, and to declare the claim an emergency claim to be paid today, and advertised on the next Operating Claim docket. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried. Attorney Murrell will forward the signed contract on to the Humane Society.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF THE MAIL PRESORTING SERVICES AGREEMENT:**

At the January 5<sup>th</sup> Commissioner meeting, the Board of Commissioners directed Auditor Wells to contact the courts to apprise them of the current postage situation and possible options (*please refer to page two, "In The Matter Of Bona*

*Vista's Box Shop Proposal" of the Regular Meeting Minutes dated December 29, 2008, and page seven, "In The Matter Of A Question Concerning Postage For The Courthouse", of the Regular Meeting minutes dated January 5, 2009).* An amended Contract for Mail Presorting Services Agreement was submitted for service to the Sheriff's Department only. The contract contained verbiage allowing either party to terminate the agreement with thirty (30) days written notice. Payments will be made from the Sheriff's Commissary, to be reimbursed from County General funds through the regular claims process. A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to approve the Mail Presorting Services Agreement with the Box Store for the Sheriff's Department. The payment schedule will be within a net of ten (10) days to be paid from the Sheriff's Commissary Fund and reimbursed by County General.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF THE FLU VACCINE ORDER:**

Public Health Nurse Coordinator Karen Long presented a request to order flu vaccine that is given free of charge to Howard County employees and their families. She suggested increasing the order from four hundred doses (400) to four hundred forty doses (440). The price of the vaccine has decreased from \$10.43 per dose to \$9.95 per dose. In 2008 we paid \$4,174.00 for 400 hundred doses. At the new rate we can order 440 doses for \$3,980.00. She feels there is a need to increase the dosage amount because in 2008 every dose was used and there was nothing left for the additional calls that had been received from county employees. Ms. Long believes they will use all of the 440 doses, if approved. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to approve the flu vaccine order at 440 doses, in the amount of \$3,980.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT ORDINANCES:**

Health Department Director Kent Weaver submitted Ordinance No. 2009-BCCO-3 for Board consideration. This ordinance allows the Howard County Health Department to establish and collect fees for services provided by the Health Department. Those fees include the following:

- Vital Records – Birth, Death certificates; corrections; paternities; legitimations; genealogy searches; pouches
- Food Permits – Menu I – V
- Swimming Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs – Annual per pool, annual per pool & spa, seasonal pool
- Animal Heads Shipment
- Septic Systems – permit; new construction; replacement; repair; site visit; installers/homeowners test fee; license
- Public Health Nursing – immunizations; TB skin tests; international shot booklets

This Ordinance proposes fee increases for some of the Vital Records fees and the Public Health Nursing fees. Food permits will be revised at a later date.

Mr. Weaver also submitted Ordinance No. 2009-BCCO-4, concerning Tattoo Establishment fees. Mr. Weaver has not yet met with tattoo artists and establishment owners concerning this Ordinance, and there has been no previous tattoo fee schedule.

On Mr. Thompson's belief that the ordinances should not be addressed until after meeting with the establishments that are affected, a motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to table Ordinance No. 2009-BCCO-3 and Ordinance 2009-BCCO-4, allowing for field review by the Board of Commissioners.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT:**

At this time the Board of Commissioners gave an opportunity for Public Comment. There being no comment at this time, the meeting continued with the next item on the agenda.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:**

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

1. **Minutes Of The Executive And Administrative Meetings:** Minutes of the Executive Session held on January 13, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. and minutes of the Administrative Meeting held on January 13, 2009 at 4:00 p.m., having been previously submitted and reviewed, were both approved on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

2. **Salary Claims:** Salary, hourly and overtime claims payable January 23 and 30, 2009, in the amount of \$349,982.56 each, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore.
3. **Operating Claims:** Commissioners Operating Claims payable today, January 20, 2009, in the amount of \$359,325.59 were submitted. Ms. Wells informed the Commissioners that the claims payable today were paid by 2008 budgeted money that are encumbered to the 2009 budget. The claims were approved for payment on a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore.
4. **Declaring An Emergency Claim:** Ms. Wells submitted a claim from the County Assessors Office for a Winter Conference, in the amount of \$540.00. Ms. Wells asked that this be deemed an Emergency Claim, signed by Commissioner Trine, payable today to take advantage of the savings of money upon early payment. A motion was made by Mr. Moore to deem this claim an Emergency Claim, in the amount of \$540.00 and authorize the Auditor to make the check payable today, and advertise on the February 2<sup>nd</sup> docket. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.
5. **Covered Bridge Certification:** Ms. Wells submitted a Covered Bridge Certification that requires the signatures of the Board of Commissioners. They are certifying that there are -0- number of covered bridges in Howard County.
6. **Clerk's Report:** The Monthly Clerk's Report for the month ending December 31, 2008, was accepted on a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Monthly Report for the month ending December 31, 2008, was accepted on a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore.
8. **Thank You:** Ms. Wells expressed appreciation to the Sheriff's Department for providing water and guidance, the Maintenance Department for providing extra chairs, and the Emergency Management Agency for providing volunteers to help with crowd control during the last few weeks as citizens over sixty-five were at the Auditor's Office to file for the Circuit Breaker Over 65 deduction. The Auditor's Office filed about 2,500 deductions in a period of eight days. Additional help was also received by the County and Center Township Offices, the Recorder's Office and the Treasurer's Office. The employees who took the deductions stayed after hours until all those in line had been serviced, each day. Mr. Thompson thanked Auditor Wells and her employees for their dedication and hard work. Assessor Jamie Shepherd even received many compliments, in her office, concerning the deduction process and the good treatment given by the Auditor's employees.

