

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AND 2016 BUDGET SESSIONS**  
**AUGUST 25, 26, 27 AND SEPTEMBER 2 & 10, 2015**

The Howard County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 25, 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 present were County Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Martha Lake.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Steve Rogers and conducted by President Miller.

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

The minutes of the July 28, 2015 Regular Meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Ortman, and carried.

At this time Councilman John Roberts led in the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Stout offered a word of prayer.

**IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2015-HCCO-29 – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:**

Auditor Martha Lake read Ordinance No. 2015-HCCO-29 – 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>AMOUNT<br/>REQUESTED:</b> | <b>APPROVED:</b> |
|--------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|
| <b><u>009</u></b>  | <b><u>Howard County Coroner</u></b>      |                              |                  |
| 03263.02           | Med. & Hosp – Autopsy / Lab              | \$ 50,000.00                 | \$ 50,000.00     |

Howard County Coroner Jay Price submitted the request to augment Autopsy and Lab services through the end of the year. This has been a very busy year and to date the Coroner's office has had eighty-seven (87) autopsies compared to fifty-five (55) at this time last year. The local hospitals are also sending autopsies to hospitals in Fort Wayne and Indianapolis without informing the Coroner's office, thus, creating more unplanned costs.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve the request of \$50,000.00 to line item 03263.02, Med & Hosp – Autopsy / Lab. The motion was seconded by Mr. Singer and carried. Councilman Stout abstained from the vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2015-HCCR-17 – TRANSFERS:**

Auditor Martha Lake read Resolution No. 2015-HCCR-17 – Transfers in full one time, and it was acted upon as follows:

|                    | <b>TRANSFER FROM:</b>                                     | <b>TO:</b>                     | <b>AMOUNT:</b> | <b>APPROVED:</b> |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b><u>1120</u></b> | <b><u>Howard County Jail &amp; Juvenile COIT Fund</u></b> |                                |                |                  |
| <b><u>018</u></b>  | <b><u>Howard County Maintenance Dept.</u></b>             |                                |                |                  |
| 03253.01           | Equipment Repair  | 03251.00 Bldg. & Struct Repair | \$ 10,000.00   | \$ 10,000.00     |

Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Bill Stonestreet explained that there are several building repair projects needed at the Criminal Justice Center and there is currently not a line item to address those needed repair projects. There is a painting project and a parking lot project waiting to be addressed before the end of the year.

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman, seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried to approve the transfer request of \$10,000.00 from line item 03253.01, Equipment Repair, to line item 03251.00, Building & Structure Repair, as submitted.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2015-HCCO-22:**

President Miller reminded the Council members that Ordinance No. 2015-HCCO-22, an ordinance of the Howard County Council further amending Ordinance No. 2007-HCCO-12, to increase the Special Jail & Juvenile Detention Center County Option Income Tax, requires a second reading. At this time Mr. Miller opened the floor for council comment or question. There being no comment or question from Council members, Mr. Miller opened the floor for public comment. There being no public comment at this time, a motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve Ordinance No. 2015-HCCO-22 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried.

## **IN THE MATTER OF THE 2016 BUDGET SESSION:**

Mr. Miller opened the floor for comment regarding the 2016 Budget Session as follows:

**Commissioner Paul Wyman:** Mr. Wyman spoke on the financial position of Howard County.

**Councilman Jim Papacek:** Mr. Papacek commented on the quality of the budgets submitted by the departments. He also spoke to the unfunded mandates the county has to deal with.

**Commissioner Tyler Moore:** Mr. Moore echoed sentiments expressed by Mr. Wyman, and then thanked the Council for the diligence shown by the Council members during the budget session process.

**Councilman John Roberts:** Mr. Roberts reminded Council members that at the last meeting the Council was approached by representatives of the City Fire and Police Departments submitting negative issues with the County 911 Dispatch Office. Councilmen Roberts, Stout, and Singer made themselves available for comment and conversation for Dispatch issues. Mr. Roberts contacted several City and County officials, and after speaking with Deputy Fire Chief Hall and Major Arnett, the concerns previously voiced have not materialized. Both Sheriff Steve Rogers and 911 Coordinator Gary Bates are willing to address needed concerns.

