

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR AND 2007 BUDGET MEETINGS AUGUST 22, 23, 24,  
AND SEPTEMBER 6, 2006**

The Howard County Council met Tuesday, August 22, 2006 at 7:00 p.m., in Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those present included Council President Richard H. Miller, Council Vice President James Papacek, Council Members Jeffrey A. Stout, Leslie W. Ellison, Dwight Singer, Jr., Stanley Ortman, and Joseph A. Pencek. Also in attendance were Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Ann Wells. At the conclusion of the regular business of the Council, the meeting will be recessed, instead of adjourned, in order to carry out the budget request process for budget year 2007.

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

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

The minutes of the July 25, 2006 meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Stout.

**IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2006-HCC-32 - ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:**

Ordinance No. 2006-HCC-32 Additional Appropriations was read in full by Auditor Ann Wells and acted upon as follows:

**APROPRIATIONS REQUESTED:**

<u>001</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>	<b>REQUESTED:</b>	<b>APPROVED:</b>
<u>033</u>	<u>Superior Court III</u>		
04724.00	Law Books	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00

Because there was no representative from Superior Court III to explain the request, a motion was made by Mr. Papacek to table the request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Singer and carried. [This request was removed from the table during the Thursday Budget Request hearing, at 8:40 a.m. Superior Court III Judge Tate explained the need for additional funds, and the request of \$400.00 was approved on a motion made by Mr. Singer and seconded by Mr. Ortman.]

<u>021</u>	<u>Howard County Plan Commission</u>		
03120.00	Contract Services ( <i>City-County Contract</i> )	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00

Chief Deputy Auditor Laurie Roper explained to the Council that only \$100,000.00 was budgeted for the County's portion of the Plan Commission Department. The City omitted to send the County a bill for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2005 and monies encumbered for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2005 payment were not sufficient to cover the expenses.

A motion was made by Mr. Singer to approve the request of \$80,000.00 in line item 03120.00, Contract Services. The motion was seconded by Mr. Papacek and carried.

<u>018</u>	<u>Howard County Maintenance Department</u>		
01118.00	Part Time	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 9,600.00
02253.00	Equipment Repair Supplies	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
03262.00	Laundry Services	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
03220.00	Utilities	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00

Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Art Fross presented the above listed requests for funds needed to finish the year. Council Members questioned Mr. Fross concerning the part time worker as well as lawn care and maintenance work at Howard Haven.

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman to approve the requests for Maintenance as listed above. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried.

<b>TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL FUND</b>		<b>\$ 111,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 111,000.00</b>
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<b><u>150</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Cumulative Capital Fund</u></b>		
04020.00	Equipment - Howard Haven <i>(Approved by Board of Commissioners 06/19/06)</i>	\$ 16,000.00	\$ Tabled

In the absence of Howard Haven Superintendent Tom Tolen, Commissioner Bagwell spoke to this request, explaining the need for handicapped accessible doors for Howard Haven. It would be good for Howard Haven to have this addition, as well as other projects, completed before their open house scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Mr. Tolen is pursuing a grant to help with the cost of the project.

On a motion made by Mr. Ortman and seconded by Mr. Ellison the request for Equipment for Howard Haven has been tabled, waiting for information concerning securing a grant to help pay for the project.

<b><u>105</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Adult Probation User Fee Fund</u></b>		
01117.00	Part Time - Superior Court III	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00

Council President Miller reminded the Council that Judge Tate had previously informed them of the need for additional part time funds for records work that needed to be done before the end of the year.

On a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Singer, the request of \$6,000.00 in line item 01117.00, Part Time - Superior Court III was approved.

<b><u>213</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Health Dept. ISDH Bioterrorism Fund</u></b>		
02371.00	Other Supplies	\$ 268.00	\$ 268.00
04721.00	Equipment	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00

Department of Health Supervisor Kris Conyers explained the requests as money reimbursed from the State that needs to be appropriated to Fund 213.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve the appropriation request of \$268.00 to line item 02371.00, Other Supplies, and \$2,000.00 in line item 04721.00, Equipment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stout and carried.

