

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: FEBRUARY 6, 2023

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, February 6, 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 Sheriff Jerry Asher and conducted by President Brad Bray. The Eagle Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Commissioner Lipinski offered a word of prayer.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of January 17, 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.

Mr. Bray made a motion to recess the Howard County Board of Commissioners Meeting and open the Board of Finance Meeting.

*****The Board of Commissioners' Meeting recessed to initiate the Board of Finance Meeting.*****

BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING:

2021 Pay 2022 Figures

Treasurer Christie Branch presented the Board of Finance Report for 2022. The spring installment collection rate was 95% in the sum of \$50,503,027.82. The fall installment collection rate was 93%, collecting \$49,890,464.29 in tax dollars for a combination of \$100,393,492.11 at over 94% for the 2021 pay 2022 tax year. The revenue from the October 6, 2022 tax sale was \$273,622.48 resulting in 98 parcel tax lien certificates being sold. The inn-keepers tax collections for 2022 were \$1,195,612.98, putting the County up over 16% compared to 2021's collections. The total interest earned in 2022 through our local banks, CD's, and federal agency bonds are \$977,330.02; this is up 358% from 2021 interest.

Investment Policy Changes

The investment policy and the list of approved depositories has changed as of June 7, 2022. When it comes to the verbiage of the policy, everything remains the same except the updated date of approved depositories and the change of the Treasurer's Office's Chief Deputy to Christi Mosier. Christi Mosier took over for the previous Chief Deputy on May 1, 2022. The approved depositories changed with some institutions being added and others being removed from the approved listing. The change does not affect Howard County and the business it does with its already established institutions.

The Election of the Board of Finance Officers

Mr. Dodd made a motion to elect Mr. Lipinski as President of the Board of Finance; Mr. Bray seconded this motion. Mr. Lipinski made a motion to elect Mr. Dodd as Vice President of the Board of Finance; Mr. Bray seconded this motion. Mr. Bray stated that Christie Branch is secretary of the Board of Finance by default.

The minutes of the meeting held on January 18, 2022, and the Board of Finance Meeting reporting figures for 2021, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Mr. Dodd. Mr. Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Mr. Lipinski made a motion to close the Board of Finance Meeting and reopen the Commissioners Meeting. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

*****The Board of Finance Meeting was adjourned, and the Board of Commissioners' Meeting reconvened.*****

IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS & REPORTS:

HOWARD COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE

L&D Mail Masters Service Agreement

Treasurer Christie Branch presented the agreement from L&D Mail Masters. L&D Mail Masters will handle the mailing and printing of tax bills for 2023. The estimated fee for postage will be \$16,800.00 and the estimated cost for printing will be \$11,237.87. The true cost will be determined at a later date. The agreement from L&D Mail Masters was approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

HOWARD COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION

Rezoning & Subdivision

Planning Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline was absent from the meeting.

HOWARD COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

CCMG Design Agreement

Highway Superintendent Amber Tolle presented the agreement for the CCMG Design for County Road 1250 W in the amount of \$96,700.00. This design is needed to build the community crossing project, which would get County Road 1250 W back in service. Commissioner Dodd made a motion to approve the agreement with CCMG in the amount of \$96,700.00 as presented. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:

4C Health Annual Update

Dr. Carrie Cadwell and Lisa Willis-Gidley presented the Commissioners with an annual update on the growth of 4C Health. In 2022, 4C health served 2,960 individuals in Howard County and had 1,186 new admissions. They will be relocating their main office to Peru later this year. They also discussed various programs they are offering throughout the County and hope to expand these programs this year. Commissioner Lipinski praised 4C Health on how well they work with the Kinsey Youth Center in helping at-risk children.

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 January 20, 2023 in the amounts of \$105,900.00 and \$926,838.73 were 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 January 20, 2023, in the amounts of \$926,838.73 and \$25,028.20 were 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 January 20, 2023, in the amount of \$3,393,331.15 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. **Ratify Claims:** Owens & Minor, Inc. in the amount of \$3,106.01 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.
5. **Monthly Reports:** Auditor Jessica Secrease presented the following reports to be received into the record:
 - a. Treasurer's Monthly Report for December 2022

IN THE MATTER OF ATTORNEY ISSUES:

Consolidated Administrative Services Contract

Attorney Alan Wilson presented the Consolidated Administrative Services contract. This company administers County employee benefits. A motion was made by Commissioner Lipinski to approve the Consolidated Administrative Services contract as presented. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

READI Grant Agreement

Attorney Alan Wilson presented a READI Grant Agreement. President Bray has already signed the agreement, but his signature needed to be ratified. President Bray's signature was submitted and ratified as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.

National Opioid Litigation Settlement Agreement

Attorney Alan Wilson presented the National Opioid Litigation Settlement Agreement. The County has already received funds from a similar settlement and the documents presented would opt the county into the new settlement case. The settlement agreement 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:

DLZ Agreement

Commissioner Dodd presented the DLZ Agreement. This agreement will allow DLZ to complete a study at the Howard County Jail. This study will gather data in order to see what the needs of the jail are and if a new jail is needed. This study will last over a period of three to four months and cost \$9,000.00. The DLZ agreement was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bray, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Resident Brad Semon of 10954 E. 100 S., Greentown, Indiana: Mr. Semon stated that he is concerned about his property value being affected if the solar company went bankrupt at the same time he would try to sell his home. He asked who would be responsible for the property values if that situation were to happen. Attorney Alan Wilson stated that it was a complicated legal question, and it depends on what the contract says and what the trustee of the bankruptcy wants to do.

***There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time,
the meeting was adjourned at 4:39 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:

ROBERT B. BRAY, PRESIDENT

JACK W. DODD, VICE PRESIDENT

JEFF S. LIPINSKI, MEMBER

ATTEST:

JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR
Howard County Commissioners' Meeting: February 6, 2023