**Councilman Stan Ortman:** During conversation at the July meeting, concerning the proposed increase of the Jail and Juvenile COIT Tax rate, a question was asked about the possibility of installing solar power at the Criminal Justice Center and Kinsey Youth Center in order to decrease utility costs. Mr. Ortman reminded the Council that this issue was reviewed about 1 ½ years ago. It was confirmed that, although the usage is high, in those two facilities, the current rate from Duke Energy is low enough that it didn't make sense to find a different power source at this time.

*There being no further business to come before the Council at this time,  
the meeting was recessed at 4:33 p.m., to be reconvened  
on Wednesday, opening the 2016 Budget Session.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*The 2015-2016 Budget Session was reconvened at 8:32 a.m.*

The Howard County Councilmen heard budget justification from Office Holders and Department Heads, observing the following schedule.

|            |          |                                    |   |
|------------|----------|------------------------------------|---|
| 8:32 a.m.  | 1000-044 | Superior Court IV                  | Judge George Hopkins                    |
| 8:45 a.m.  | 1000-008 | Superior Court II                  | Judge Brant Parry                       |
| 9:00 a.m.  | 1000-018 | Buildings & Grounds Superintendent | Bill Stonestreet                        |
|            | 1120-018 | Jail & Juvenile COIT – Maintenance | Bill Stonestreet                        |
|            | 1138     | CCD - Maintenance                  | Bill Stonestreet                        |
| 9:15 a.m.  |          | Convention & Visitor's Bureau      | Mr. Charles Sparks / Ms. Sherri Matlock |
| 9:30 a.m.  |          | Howard County Recycling            | Mikki Jeffers                           |
| 9:45 a.m.  | 1000-001 | County Clerk                       | Kim Wilson                              |
|            | 1000-016 | Election Board                     | Kim Wilson                              |
|            | 1119     | Clerk Document Storage Fees        | Kim Wilson                              |
| 10:00 a.m. | 1000-033 | Superior Court III                 | Judge Doug Tate                         |
| 10:15 a.m. | 1000-009 | County Coroner                     | Jay Price                               |
| 10:30 a.m. | 1000-005 | Sheriff Department                 | Sheriff Steve Rogers                    |
|            | 1120-025 | Jail & Juvenile COIT / Sheriff     | Sheriff Steve Rogers                    |
|            | 4903     | Sheriff Work Program               | Sheriff Steve Rogers                    |
|            | 4908     | County Courthouse Security         | Sheriff Steve Rogers                    |
| 10:45 a.m. | 1222     | Statewide 911 / Howard County      | Coordinator Gary Bates                  |
| 11:00 a.m. | 1000-012 | Prosecutor                         | Mark McCann                             |
|            | 1000-036 | Prosecutor Title IV-D              | Mark McCann                             |
|            | 2511     | Pre-Trial Diversion                | Mark McCann                             |

|      |                                    |             |
|------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 4930 | Howard Co Law Enforcement Fund     | Mark McCann |
| 4905 | Prosecutor / Bad Check / Copy Fund | Mark McCann |
| 8109 | Stop Domestic Violence Grant       | Mark McCann |
| 8112 | Drug Task Force Grant              | Mark McCann |

**--LUNCH AT KINSEY YOUTH CENTER--**

|           |          |                                   |                                      |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1:00 p.m. | 1000-004 | County Recorder                   | Brook Cleaver                        |
|           | 1154     | Enhanced Access Fund              | Brook Cleaver                        |
|           | 1160     | Recorder ID Protection            | Brook Cleaver                        |
|           | 1217     | County Elected Officials Training | Brook Cleaver                        |
| 1:30 p.m. | 1159     | Health Department                 | Kent Weaver                          |
|           | 1168     | Local Health Maintenance          | Kent Weaver                          |
|           | 1206     | Health Dept. Trust Account        | Kent Weaver                          |
|           | 4928     | Tobacco Prevention                | Kent Weaver                          |
|           | 8126     | Public Health Preparedness        | Kent Weaver                          |
| 1:45 p.m. | 1000-020 | County Home – Howard Haven        | Jennifer Brower                      |
| 1:50 p.m. | 1000-029 | Emergency Management              | Janice Hart                          |
|           | 1152     | Sara Title Right-To-Know          | Janice Hart                          |
| 2:00 p.m. | 1000-002 | County Treasurer                  | Ann Wells                            |
| 2:10 p.m. | 1000-023 | County Commissioners              | Paul Wyman / Tyler Moore / Brad Bray |
|           | 1112     | EDIT Fund                         | Paul Wyman / Tyler Moore / Brad Bray |
|           | 1138     | Cumulative Capital Fund           | Paul Wyman / Tyler Moore / Brad Bray |
| 2:25 p.m. | 1000-015 | Veterans Service Office           | Ross Waltemath                       |
| 2:50 p.m. | 1000-022 | County Museum                     | Dave Broman                          |
|           | 1112     | EDIT Museum Operating Expense     | Dave Broman                          |
| 3:10 p.m. | 1000-006 | County Surveyor                   | Dave Duncan                          |
|           | 1202     | Surveyor Perpetuation             | Dave Duncan                          |
|           | 4918     | Kitty Run Bond                    | Greg Lake                            |
|           | 1197     | Stormwater District               | Greg Lake                            |

