

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

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

The meeting was called to order by Jordan Buckley and conducted by President Brad Bray. Vice President Dodd led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Commissioner Lipinski offered a word of prayer.

IN THE MATTER OF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & RECONGINTION:

The Commissioners presented the Gilead House with a check of \$72,000.00 from the opioid settlement funding. The Commissioners stated that they have been a fixture in the community and have done great work.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the September 5, 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:

COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

Grant Application Approval

Dustin DeLong requested permission from the Commissioners to seek two grants for Community Supervision. The first grant is from the Indiana Department of Corrections and the second is a renewal of the Addiction Response Grant. The money from these grants help run Community Supervision each year. Commissioner Lipinski made the motion to approve the seeking of the grants. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

RECORDER'S OFFICE

Laredo Agreement

Recorder Torie Kelley submitted the agreements with Apex Clean Energy, Lloyd Hydakhan, JQOL, and Metropolitan Title for the Laredo contracts. The agreements with Apex Clean Energy, Lloyd Hydakhan, JQOL, and Metropolitan Title for the Laredo contracts were approved as submitted on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:

ProPEL US 31 Project

Cassidy Hunter, Dan Miller, and Jonathan Wallis presented the Commissioners with an update on the ProPEL US 31 Study. ProPEL is an INDOT initiative for transportation planning. Cassidy stated that public feedback is crucial in the success of the study and that their team have spent a lot of time throughout the summer in the communities affected by the project. The study spans from 276th Street to just south of the Eel River in Miami County. The study will be completed by the end of 2024. They do have a website that has all the study information on it.

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 September 8, 2023, in the amount of \$945,247.13 was submitted and approved on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
2. **Payroll Expenses:** The Commissioners' Payroll Expenses for payment on September 8, 2023, in the amount of \$945,247.13 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
3. **Operating Claims:** The Commissioners' Operating Claims to be paid September 18, 2023, in the amount of \$1,554,566.63 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.
4. **Ratify Claims:** Auditor Jessica Secrease presented a claim for Sam's Club in the amount of \$50.00 to be ratified. The claim was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.
5. **Monthly Reports:** Auditor Jessica Secrease presented the following reports to be received into the record:
 - i. Treasurer's Monthly Report for July 2023
 - ii. Treasurer's Monthly Report for August 15 – September 15, 2023

IN THE MATTER OF ATTORNEY ISSUES:

Resolution No. 2023-BCCR-20 – Adopting Local Preference Purchasing Policy

Attorney Alan Wilson presented Resolution No. 2023-BCCR-20 – Adopting Local Preference Purchasing Policy. Resolution No. 2023-BCCR-20 – Adopting Local Preference Purchasing Policy was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.

Local Preference Purchasing Policy

Attorney Alan Wilson presented a Local Preference Purchasing Policy. This policy allows the County to give a preference to local businesses. The Local Preference Purchasing Policy was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-40 Establishing A Department of Redevelopment in Howard County, Indiana

Attorney Alan Wilson presented Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-40 – Establishing a Department of Redevelopment in Howard County, Indiana. This will allow the County to redevelop areas that are in need of redevelopment. Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-40 – Establishing a Department of Redevelopment in Howard County, Indiana was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Resident Jerry Paul of 1326 S. Webster St., Kokomo, Indiana: Mr. Paul, who is the president of the Howard County Memorial Corporation, gave an update on the Opha May memorial. They received a press release from Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch endorsing the memorial for Opha May. Mr. Paul requested a donation of \$10,000.00 from the Commissioners to go towards the campaign for the construction of the memorial. They have until November 17th to raise \$50,000.00 for the memorial. Commissioner Dodd asked if the City had committed any money toward the memorial. Mr. Paul stated they have not and wanted the Commissioners to sign off on the project first since it is on the County Courthouse lawn. Commissioner Dodd wanted to make sure that the City is also on board with this memorial. Commissioner Lipinski made a motion to donate \$10,000.00 to the Opha May memorial. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.

Resident Jennifer Workman of 1015 N. Webster St., Kokomo, Indiana: Ms. Workman discussed a matter that happened with her family at the Howard County Veterans’ Services Office. She stated that her family met with Veterans’ Services Officer Dale Truax in December of 2022. Her family wanted to try to get her brother paid to care for her ill mother full-time. The family reached out to Mr. Truax several times since meeting with him and never heard back from him. They finally heard back from Mr. Truax in May of 2023. He stated that he had just then turned in the application for them to get assistance. Her mother passed away on June 10th, which made her brother no longer eligible for financial assistance. Ms. Workman stated that it is unacceptable and that it looks bad on the County. She stated that veterans deserve better.

***There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time
the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 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:

R. BRAD BRAY, PRESIDENT

JACK W. DODD, VICE PRESIDENT

JEFF S. LIPINSKI, MEMBER

ATTEST:

JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR

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