<b><u>221</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Health Dept. Bioterrorism Coordinator Fund</u></b>		
03120.00	Contract Services	\$ 50,004.00	\$ 50,004.00
02371.00	Other Supplies	\$ 1,071.00	\$ 1,071.00
03212.00	Postage	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
03213.00	Travel & Training	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00
03216.00	Communications	\$ 525.00	\$ 525.00
03241.00	Printing	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00

This grant is a reimbursable grant in its third year, and was approved by the Board of Commissioners at their August 21, 2006 meeting (*please refer to page three, "In The Matter Of Department Of Health Issues", of the Regular Commissioner Meeting minutes dated August 21, 2006*). Ms. Conyers informed the Board that this amount is about \$1,100.00 less than last year (furniture allotment).

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Singer and carried to approve the requests of additional funds as listed above for Fund 221.

<b><u>215</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Health Department Master Tobacco Settlement Fund</u></b>		
03120.00	Contract Services	\$ 36,022.00	\$ 36,022.00

Ms. Conyers explained that this annual grant is largely used to fund community outreach projects such as Project Access, United Way Assessments and other projects approved by the Healthy Community Advisory Board.

On a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Ellison, the request of \$36,022.00 in line item 03120.00, Contract Services was approved.

<b>Total Additionals All Funds</b>		<b>\$ 227,090.00</b>	<b>\$ 211,090.00</b>
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**IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2006-HCC-17 - TRANSFERS:**

Resolution No. 2006-HCC-17 was read in full by Auditor Ann Wells and acted upon as follows:

	<b>Transfer From:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED:</b>	<b>APPROVED:</b>
<b>001</b>	<b><u>Howard County General Fund</u></b>			
<b>005</b>	<u>Howard County Sheriff Department</u>			
01125.02	Part Time Nurse	01120.01 Part Time Correction Officer	\$ 1,275.53	\$ 1,275.53

Sheriff Talbert reminded the Council that they had previously been informed of a situation existing where Part Time Correction Officer monies had been used to pay Part Time Nurses. This transfer request is to reimburse the Part Time Correction Officer line item.

A motion was made by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Stout and carried to approve the request of \$1,275.53 from line item 01125.02, Part Time Nurse to 01120.01 Part Time Correction Officer.

	<b><u>Community Corrections - CTP Per Diem Fund</u></b>			
<b>923</b>				
03000.00	Other Services	02360.00 Office Supplies	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
03000.00	Other Services	02371.00 Other Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00

President Miller submitted a letter from Community Corrections Director Steve Maus outlining the need for this transfer, as a result of reductions on the State level. The additional funds are coming from the Project Income (User Fee) account and not from County General.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve the transfer as listed above. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried.

	<b><u>Department of Health - Bio Public Health Coordinator Grant</u></b>			
<b>221</b>				
03213.00	Travel & Training	02371.00 Other Supplies	\$ 198.00	\$ 198.00
03216.00	Communications	02371.00 Other Supplies	\$ 48.00	\$ 48.00

Department of Health Coordinator Kris Conyers explained to the Council that this request is to close out the 2005-06 grant year.

On a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Singer the transfer requests for the Bio Public Health Coordinator Grant were approved as listed above.

**IN THE MATTER OF SALARY ORDINANCE NO. 2006-HCC-33 - AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2006:**

Salary Ordinance No. 2006-HCC-33 was read in full by Auditor Ann Wells and acted upon as follows:

		<b>REQUESTED:</b>	<b>APPROVED:</b>
<b>001</b>	<b><u>Howard County General Fund</u></b>		
<b>018</b>	<u>Howard County Maintenance Department</u>		
01118.00	Part Time	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 9,600.00
<b>105</b>	<b><u>Howard County Adult Probation User Fee Fund</u></b>		
01115.00	Part Time	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00

On a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Stout, Salary Ordinance No. 2006-HCC-33 was approved as listed.