***The Budget Session was recessed at 3:36 p.m. and reconvened on Thursday,  
August 27, 2015, at 8:30 a.m.***

|            |          |                                       |                                  |
|------------|----------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m.  | 1000-013 | Circuit Court                         | Judge Lynn Murray                |
| 8:50 a.m.  | 1000-034 | Adult Probation                       | Chief Prob Officer Dustin Delong |
|            | 2100     | Adult Probation User Fee              | Dustin Delong                    |
|            | 2000     | Adult Probation Administration        | Dustin Delong                    |
|            | 2150     | Juvenile Probation                    | Dustin Delong                    |
|            | 2501     | Alcohol & Drug User Fees              | Dustin Delong                    |
|            | 2503     | Informal Probation Fees               | Dustin Delong                    |
| 9:05 a.m.  | 1120-035 | Kinsey Youth Center Shelter Care      | Jeff Lipinski                    |
|            | 1120-037 | Kinsey Youth Center Residential Care  | Jeff Lipinski                    |
|            | 1120-038 | Kinsey Youth Center Secure Detention  | Jeff Lipinski                    |
|            | 4913     | KYC FFT                               | Jeff Lipinski                    |
| 9:30 a.m.  | 1212     | CASA                                  | Katina Silver                    |
| 9:50 a.m.  | 1000-014 | Superior Court I                      | Judge Bill Menges                |
|            | 1000-045 | Unified Courts                        | Judge Bill Menges                |
|            | 2512     | Jury Pay Fund User Fee                | Judge Bill Menges                |
|            | 1148     | Drug Free Community                   | Judge Bill Menges                |
| 10:20 a.m. | 1000-031 | Information Systems                   | Terry Tribby                     |
| 10:45 a.m. | 1000-028 | Weights & Measures                    | Gary Gist                        |
| 11:05 a.m. | 1000-007 | County Agent / Extension Office       | Paul Marcellino                  |
| 11:20 a.m. | 1000-030 | Public Defender                       | Steve Raquet                     |
|            | 1200     | Supplemental Public Defender Services | Steve Raquet                     |
| 11:25 a.m. | 1000-021 | County Plan Commission                | Greg Sheline                     |

**-- LUNCH AT THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER --**

|           |          |                                   |   |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1:30 p.m. | 1000-034 | Soil & Water                      | Shane Campbell, representing Brd of Dir |
| 1:40 p.m. | 1176     | Highway Department                | Ted Cain                                |
|           | 1135     | Cumulative Bridge                 | Ted Cain                                |
|           | 1169     | Local Road & Street               | Ted Cain                                |
| 1:55 p.m. | 1000-017 | Voter Registration                | Carol Shallenberger                     |
| 2:00 p.m. | 1000-002 | Auditor                           | Martha Lake                             |
|           | 1181     | Plat Book Fees                    | Martha Lake                             |
|           | 1150     | Auditor Electronic Data           | Martha Lake                             |
|           | 1216     | Auditor Ineligible Homestead Fund | Martha Lake                             |
|           | 1120     | Jail & Juvenile COIT Benefits     | Martha Lake                             |
|           | 1121     | COIT County Distributive Shares   | Martha Lake                             |

*At 2:30 p.m. the Budget Session was recessed until Wednesday, September 2, 2015, at 8:30 a.m.*

\* \* \* \* \*

The continuing Budget Session was reconvened at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 2, 2015. President Miller began the session by opening the floor for Council comment concerning the procedure for the rest of the budget session.

