

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: JUNE 19, 2023

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, June 19, 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, Member Jeff Lipinski, County Attorney Alan Wilson, and County Auditor Jessica Secrease.

The meeting was called to order by Major Gary Cook and conducted by President Brad 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 June 5, 2023, regular meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski, Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS & REPORTS:

HOWARD HAVEN

Approval of New Resident

Howard Haven Superintendent Jennifer Brower applied for a new resident to be approved as a private pay. The resident's name is on file in the Auditor's Office. A motion made by Commissioner Lipinski to approve the new resident subject to a 90-day probation period. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:

Update from First City Recovery Center

Daniel Metts from First City Recovery Center presented the Commissioners with an update on how the Center is doing. Drug Free Community of Howard County awarded First City Recovery Center \$60,000.00, and this money has helped them tremendously with helping the citizens of Howard County with their recovery. Matt Hobbs spoke on how First City Recovery Center has helped him with his recovery and has helped cover any cost that has come up during his recovery process. The Commissioners thanked First City Recovery Center for presenting and for their work they do in the community.

STORMWATER DEPARTMENT

Ordinance 2023-BCCO-25

Stormwater District Administrator Greg Lake presented Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-25 for Howard County illicit discharge. Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-25 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

E&B Paving Bid

Highway Superintendent Amber Tolle presented the E&B Paving bid of \$2,649,913.10 for the Howard County's Community Crossing Matching Grant Project 2023-1. Commissioner Dodd made a motion to approve the E&B Paving bid. 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 June 16, 2023, in the amount of \$938,553.66 was submitted and approved on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

2. **Payroll Expenses:** The Commissioners' Payroll Expenses for payment on June 19, 2023, in the amount of \$938,553.66 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
3. **Operating Claims:** The Commissioners' Operating Claims to be paid June 19, 2023, in the amount of \$2,343,339.43 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.
4. **Monthly Reports:** Auditor Jessica Secrease presented the following reports to be received into the record:
 - a. Weights & Measures Report for June 2023

IN THE MATTER OF ATTORNEY ISSUES:

County Attorney Alan Wilson presented the Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-21 to create the Meijer Opioid Settlement Fund. Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-21 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.

County Attorney Alan Wilson presented the Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-22 to create the Martha Burge Drain Reconstruction Fund. Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-22 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Lipinski asked Attorney Wilson if any progress had been made to the Steven's property. Attorney Wilson stated that he is still waiting on the bids to come in.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Resident Brad Semon of 10954 E. 100 S., Greentown, Indiana: Mr. Semon presented the Commissioners with some information about PFOS chemicals. Mr. Semon stated that these chemicals are cancer causing and are known to be used in solar panels. He stated that a fire chief in Greentown has asked for the solar company's material safety data sheets three times and still has not been presented with them. Mr. Semon stated that the EPA is concerned about the PFOS chemicals being in the water and that there are no regulations on these chemicals. Mr. Semon visited Criterion Water Labs to see how much it would cost to get his water tested. The lab stated that they do not have the capability to test for PFOS in the water. He would like an amendment to be made to the current ordinance for well protection as far as testing the water and not for just damages to the well. Commissioner Dodd stated that he contacted the solar company himself and they stated that that PFOS was not in the solar panels and that he wants to look into this more.

Resident Clee Oliver of 5768 W. 00 N.S., Kokomo, Indiana: Mr. Oliver stated that people wouldn't know what chemicals are in most things until they cause issues later and that it is important to look into it now. Mr. Oliver is requesting from this day forward, June 19, 2023, that he receives board packets that are distributed to the Commissioners prior to each meeting. He stated that this includes but is not limited to emails, documents, reports, budget emails, invoices, new and old business requests, fund requests from office holders, ordinances, and resolutions. He would like to receive any documentation related to the Howard County Commissioners before the meeting. He stated that it would be nice if the board packets could be put online for the public to access. Commissioner Dodd stated that Clee will be disappointed in the amount of information that they receive prior to the meeting, but he has no problem getting him the information that he is requesting.

***There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time
the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd.
The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.***

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

R. BRAD BRAY, PRESIDENT

JACK W. DODD, VICE PRESIDENT

JEFF S. LIPINSKI, MEMBER

ATTEST:

JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR

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