**IN THE MATTER OF MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT ISSUES:**

Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Art Fross reported to the Council concerning the opening of the bids for the Administration Center HVAC Project. The bids were opened at the August 21, 2006 Commissioner Meeting with the bid from Benchmark Mechanical, at \$235,837.00, being accepted as the lowest and most responsive and responsible bid (*please refer to page one and page two, item three, "In The Matter Of Maintenance Department Issues", of the Commissioner*

*Regular Meeting minutes dated August 21, 2006*). The boilers for this project have been ordered and, including the heating side of the project, a total savings of \$256,000.00 will be realized.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY:**

Mr. Paul Wyman addressed the Council, reminding them of the August 30<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Economic Development Feasibility Study. All Council Members are invited to meet with the consultant for "further discussion on how we're spending our economic dollars". Individual conferences can also be arranged. On behalf of the United Way Organization, Mr. Wyman thanked the Council for their permission to use County grounds and personnel during "The Taste of Kokomo" festival.

**IN THE MATTER OF CIRCUIT COURT AND THE IDHS GRANT:**

Circuit Court Judge Lynn Murray and Superior Court IV Judge George Hopkins presented a request to pursue an Indiana Department of Homeland Security Grant available for the purchase of equipment, only, to enhance court security. This grant is reimbursable and is distributed on a first come, first served basis. The amount can be up to \$50,000.00 with a possibility of additional funds upon review. All work and purchases need to be completed after sub grant agreement is executed and before October 31, 2006. With extensive input by Sheriff Talbert, the Judges decided to pursue the purchase of an X-Ray Unit (Baggage Scanners) and Magnetometers (wands and portals) if funds are granted, to be installed at the east entrance of the Courthouse. Judge Murray understands that this equipment would require additional personnel, but even if additional personnel was not available in the near future, being able to run the equipment during the times when the Courthouse has "high profile" trials would be of considerable benefit. There would already be extra personnel on hand during those times. At the conclusion of ensuing discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried to authorize Judge Murray, along with the other remaining Judges and Sheriff Talbert, to pursue the IDHS Grant.

**IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF DEPARTMENT ISSUES:**

Sheriff Marshall Talbert presented the following issues for Council information:

1. **Department Of Corrections Checks:** Sheriff Talbert presented two reimbursement checks to the Auditor in the amounts of \$15,750.00 and \$11,515.00.
2. **Canine Purchase Funds:** The Local Coordinating Council has approved a grant from the Mayor's Community Based Drug Free Program to the Sheriff's Department of \$3,200.00 for the purchase of an additional canine, only. Prosecutor Fleming has given \$10,000.00 from the Law Enforcement Fund toward the Canine Purchase and other related purchases. This Canine will remain on the midnight shift.

**IN THE MATTER OF PERSONNEL ISSUES:**

Personnel Director Wanda McKillip presented the following issues for Council information:

1. **Howard County Employee Data Report:** This annual report was distributed with the 2006/2007 Budget Book for Council information.
2. **Exempt and Non-exempt Status Listing:** This report lists each employment position and identifies them as Exempt or Non-exempt. She noted the change in position title and exempt status for E-911 Coordinator (145). The Personnel Office is currently working on employee job descriptions; there may be other changes in the future. Ms. McKillip also included information concerning the Factor Evaluation System (FES), a job categorization system. Ms. McKillip made a recommendation to the Council to form a Wage Committee to determine how Howard County should set salaries in the future. Points to consider would be education, longevity, skills, knowledge and responsibilities. She would suggest the committee include of three Council members, one Commissioner, the Auditor and Personnel Director, and whomever the Council deems appropriate. It was the consensus of the Council to address this issue in the near future.
3. **Consistent Medical Claims:** Ms. McKillip reported that medical claims for the current year have been consistent. She is hopeful that premium rates and benefit rates can be maintained for the future.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was recessed until 8:30 a.m., August 23, 2006, on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Singer.