Attendance included President Richard Miller, Vice President Jim Papacek, and members Stan Ortman, Jeff Stout, Les Ellison, John Roberts, and Dwight Singer. Also present were County Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Martha Lake.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF THE GCC BUDGET:**

Ms. Tammy Corn, from the Government Coordinating Council, submitted the 2016 Budget Request and reviewed the budget lines with the Council members.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNCIL NON-BINDING REVIEWS OF TAXING UNITS:**

The Council reviewed the following taxing units and gave the non-binding review:

| <b><u>TAXING UNIT</u></b>      | <b><u>RECOMMENDATION</u></b> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Center Township                | Favorable                    |
| Clay Township                  | Unfavorable                  |
| Eastern Schools                | Favorable                    |
| Ervin Township                 | Unfavorable                  |
| Town of Greentown              | Favorable                    |
| Greentown Library              | Favorable                    |
| Harrison Township              | Favorable                    |
| Honey Creek Township           | Favorable                    |
| Howard Township                | Unfavorable                  |
| Jackson Township               | Unfavorable                  |
| City of Kokomo                 | Favorable                    |
| Kokomo Center School           | Unfavorable                  |
| Kokomo / Howard County Library | Favorable                    |
| Liberty Township               | Unfavorable                  |
| Monroe Township                | Favorable                    |
| Northwestern Schools           | Unfavorable                  |
| Town of Russiaville            | Unfavorable                  |
| Taylor Schools                 | Unfavorable                  |
| Taylor Township                | Unfavorable                  |
| Western Schools                | Unfavorable                  |
| Union Township                 | No Submission                |

***-- LUNCH AT THE COUNTY HOME (HOWARD HAVEN) --***

**IN THE MATTER OF SALARY POSITION INCREASES IN VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE:**

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to increase salaries of the Admin Support Manager position and the Claims Adjuster position in the Veterans Service Office (015-01113.00 & 015-01113.01) to \$28,000.00 each. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2015-HCCO-30 – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:**

Auditor Martha Lake read Ordinance No. 2015-HCCO-30 – Additional Appropriations through one time in full and it was acted upon as follows:

|                                    |   | AMOUNT<br>REQUEST:   | APPROVED:            |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b><u>1120</u></b>                 | <b><u>Howard Co Jail/Juvenile COIT</u></b>      |                      |                      |
| <b><u>025</u></b>                  | <b><u>Howard County Jail</u></b>                |                      |                      |
| 01122.00                           | Overtime Corrections Officers                   | \$ 150,000.00        | \$ 150,000.00        |
| <b><u>1175</u></b>                 | <b><u>Howard Co Misdemeanant Grant Fund</u></b> |                      |                      |
| 04721.00                           | Equipment – Gas Convection Oven                 | \$ 6,718.26          | \$ 6,718.26          |
| <b><u>4903</u></b>                 | <b><u>Howard Co Work Program</u></b>            |                      |                      |
| 03252.00                           | Repair & Maintenance                            | \$ 1,000.00          | \$ 1,000.00          |
| <b>TOTAL ADDITIONALS ALL FUNDS</b> |   | <b>\$ 157,718.26</b> | <b>\$ 157,718.26</b> |

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman to approved Ordinance No. 2015-HCCO-30 – Additional Appropriations as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Singer and carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2015-HCCR-18 – TRANSFERS**

Auditor Martha Lake read Resolution No. 2015-HCCR-18 – Transfers in full one time, and they were acted upon as follows:

|                    | TRANSFER FROM:                            | TRANSFER TO:             | AMOUNT       | ALLOWED      |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b><u>1176</u></b> | <b><u>Howard County Highway Dept.</u></b> |                          |              |              |
| 12110.00           | Truck Drivers                             | 34252.00 Repair Trucks   | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 |
| 11130.03           | Drainage Engineer                         | 11130.02 Design Engineer | \$ 3,000.00  | \$ 3,000.00  |
| 11130.03           | Drainage Engineer                         | 12160.00 Part-Time       | \$ 4,000.00  | \$ 4,000.00  |
| <b><u>4903</u></b> | <b><u>Howard Co Work Program</u></b>      |                          |              |              |
| 03252.00           | Repair & Maintenance                      | 04721.00 Equipment       | \$ 500.00    | \$ 500.00    |

Highway Engineer / Superintendent Ted Cain explained that he has many truck issues that are not being corrected because there are currently not enough funds to cover the needed repairs. The transfer request into the Design Engineer line item is to cover vacation days for the employee who recently resigned, along with training costs of the replacement employee that also came out of that fund. The transfer request into Part-Time is to cover some training duties.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve Resolution No. 2015-HCCR-18 – Transfers as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2015-HCCO-31 – AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2015:**

