

**NOTICE OF AND AGENDA FOR:**  
**HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING**  
**HOWARD COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER**  
**220 NORTH MAIN STREET, ROOM 338 (3RD FLOOR)**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2023, AT 12:00 P.M.**

- I. Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer
- II. Special Announcements / Recognitions
- III. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes
- IV. Departmental Business & Reports
  - A. *Kinsey Youth Center – Kathy Cates-Cullison*
    - i. Control Panels
- V. New Business
  - A. Commissioner Appointments – Pam Isaac
- VI. Claims & Reports
  - A. Salary Claims
  - B. Payroll Expense
  - C. Operating Claims
  - D. Ratify Claims
  - E. Monthly Reports
  - F. Grants
- VII. County Attorney Issues
- VIII. Commissioner Issues
- IX. Public Comments
- X. Adjourn

R. BRAD BRAY, PRESIDENT  
JACK W. DODD, VICE PRESIDENT  
JEFF S. LIPINSKI, MEMBER

## **HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: DECEMBER 18, 2023**

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, December 18, 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, Commissioner Jeff Lipinski, County Attorney Alan Wilson, and County Auditor Jessica Secrease.

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

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

The minutes of the December 4, 2023, regular meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

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

#### ***Sheriff's Department***

Sheriff Asher presented Deputy Jordan Hicks and Deputy Jeremiah Jackson to be sworn in by Howard County Clerk Debbie Stewart to become Deputies for the Sheriff Department.

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

#### ***Commissioner Appointments***

Projects Manager Pam Isaac presented the Commissioners with the following Commissioner appointments: Danielle Majors for the Howard County Community Corrections Board, Pam Isaac for the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Santos Salinas for the Howard County Plan Commission, Joe Martino for the Howard County Alcohol Beverage Commission, and Stephanie Oden for the Howard County Public Library. Having heard the Commissioner appointments, Commissioner Dodd made a motion to approve the appointments. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### ***Stop-Loss Renewal***

Doug Heath from McGriff Insurance presented the Commissioners with the 2024 stop-loss renewal. Having heard the 2024 plan, Commissioner Dodd approved the 2024 stop-loss Renewal as presented. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **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 December 15, 2023, in the amount of \$972,335.68 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 December 15, 2023, in the amount of \$972,335.68 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

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

#### ***Compensation Study Contract***

County Attorney Alan Wilson presented the compensation study contract with Public Sector Personnel Consultants, Inc. to have Commissioner President Bray's signature ratified. Commissioner President Bray's signature was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER ISSUES:**

***Township Assistance Appeal Hearing Decision***

Commissioner Dodd presented his decision on a Township Assistance Appeal Hearing that was on December 8, 2023, for Kathy Burthay and the Center Township Trustee. Commissioner Dodd made a motion to uphold the denial of the trustee and agrees not to give the aid. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT:**

***Dale Truax, Howard County Veterans' Services Officer:*** Mr. Truax stated his concerns to the Commissioners about the social media posts that have been bashing certain officials in the County over the move of the Veterans' Services Office. He stated that the Council and the Commissioners have never denied him things he needs. He stated that it disturbs him to see how people are characterizing veterans and that it does a disservice to them. He stated that the building is handicap compliant, and they do home visits for veterans who cannot get to the office. Mr. Truax stated that many veterans must go to the second floor to file their deductions in the Auditor's Office. He stated that many other veterans' services offices around the State are very small and hard for veterans to get to. He pointed out that Howard County is blessed to have the space they do. He stated that other departments in the County can utilize the downstairs space and need more space than the Veterans' Services Office does. He stated that if anyone has an issue with this move that they can give him a call. Commissioner Lipinski stated that he was resistant to moving the veteran's office and that he was looking at convenience for the veterans for where the VSO office is currently located. Commissioner Lipinski stated that he still feels that for the veterans who are disabled it is easier for them to access the office on the first floor. He stated that he understands that the county can benefit and grow with the VSO Office moving and appreciates that they will continue to do home visits. Commissioner Lipinski stated that as long as the VSO office continues to accommodate those veterans who have a disability, he is willing to give a little on their office moving to the second floor.

***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 Lipinski.  
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

Howard County Commissioners' Meeting: December 18, 2023