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The meeting was reopened on Wednesday, August 23, 2006, by President Richard Miller.

The following Office Holders and Department Heads appeared at the times scheduled to present detailed justification of their budget requests for 2007.

8:30 a.m.	001-014	Superior Court I	Judge William Menges
	001-045	Unified Courts / Jury Pay	Judge Williams Menges
8:45 a.m.	001-001	Clerk / Election Board / Document Storage	Mona Myers
9:00 a.m.	001-004	Recorder / Recorder Perpetuation Fund	Linda Koontz
9:15 a.m.	002	Highway Department / Cum Bridge	Ted Cain
9:30 a.m.	001-005	Sheriff	Marty Talbert
9:45 a.m.	001-009	Coroner	Brad Bray
10:00 a.m.	500-3221	Governmental Coordinating Council	Larry Ives
10:15 a.m.	001-012	Prosecutor / Title IV-D / Law Enforcement Fund / Pretrial Diversion / Stop Domestic Violence	James Fleming
10:30 a.m.	001-018	Building & Grounds Department	Art Fross
10:45 a.m.	001-010	County Assessor / Reassessment	Ann Harrigan

*LUNCH AT THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT*

1:00 p.m.	001-011	Center Township Assessor	Sheila Pullen
1:15 p.m.	001-030	Public Defender	Steve Raquet
1:30 p.m.	001-022	County Museum / Historical Society	Kelly Thompson
1:45 p.m.	001-020	Howard Haven	Tom Tolen
2:00 p.m.	001-032	Adult Probation / Superior III Adult Probation User Fee / Drug & Alcohol	Gary Conwell Gary Conwell
2:15 p.m.	001-021	Plan Commission	Glen Boise
2:30 p.m.	001-032	Soil & Water Conservation	Rene Weaver
2:45 p.m.	001-027	Civic Center / Heritage Museum Convention Center	Kelli Austin
3:00 p.m.	001-027	Visitor Bureau	Peggy Hobson
3:15 p.m.	001-015	Veteran Services	William Alan Polsgrove
3:30 p.m.	120	Drug Free Community Based Fund	Don Ridenour

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2006**

8:30 a.m.	001-033	Superior Court III / Probation	Judge Doug Tate
8:45 a.m.	001-006	Surveyor / Surveyor Perpetuation Fund	Jake Grimme
9:00 a.m.	001-013	Circuit Court / Unified Courts Jury Pay	Judge Lynn Murray
	104	Juvenile Probation	Don Travis
	190	Juvenile Probation Informal User Fee	Don Travis
9:15 a.m.	001-035, 037, 038	Kinsey Youth Center	Jan Weaver
9:30 a.m.	001-044	Superior IV / Unified Courts	Judge George Hopkins
9:45 a.m.	042	Emergency Management / SARA Right To Know	Larry Smith
10:00 a.m.	001-031	Information Systems / Cum Cap	Terry Tribby
10:15 a.m.	004	Family & Children	Glen Hipp
10:30 a.m.	001-007	County Agent	Susan Neher
10:45 a.m.	010	Health Dept / Local Health Maintenance	Kristine Conyers

*LUNCH AT KINSEY YOUTH CENTER*

1:00 p.m.	001-023	Commissioners / Jail Lease	Brad Bagwell / Paul Raver
	150 & 500	Cumulative Capital / EDIT	Brad Bagwell / Paul Raver
1:15 p.m.	138	CASA	Katina Silvers
1:30 p.m.		Humane Society	Beryl Greer
1:45 p.m.	001-028	Weights & Measurer	Charlie Hackett
2:00 p.m.	001-017	Voter Registration	Carol Shallenberger
			Shirley McCoy
2:15 p.m.	001-043	Harrison Twp. Assessor	Joyce Ancil
2:30 p.m.	001-003	Treasurer	Martha Lake
2:45 p.m.	001-002	Auditor / Plat Book	Ann Wells
3:00 p.m.			
3:15 p.m.	923 - 925	Community Corrections	Steve Maus
3:30 p.m.	001-008	Superior Court II / Unified Courts	Judge Steven Jessup
	001-024	Taylor Twp. Assessor	John Raisor

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was recessed until 8:30 a.m., Wednesday September 6, 2006.