Ordinance No. 2015-HCCO-31 – Amending Salary Ordinance for 2015 was read through one (1) time by Auditor Martha Lake and acted upon as follows:

|                    |  | AMOUNT<br>REQUESTED: | APPROVED:     |
|--------------------|--|----------------------|---------------|
| <b><u>1120</u></b> | <b><u>Howard Co Jail &amp; Juvenile COIT Fund:</u></b> |                      |               |
| <b><u>025</u></b>  | <b><u>Howard County Sheriff Dept.</u></b>              |                      |               |
| 01122.00           | Overtime Corrections Officers                          | \$ 150,000.00        | \$ 150,000.00 |
| <b><u>1176</u></b> | <b><u>Howard County Highway Department</u></b>         |                      |               |
| 11130.03           | Drainage Engineer                                      | \$ (7,000.00)        | \$ (7,000.00) |
| 11130.02           | Design Engineer  | \$ 3,000.00          | \$ 3,000.00   |

|          |              |                |                |
|----------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 12160.00 | Part Time    | \$ 4,000.00    | \$ 4,000.00    |
| 12110.00 | Truck Driver | \$ (30,000.00) | \$ (30,000.00) |

A motion was made by Mr. Stout to approve Ordinance No. 2015-HCCO-31 – Amending Salary Ordinance for 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF 2016 EMPLOYEE BONUS DISCUSSION:**

The Council members discussed the possibility of, and monetary amount, of an employee bonus for 2016. At its conclusion a motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve an employee bonus for the year 2016, \$750.00 for all full-time employees hired before July 1, 2016, and \$375.00 for all part-time employees hired before July 1, 2016. This bonus would exclude all MANDATED salaries outside of Howard County, and each bonus will be supported in the fund in which the employee is paid from. Elected Officials are included in the employee bonus. The motion was seconded by Mr. Singer and carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SECOND READING OF THE HOWARD COUNTY RECYCLING 2016 BUDGET:**

Recycling Director Mikki Jeffers read the 2016 Budget Request for the second time and it was approved on a motion made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Stout and carried.

*The 2016 Budget Session is recessed at 2:42 p.m. to reconvene on Thursday,  
September 10, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.*

\* \* \* \* \*

The continuing 2016 Budget Session was reconvened at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2015. Those in attendance included President Richard Miller, Vice President Jim Papacek, and members Stan Ortman, Les Ellison, Dwight Singer, John Roberts and Jeff Stout. Also in attendance were County Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Martha Lake.

**IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2015-HCCO-32:**

Auditor Martha Lake submitted and read Ordinance No. 2015-HCCO-32, the 2016 Budget for Howard County, through one time. The final 2016 Budget figure, for all funds, is \$43,412,260.00. Mr. Papacek commented that the 2016 Budget process went very smoothly and that was because of the Office Holders, Department Heads, and employees. A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve Ordinance No. 2015-HCCO-32, adopting the 2016 Budget as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2015-HCCO-33:**

Ordinance No. 2015-HCCO-33, the 2016 Budget for Howard County Solid Waste (Recycling) was submitted for council approval. The final budget figure submitted is \$918,022.00. A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve Ordinance No. 2015-HCCO-33, the Solid Waste (Recycling) 2016 budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stout and carried.

**At this time the Council members expressed their condolences to Councilman Les Ellison, in the sudden death of his cousin, Deputy Rod Lynch.**

Earlier in the meeting Center Township Assessor Sheila Pullen submitted an article to the Council members concerning the issue of “Dark Sales”. “Dark Sales” is a strategy used by big box stores (such as Kohl’s) to reduce assessments. This is the strategy used by Kohl’s in the current Assessment Appeal against Howard County. Ms. Pullen asked the County Council members to please contact their State Legislators and ask them to define, in the laws, what “Market Value” and “Use” is when it comes to assessment, especially as it pertains to the Big Box Stores. Local governments in the State of Michigan are suffering the effects of “Dark Sales” used by Big Box Stores.

*There being no further business to come before the County Council at this time,  
the 2016 Budget Sessions were adjourned at 8:50 a.m. on a motion made  
by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Roberts 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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Howard County Council Meeting & 2016 Budget Session September 10, 2015