

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 26, 2010

The Howard County Council met Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Richard Miller, Vice President Paul Wyman, and members James Papacek, Stan Ortman, Leslie Ellison, Joseph Pencek and Jeff Stout. Also in attendance were County Attorney Larry Murrell and Deputy Auditor Konny Zurcher.

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

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the August 24 Regular Meeting, the minutes of the August 25 and 26 Budget Hearings, and the September 8 Final Budget Session minutes, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Stout and seconded by Mr. Papacek.

At this time President Miller changed the order of the meeting from the listed agenda, in order to hear Judge Tate and Treasurer Martha Lake.

IN THE MATTER OF PERSONNEL ISSUES FOR SUPERIOR COURT III:

Judge Douglas Tate, Superior Court III, informed the Council that he would like to amend his proposed budget for 2011. One of his employees is retiring and in lieu of replacing the position, he is going to restructure several positions by moving a Clerk position to Criminal Reporter and phasing out the Criminal Clerk position. This will be a decrease of \$29,678.00 from his requested and Council approved budget for 2011. Judge Tate will need to address the change in budget at the January 2011 Council meeting.

Mr. Tate also took this opportunity to justify a transfer that he will be requesting at the November Council Meeting. Because he currently has two employees on pregnancy leave, he needs to use more part time help. He will request a transfer of \$500 into his part time line item. The Council will take this into consideration at the November Council meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF A PRESENTATION OF A PROPERTY TAX MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN:

Treasurer Martha Lake began her presentation by assuring the Council that as Treasurer, she and her office have instituted several changes and additions to accommodate the taxpayer and make it easier to collect the taxes. Ms. Lake had several small business owners express interest in the ability to pay their taxes in monthly installments. Star Bank has the software for a program to allow monthly tax installments through a web based system. Monthly payments are automatically debited from the taxpayer's bank account, at Star Bank, and the transactions are encrypted and secure. Daily information is provided to the Treasurer's Office and a file is submitted to load into the Treasurer's current system. Bank President Skip Floria worked with Ms. Lake on a pricing package that includes a set-up fee the first year of \$4,000, \$4,200 the second year, and around \$3,000 the third year. The contract reads no increase in pricing for five years. Ms. Lake has enough in her funds to pay for the first year's set-up fee. This process is approved by the State and a local Ordinance is needed. If approved, Ms. Lake would like to have the process ready in time for Spring 2011 payments, and no additional employees will be needed. It was the consensus of the Council to encourage Ms. Lake to proceed with the process.

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2010-HCCO-30-ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Ordinance No. 2010-HCCO-30 – Additional Appropriations was read in full one time by Deputy Auditor Konny Zurcher and acted upon as follows:

		AMOUNT REQUESTED:	APPROVED:
<u>001</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>		
<u>009</u>	<u>Howard County Coroner</u>		
03263.02	Autopsy / Lab	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00

Coroner Jay Price gave statistics concerning money spent for autopsies for 2010, compared to 2009. Mr. Price has already autopsied 223 cases so far this year, with a difficult portion of the year yet to come. This is an increase from 2009. He hopes this will be enough to last through the end of December.

A motion was made by Mr. Wyman to approve the additional request of \$20,000.00 to line item 03263.02, Autopsy / Lab. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried. Mr. Stout abstained from the vote.

<u>023</u>	<u>Howard County Commissioners</u>		
03120.00	Contract Services (<i>Legal Fees – Chrysler AV’s</i>)	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 175,000.00