

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 24, 2015**

The Howard County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Richard Miller, Vice President Jim Papacek and members Leslie Ellison, Stan Ortman, Jeff Stout, John Roberts, and Dwight Singer. Also in attendance were County Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Martha Lake.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Steve Rogers and conducted by President Miller. Councilman Stout led in the Pledge of Allegiance and Vice President Papacek gave the following quote from President George Washington before offering a word of prayer: "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly, to implore His protection and favor."

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

The minutes of the January 27, 2015 Regular Session, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Ortman, seconded by Mr. Singer and carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNCIL COMMENT:**

Mr. Miller opened the floor for Council comment:

On behalf of the Delmo Lynch family, Councilman Les Ellison thanked all in County Government and the employees for their cards, letters and condolences to the family, in the passing of Auditor Office employee, Delmo Lynch.

Auditor Martha Lake also expressed appreciation to those who have offered cards and kind thoughts to the Auditor's Office employees. Mr. Lynch will be missed greatly.

**IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2015-HCCO-05 – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:**

Auditor Martha Lake read Ordinance No. 2015-HCCO-05 – Additional Appropriations through one time and it was acted upon as follows:

<b><u>1000</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County General Fund</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>	<b><u>APPROVED:</u></b>
<b><u>013</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Circuit Court</u></b>	<b><u>REQUESTED:</u></b>	
03138.00	Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)	\$ 17,474.53	\$ 17,474.53

Circuit Court Judge Lynn Murray and CASA Director Katina Silver spoke to the request to increase the appropriation to CASA Fund in order to support a new position in the CASA office. The current amount of support to CASA is \$21,160.00. The amount was lowered from \$23,000.00 in about 2008 at the request of the Council, while Howard County was experiencing financial difficulties. It has come to Judge Murray's and Ms. Silver's attention that there is a State Matching Grant for CASA programs and for every dollar appropriated by the Council to the CASA program the State will match dollar per dollar. Judge Murray is asking for a County contribution increase of \$17,474.53 that will be matched by the State, giving CASA \$34,949.06. This money will fund a position for recruitment and training of volunteers. The volunteers are trained to be an advocate for a child in need and Judge Murray is the judge who hears these CHINS cases (Children In Need of Services). There is currently a shortage of Child Advocate volunteers. Ms. Silvers also spoke for the need of this request. The CASA office is staffed by one full-time Director and two part-time staff who oversee the new cases coming in, coordinates with volunteers, recruiting, and training volunteers. These duties exceed the twenty-eight (28) hours the part-time workers can give. An additional position is needed.

Ms. Silvers fielded questions from the Council members and at its conclusion, a motion was made by Mr. Stout to approve the additional request of \$17,474.53 to line item 03138.00, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). The motion was seconded by Mr. Papacek and carried.

<b><u>1175</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Misdemeanant Grant Fund</u></b>		
01115.02	PT Clerical	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
01521.00	FICA	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00

Sheriff Steve Rogers would like to fund the Medical / Clerical part-time position from the Misdemeanant Grant Fund.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve the appropriation request of \$12,000.00 to line item 01115.02, PT Clerical, and \$1,000.00 to line item 01521.00, FICA. The motion was seconded by Mr. Singer and carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF A HOWARD COUNTY RECYCLING DISTRICT UPDATE:**

Howard County Recycling Director Mikki Jeffers reported on the current state of the Recycling District with the Council Members. With the Curbside Recycling Project on hold until the contractor is able to move forward on making his system operational, the Recycling District is not seeing the savings quotas that were originally estimated on the recycling bin pulls. They are still operating at the same level while trying to reduce expenditures, but they are forced to dip into their reserve funds. They are currently in debt to the City of Kokomo for \$200,000.00 to implement the curbside program, to be paid to the City once the program is under way. It is possible that toward the end of this year the Recycling District may need to request additional funds from the County in order to maintain the current level of service.

**IN THE MATTER OF SALARY ORDINANCE NO. 2015-HCCO-06-AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2015:**

Auditor Martha Lake read Salary Ordinance No. 2015-HCCO-06 – Amending Salary Ordinance for 2015 through one time and it was acted upon as follows:

		<b>REQUESTED:</b>	<b>APPROVED:</b>
<b><u>1175</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Misdemeanant Grant Fund</u></b>		
01115.02	PT Clerical	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
01521.00	FICA	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman to approve the Salary Ordinance No. 2015-HCCO-06 – Amending Salary Ordinance for 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stout and carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE 2014 YEAR ROLL-UP:**

Veterans Service Officer Ross Waltemath submitted and reviewed the 2014 Year Roll-up Report with the County Council. He reported increases in the amount of Federal dollars to the County’s veterans; a decrease in the amount of 2014 budget spent; the accreditation of the VSO; a fully functioning Survivor Assistance Program with a contact rate of 90%. Our office is still serving veterans from smaller counties that do not have a full-time VSO office. Mr. Waltemath informed the Council of the goal in 2015 to redesign the Office Space and to initiate a Women Veteran Resource Outreach Day. Mr. Waltemath thanked the Council Members for supporting the Veterans Service Office so well. Howard County has a very positive reputation in the State of Indiana.

Councilman Miller and Councilman Roberts commended Mr. Waltemath and his staff.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT’S 5-YEAR EQUIPMENT PLAN:**

Commissioner Paul Wyman spoke to the Councilmembers concerning the Highway Department’s 5-year plan for the replacement of certain road equipment. The first item to be replaced is a 20-year-old payloader. Replacement cost will be about \$135,000.00. After meeting with the Auditor Office and Council President Richard Miller, the Board of Commissioners has determined that the Cumulative Capital Fund would be able to support the cost in their Vehicle Line Item, and will be submitting an Additional Appropriation request at the March Council meeting. Many of the pieces of equipment marked for replacement are very old and Mr. Wyman commends the Highway Department for their care of the equipment.

*There being no further business to come before the County Council at this time,  
the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m. on a motion made by  
Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried.*

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL:**

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RICHARD H. MILLER, PRESIDENT

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JAMES T. PAPACEK, VICE PRESIDENT

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LESLIE W. ELLISON, MEMBER

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STANLEY E. ORTMAN, MEMBER

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JEFFREY A. STOUT, MEMBER

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JOHN J. ROBERTS, MEMBER

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DWIGHT V. SINGER, MEMBER

ATTEST:

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MARTHA J. LAKE, AUDITOR  
Howard County Council Meeting February 24, 2015