

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING APRIL 22, 2008

The Howard County Council met Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those present included President Richard Miller, Vice President James Papacek and Members Stan Ortman Jeff Stout, Leslie Ellison and Paul Wyman. Also in attendance were County Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Ann Wells.

The meeting was opened by Sheriff Marshall Talbert and conducted by President Miller.

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the March 25, 2008 meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Stout.

IN THE MATTER OF OPENING COMMENTS:

President Miller opened the floor for Council member comments as follows:

1. Councilman Wyman informed the County that the Kokomo Downtown Association's Farmers Market begins in April and will proceed every Saturday morning at the corner of Sycamore and Union Streets.

As the City continues in their plans to annex several areas in Howard County, Mr. Wyman believes that we need to use the information available to try to conclude how the County will be impacted. Chief Deputy Martin reminded the Council that the County will not be losing property tax dollars but will lose the assessed valuation percentage of the COIT and EDIT taxes. Also to be included into those figures should be the upcoming Circuit Breaker and its shortfall.

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2008-HCCO-11 - ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Ordinance No. 2008-HCCO-11 - Additional Appropriations was read in full one time by Auditor Ann Wells and acted upon as follows:

		REQUESTED:	APPROVED:
<u>001</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>		
<u>013</u>	<u>Howard County Circuit Court</u>		
01118.01	Juvenile Referee	\$ 12,335.00	\$ 12,335.00

Circuit Court Judge Lynn Murray informed the Council that this is a joint request by Circuit Court and the Prosecutor's Office. She introduced Prosecutor James Fleming and Deputy Prosecutor Rebecca Vent, who in turn offered the reasons for the request. Each year the Federal government gives the State of Indiana several million dollars which is a bonus for our State's efforts in collecting Child Support. That money is given by the State to various Counties for their collection efforts (about \$25 - \$30,000.00 per year). This money, \$24,669.00 this year, is to be spent for the collection of child support money and it is the Council's choice of how the money is spent. Judge Murray took the podium and explained her proposal. Circuit Court is the only court in Howard County with exclusive Juvenile jurisdiction, including delinquency cases, CHINS cases (Children In Need Of Services) and paternity cases (to resolve in court matters of custody, visitation and child support). The numbers of these kinds of cases have skyrocketed, about 300 new cases every year. Support enforcement is an important part of these cases, using valuable in-court time. Cases can only be monitored every 2 to 3 months. It is the joint opinion between the Prosecutor's Office and Circuit Court that more Court time must be created, bringing offenders to court more often. The funds given by the State can be used to supplement the Juvenile Referee salary. That referee is a part time employee of the Circuit Court, Eric May. His duty is to hear the Juvenile Delinquency cases for Circuit Court, three half days a week. Judge Murray's proposal is to use the State's funds to supplement the referee's salary so that he can work two additional half days a week (total of 5 half days per week). This will be initiated in July for the second half of the year with an increase in salary of \$12,335.00.

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman, seconded by Mr. Stout and carried to approve the request of \$12,335.00 to line item 01118.01, Juvenile Referee.

<u>150</u>	<u>Howard County CCD Fund</u>		
03570.00	Contractual Services	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00

Commissioner Paul Raver informed the Council of this Commissioner approved request from Treasurer Martha Lake. Ms. Lake stepped to the podium to explain the need for the rental of a folding machine and an additional printer needed to print this year's tax statements that include a comparison statement.

A motion was made by Mr. Wyman, seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried to approve the request of \$700.00 to line item 03570.00, Contractual Services.

<u>500</u>	<u>Howard County CREDIT Fund:</u>			
03000.00	Other Services and Charges	\$	700.00	\$ Withdrawn

This request was withdrawn by Commissioner Raver.

<u>001</u>	<u>Howard County MS4</u>			
03000.00	Field Coordinator	\$	10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00

Commissioner Raver explained that this is a house keeping item that should have been addressed several months ago. This request is for the extra salary amount needed for the MS4 Coordinator.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve the request of \$10,000.00 in line item 03000.00, Field Coordinator. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stout and carried.