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

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

1. **Barnes & Thornburg Invoice:** An invoice from Barnes & Thornburg was submitted, in the amount of \$615.00, for services rendered in connection with Delphi Bankruptcy Matters. The invoice was approved on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.
2. **Outside Counsel Request:** Mr. Murrell requested authorization to employ the services of Mr. Jim Austen to assist the Sheriff's Department in a personnel issue. He is a specialist in areas concerned with the Merit Board. The Sheriff's Commissary and County General will share the costs not to exceed \$4,000.00. A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to approve the request to employ Attorney Jim Austen, from Logansport, Indiana, in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00.
3. **Amendment To Frequency Reconfiguration Agreement:** The "Fourth Amendment" to the Sprint/Nextel Rebanding Project's Reconfiguration Agreement was submitted for the Board's approval. The amendment includes additional charges from Integrity Communications that had been previously approved on a Change Order. Mr. Murrell and the law firm of Keller and Heckman have reviewed the amendment and find it in order. A motion was made by Mr. Moore to approve the Fourth Amendment and the Certified Request, and to authorize the President to sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.

4. **Proposed Rules For Scheduling And Conduct:** This document outlines the rules for scheduling and conducting the five different categories of Commissioner meetings as allowed by Indiana Code 36-2-4-10. Mr. Murrell addressed the change in meeting schedule for the Regular meeting held the first Monday of the month. It will be held at 4:00 p.m. and the Regular meeting held on the third Monday of the month will begin at 8:30 a.m. President Trine commented that the change in time is made to give the public a better opportunity to attend the meetings and voice their opinions or concerns. The Proposed Rules for Scheduling and Conduct was approved on a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore.
5. **New London Conservancy District Acquisition:** This acquisition by the Town of Russiaville is progressing and it is expected to be finished by the end of January. The Town of Russiaville will hold a town meeting to inform residents of the acquisition, and matters related to the Conservancy District.

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

1. **Appointments Tabled From The January 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** Commissioner Thompson commented that any changes made in appointments by the Board of Commissioners are done with the motivation of "what is best for the County". Many issues are taken into consideration and at times the final decision is very difficult to make. The Board of Commissioners addressed the tabled appointments as follows:
  - a. **Buildings & Grounds Superintendent:** A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to appoint Mr. Scott Reed as the Buildings & Grounds Superintendent to begin February 1, 2009. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore, to allow for discussion, and carried.
  - b. **Howard County Reassessment Board Of Appeals:** At the January 5<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting the Board of Commissioners appointed Mr. William Jones and Mr. William Sahm to the Howard County Reassessment Board of Appeals for a term of one year (*please refer to page two, item sixteen, "In The Matter Of Board Of Commissioner Appointments" of the Regular Meeting minutes dated January 5, 2009*). County Assessor Jamie Shepherd explained to the Board that there may be legislative changes pertaining to the Reassessment Board of Appeals later in the year. Until that time she has scheduled appeals that need to be heard, so she would suggest the Commissioners approve the reappointments subject to legislative dictates. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Moore and carried to amend the reappointments of William Sahm and William Sandy for one year subject to any change that might be made by the Legislature.
  - c. **Automotive Heritage Museum:** A motion was made by Mr. Moore to appoint Michelle Martin to the Automotive Heritage Museum upon the recommendation of the CVB Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried.
  - d. **Convention & Visitors Bureau:** A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to appoint Christa Tharp and Rick Hogg to the Convention and Visitors Bureau.
  - e. **Emergency Management Advisory Council:** Mr. Steve Laudenschlager was reappointed to the Emergency Management Advisory Board on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.
  - f. **Alcoholic Beverage Commission:** A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to reappoint Beth Harshman to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission.
  - g. **Board of Zoning Appeals:** Max Custer was reappointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.
  - h. **Howard County Plan Commission:** At the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board of Commissioners appointed Mr. Andy Castner to the Howard County Plan Commission (*please refer to page two, item nine, "In The Matter Of Board Of Commissioner Appointments", of the Regular meeting dated January 5, 2009*). Because Mr. Castner does live within the city limits of Kokomo, he cannot serve on the Plan Commission Board as the County's appointment. The appointment was rescinded on a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore. A motion was then

made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to appoint Keith Vannatter to the Howard County Plan Commission.