<u>515</u>	<u>Howard County Sheriff Misdemeanant Fund</u>			
04721.00	Equipment	\$	15,300.00	\$ 15,300.00

Sheriff Talbert explained that \$10,000.00 of this \$15,300.00 request is to purchase new bullet proof vests for Correctional Officers. The remaining \$5,300.00 is for card readers to be installed on the administrative lobby doors, improving the security of the facility. Readers will be purchased from Vigil Corporation.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried to approve the request of \$15,300.00 into line item 04721.00, Equipment.

TOTAL ADDITIONALS ALL FUNDS		\$	39,035.00	\$ 38,335.00
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IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2008-HCCR-07 - TRANSFERS:

Resolution No. 2008-HCCR-07 - Transfers was read in full by Auditor Wells and acted upon as follows:

	TRANSFER FROM:	TO:	AMOUNT REQUESTED:	APPROVED:
<u>001</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>			
<u>006</u>	<u>Howard County Surveyor</u>			
02321.00	Gas, Oil & Lube	03252.00 Garage & Motor Repair	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00

Chief Deputy Surveyor Greg Lake explained that this request is for needed repairs to the Surveyor Office's truck.

A motion was made by Mr. Wyman, seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried to approve the transfer of \$200.00 from 02321.00, Gas, Oil & Lube to 03252.00, Garage & Motor Repair.

<u>011</u>	<u>Center Township Assessor</u>			
01113.00	First Deputy	01117.00 Part Time	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 1,150.00

Auditor Wells read from a request letter from Center Township Assessor, Sheila Pullen, as follows: "I am requesting \$1,150.00 be transferred from salary account 001-011-01113, First Deputy to account 001-011-01117, which is my part time line. I have used my part time money to do the data compliancy and the trending and now it is time to start with the bushiness returns. I have additional in the first deputy line because my deputy is new and is being paid at 95%. I would appreciate your consideration in this matter."

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman to approve the transfer request of \$1,150.00 from line item -1113.00, First Deputy, to 0117.00, part time. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stout and carried.

The following request was added:

<u>034</u>	<u>Adult Probation</u>				
01111.00	Chief Probation Officer	01119.02	Chief Probation Officer	\$ 5,250.00	\$ 5,250.00
01111.00	Chief Probation Officer		Undetermined at this time	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
			Probation Officer / Caseworker		

Chief Probation Officer of Howard County Courts Don Travis explained the transfer requests. Mr. Travis is now the Chief Probation Officer that includes the Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments. The transfer request of \$5,250.00 is to consolidate the salary for the two departments under one Chief. The request of \$5,000.00 is for a caseworker supervisor to be added to the Juvenile Probation Department.

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman, seconded by Mr. Papacek and carried to approve the transfers as submitted.

IN THE MATTER OF SALARY ORDINANCE NO. 2008-HCCO-12 - AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2008:

Salary Ordinance No. 2008-HCCO-12 - Amending Salary Ordinance For 2008 was read in full by Auditor Wells and acted upon as follows:

<u>001</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>		REQUESTED:	APPROVED:
<u>013</u>	<u>Howard County Circuit Court</u>			
01118.01	Juvenile Referee		\$ 59,464.00	\$ 59,464.00
<u>500</u>	<u>Howard County CEDIT</u>			
<u>001</u>	<u>Howard County MS4</u>			
01111.00	Coordinator		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
01113.00	Field Technician		\$ 36,000.00	\$ 36,000.00
01114.00	Clerical Assistant		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,000.00

The request for the addition of the Field Technician salary and the increase in the Clerical Assistant salary was not addressed by salary ordinance at the February meeting when the Additional Appropriations request was approved (*please refer to page two of the Regular Meeting minutes dated February 26, 2008*). As a point of order, President Miller commented that he could not agree with the \$5,000.00 request for line item 01114.00, Clerical Assistant. He would accept an increase to the level of a 2nd deputy. He encouraged the Council Members to consider the lesser request.