- i. **Howard Regional Health System Board of Trustees:** A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to appoint Mr. Andy Castner to the Howard Regional Board of Trustees.
2. **Attendance At Meetings:** Commissioner Moore attended both the Chamber of Commerce and the Kokomo Downtown Association Meetings on behalf of the Board. He informed both organizations of the Board's interest in beautification efforts for the Courthouse Square. He and Commissioner Thompson also attended meetings of the Regional Economic Development Groups. Mr. Moore felt the meeting was very productive, and those in attendance had several good ideas.
3. **Comments Expressed By Mr. Thompson:** Mr. Thompson commented that today is a very historical day. In about an hour a new President will be sworn in as the first African – American President in our nation's history. Mr. Thompson realizes that our new President and his staff need our prayers as they lead our country.

Mr. Thompson recognized former Commissioner Brad Bagwell and thanked him for coming.

Mr. Thompson feels that Howard County is "very fortunate to have some outstanding county workers in our County. If it were up to me I would give them an automatic cost of living raise every year, if I could." In response to the 5% decrease requested by the County Council by each department, a motion was made by Mr. Thompson that only the Board of Commissioners takes a 5% decrease in wage as a gesture that we all are hurting but will recover. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore, who expressed similar sentiments. The motion was carried.

4. **Comments By Sheriff Talbert:** Sheriff Talbert took this time to speak in support of Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Art Fross, for the fine job he has done as Superintendent and his concern over Mr. Fross' future employment. Sheriff Talbert continued to list accomplishments of Mr. Fross when he was a Maintenance employee at the Sheriff's Department. He hopes this was not a political appointment.

Commissioner Thompson thanked Sheriff Talbert for his comments and thanked Mr. Fross for his service to Howard County. He assured Sheriff Talbert that this was not a politically based decision and that he wished the move did not include a pay decrease for Mr. Fross. He hopes Mr. Fross will continue to be a County employee.

President Trine commented that as a new Board of Commissioners, they have tried to put each Commissioner into categories of expertise. Mr. Thompson was given the task to undertake issues pertaining to personnel, which would include certain appointments. Mr. Trine will not micro manage the process.

Commissioner Moore thanked Mr. Fross for his service to Howard County and assured him that this was not an easy decision to make and that it was not taken lightly.

5. **Meetings On The State Level:** On December 29, 2008, Mr. Trine met with Commissioners from Tipton County and Miami County at the Kelly Farm Museum in Tipton County. The meeting was beneficial and several issues were discussed. One of the suggestions from that meeting was that as a group, they would try to meet with Governor Daniels and Representative Joe Daniels concerning the abandoned Getrag building on Highway 31 in Tipton County. On January 30<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Trine and Mr. Moore will be meeting with staff members from Mr. Daniel's office, to discuss this issue. At the same time there will be a meeting with Mr. Donnelly in Elkhart, which Mr. Thompson will attend.
6. **Meeting With Mayor Goodnight:** Recently Mr. Trine met with Mayor Goodnight concerning issues related to the Kokomo / Howard County Public Library, the YMCA, Button Motors building, and the railroad depot. He believes it's important to try to revitalize all of the downtown area and not just a few blocks. Mr. Trine believes the meeting was productive and the Mayor was very responsive to those issues. Mr. Trine also discussed with Mayor Goodnight and Sheriff Talbert the concept of creating more



Inmate Work Crews to do the seasonal work for the City's Parks and Recreation department. It would save local government thousands of dollars.

7. **Comments By Council President Richard Miller:** Mr. Miller came to assure the Board of Commissioners that the Council "has shown great concern" over the 2009 budget. In December, 2008 they passed a motion suggesting that they will come back in January to revisit the 2009 budget. It is the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners to assist the Council in their decision making process. The Council will accept the Board's suggestions and thank them for their assistance.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m. on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

**HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

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DAVID A. TRINE, PRESIDENT

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WILLIAM THOMPSON, VICE PRESIDENT

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TYLER O. MOORE, MEMBER

ATTEST:

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ANN WELLS, AUDITOR

Howard County Board of Commissioners Meeting January 20, 2009