Chief Deputy Surveyor Greg Lake clarified that when this request was originally given, it was not with intent to increase the salary of this position above any other clerical position in the office. They only plan on adding \$1,000.00 to the salary.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to amend the Salary Ordinance to read 01118.01, Juvenile Referee from \$12,335.00 to \$59,464.00 and approve 01114.00, Clerical Assistant to \$1,000.00, approving the remainder of the Ordinance as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

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

1. **Pay Phone Service:** A new pay phone vendor has been selected and Sheriff Talbert expressed appreciation to Mr. Murrell for his help with the process. A T & T has agreed to continue to pay the commissions at the current rate until everything is switched over.
2. **Current Nursing Situation:** Nurse Linda Tones-Sardin is returning to Kinsey Youth Center. The Sheriff's Department has received three applications and interviews will begin next week. Sheriff Talbert believes it is time to hire a fourth LPN.

3. **Annual Inspection:** The Annual Inspection will take place at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2008. The Council is invited to the inspection and a luncheon that begins at 11:30 a.m. This will give the Council members the opportunity to see the equipment and the facility.
4. **Inmate Work Crew:** The Inmate Work Crew has been doing trash pickup and lawn mowing in the County.
5. **Software For The Clerical Staff:** Sheriff Talbert would like to purchase software for the Clerical Staff that will assist them with Sheriff Sales and tax warrants, allowing them to retrieve tax warrant information electronically, as well as electronically generating letters for the taxpayer. It has been approved by the State Board of Accounts and the cash book can also be done electronically.
6. **Warrants On-Line:** Warrants will soon be posted to the Website. Sheriff Talbert expressed appreciation to Attorney Murrell for his help in this process. There will be a disclaimer to manually check for the warrant and the site will be updated daily.
7. **Employee Resignations:** The Department will be losing one dispatcher and one jailer, soon. They are waiting to hear about possible job opportunities with the Indiana State Police. They have a one in three chance of being hired.
8. **S.W.A.T. Team Helps Tipton County:** Howard County's SWAT team assisted Tipton County in the removal a methane producer from a residence in Tipton County. Also, an undercover officer worked a joint operation with State Police, taking down illegal gun and drug sellers. These stories were covered by the Kokomo Tribune.
9. **Reward For Information:** WWKI has started a reward fund for information pertaining to the murder of Abby Rethlake. With the Council's approval, Sheriff Talbert would like to donate \$1,000.00 from the Sheriff's Commissary to that reward fund. He reminded the Council that the Commissary funds can be used for any purpose that is approved by the County Council. He understands we can't do this for every case, but he believes because of the publicity this murder of an 18-year-old girl has generated, and the mounting public outcry, this would be a way to send a message that these crimes will not be tolerated. A motion was made by Mr. Wyman, seconded by Mr. Papacek carried to approve the donation of \$1,000.00 to the reward fund from Sheriff Commissary Funds.
10. **Jail Population:** The current jail population is three hundred thirty-seven (337) inmates.

IN THE MATTER OF CENTER TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR CERTIFICATION:

Auditor Ann Wells submitted the following letter to the Howard County Council:

"I, Ann Wells, Auditor of Howard County, certify that Center Township Assessor has responsibility for 23,301 parcels as of January 1, 2008."

Approval of this certification allows Center Township Assessor Sheila Pullen to be an elected official if it goes through a referendum on the November ballot. Center Township is the only Howard County Township that qualifies. This certification was accepted on a motion made by Mr. Ortman and seconded by Mr. Ellison.

At this time, Councilman Jeff Stout sympathy to the family of Tom Harrison, a long time employee of Howard County and Superintendent of the Howard County Buildings and Grounds. He passed away on April 7th.

There being no other business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Stout and seconded by Mr. Papacek.

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL:

RICHARD A. MILLER, PRESIDENT

JAMES T. PAPACEK, VICE PRESIDENT

PAUL G. WYMAN, COUNCILMAN

LESLIE ELLISON, COUNCILMAN

STANLEY ORTMAN, COUNCILMAN

JEFFREY STOUT, COUNCILMAN

JOE PENCEK, COUNCILMAN

ATTEST:

ANN WELLS, AUDITOR

Howard County Council Meeting April 22, 2008