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As the final meeting in the 2007 budget process, the meeting reconvened on Wednesday, September 6, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. with a moment of silence and then prayer by President Richard Miller.

All members were present along with Attorney Larry Murrell, Auditor Ann Wells, and Deputy Auditor Laurie Roper.

President Miller asked for any discussion or comment regarding the 2007 budget. Auditor Ann Wells informed the Council that on April 28, 2006, she had asked her staff to stop writing checks from County General because funds were too low to support payroll and accounts payable. Today, September 6<sup>th</sup>, she again directed her financial staff to stop writing accounts payable checks out of County General until the advanced draw was received.

***At this time the Budget Hearing was recessed to hold the Regular Council Meeting for September, 2006.***

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

**IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2006-HCC-37 - ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:**

Ordinance No. 2006-HCC-37 was read in full by Auditor Ann Wells and acted upon as follows:

**APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTED:**

<u>150</u>	<u>Howard County Cumulative Capital Fund</u>	<u>REQUESTED:</u>	<u>APPROVED:</u>
04035.00	Equipment - Kinsey ( <i>Appliances</i> )	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 800.00

Kinsey Youth Center Director, Janet Weaver explained the need for two new washing machines and informed the Council that she would only need \$800.00 in lieu of the requested \$1,000.00

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded Mr. Stout and carried to approve the request of \$800.00 into 04035.00, Equipment - Kinsey.

03000.00	Other Services & Charges ( <i>Tower Relocation</i> )	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00
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Commissioner Brad Bagwell informed the Council of the need to relocate or rebuild the present E-911 tower, due to a problem of losing connections during storms. Money has been spent on repairs, replacements and studies to determine the cause, but the problems have not been fixed. Mr. Bagwell has been working on negotiations for leasing space at a different location settling on an amount of \$80,000.00 that includes the actual leasing price, relocation of equipment, additional equipment and concrete pad. Also presented was the option of building our own tower, about a six month process, at a cost of about \$180,000.00. The cost will be greater, but the tower would meet our specifications, be located close to the dispatch area and have space to lease to other entities. Discussion and a time of question and answer ensued.

A motion was made by Mr. Singer to approve the appropriation request of \$80,000.00 to Cumulative Capital 03000.00, Other Services & Charges, and to authorize the Board of Commissioners to proceed with arrangements to build a new tower. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stout and carried.

<b>TOTAL CUMULATIVE CAPITAL FUND</b>		<b>\$ 81,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 80,800.00</b>
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<b><u>010</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Health Fund</u></b>		
01523.00	Insurance	\$ 15,128.00	\$ 15,128.00

Ms. Kristine Conyers informed the Council of the need for additional money in the insurance fund to pay the rebilled amount due to the County.

The appropriation of \$15,128.00 in 01523.00, Insurance fund is approved on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Ellison.

<b><u>515</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Sheriff Misdemeanant Fund</u></b>		
04721.00	Equipment ( <i>Portable bunks for inmates</i> )	\$ 4,556.00	\$ 4,556.00

Sheriff Talbert cited the increasing jail population as the reason for needing additional sleeping equipment for inmates.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Singer and carried to approve the request of \$4,556.00 in 04721.00, Equipment.

<b><u>500</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County CEDIT Fund</u></b>		
03000.00	Other Services & Charges ( <i>Tower Relocation</i> )	\$ 80,000.00	\$ Withdrawn

On a motion made by Mr. Singer and seconded by Mr. Stout, the request of \$80,000.00 in 03000.00, Other Services & Charges was withdrawn.

**IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2006-HCC-18 - TRANSFERS:**

Resolution No. 2006-HCC-18 was read in full by Ms. Wells and acted upon as follows:

	<b>TRANSFER FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED:</b>	<b>ALLOWED:</b>
<b><u>001</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County General Fund</u></b>			
<b><u>001</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Clerk</u></b>			
02360.00	Office Supplies	03212.00 Postage	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 2,750.00

Clerk Mona Myers reported to the Council that the request for postage is to cover the cost of the shipping costs of the voting tabulation machines purchased as part of the HAVA project. The reimbursement money from the State has been receipted into the special fund provided for the project, but it did not include the cost of the shipping.

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman, seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried to approve the transfer of \$2,750.00 from 02360.00 Office Supplies to 03212.00, Postage.

<b><u>007</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Extension</u></b>		
01117.00	Part Time	03213.00 Travel & Training	\$ 740.00 \$ 740.00

County Extension Agent Susan Neher informed the Council that there is extra money in Part Time line item that is needed in the Travel & Training account for the three educators who are traveling.

A motion was made by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Pencek and carried to approve the transfer as noted above.

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED:</b>	<b>APPROVED:</b>
<u>006</u>	<u>Howard County Surveyor</u>			
01115.00	MS4 Part Time	04721.00 Equipment	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00

Surveyor Jake Grimme would like to transfer these funds in order to purchase a color printer needed for the office.

On a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Stout, the transfer of \$6,000.00 from 01115.00, MS4 Part Time to 04721.00, Equipment was approved.

<u>924</u>	<u>Howard County Community Corrections</u>			
04721.00	Equipment	02371.00 Other Supplies	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -Tabled-

In the absence of Mr. Maus, Ms. Wells read a written request as follows, "excess funds that are needed to Other Supplies". The Council would like the request to be more specific and on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Pencek the request to transfer was tabled.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:18 a.m. on a motion made by Mr. Singer and seconded by Mr. Stout.

*The 2007 Budget Hearing is now reconvened.*

**IN THE MATTER OF OPENING REMARKS BY PRESIDENT MILLER:**

Mr. Miller offered the following comments to the Council in preparation of setting the budget for the year 2007, item by item:

- 1) This is a "sizable task", but feels that it is crucial to preserve funds to offer a salary and wage increase to employees.
- 2) Auditor Wells' report that the actual cash fund is so low she has suspended the payment of claims until an advanced draw is received, comes at an inconvenient time. He does not remember that being a concern during his years on the Council.
- 3) At Ms. Well's request, Mr. Miller clarified that a proposed salary increase would be for full time salary and hourly workers; it would not apply to increasing part time monies.
- 4) The total amount of the 2007 Budget Request is \$24,580,060.00. That amount needs to be \$22,500,000.00. The Council has the task of finding where to cut \$2,080,060.00 from the requested budget.
- 5) Edit monies have been offered to help pay Insurance and PERF, freeing up as much as \$500,000.00 in the County General Fund to underwrite an employee raise.

Discussion ensued concerning a wage increase. It was the consensus of the Council, that preserving funds to offer a salary and wage increase is a top priority. The Council continued the meeting, progressing by department, to set the 2007 budget. Results of the budget process are available on the Budget Worksheet in the Auditor's Office.

At the conclusion of the budget process, discussion ensued concerning employee salary increases. On a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Singer, Mr. Stout, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Pencek and Mr. Ortman, the Howard County Employees were budgeted a three per cent salary increase.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by all present Council Members, and carried to approve the 2007 Budget as amended.

Council Member Dwight Singer took the opportunity to remind those in attendance that this budget hearing is his last official hearing as a Council Member. He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Council Members present, past, and

near future, for their hard work and the fine job they have done. He commended County Attorney Larry Murrell for all he has done for Howard County since joining the County on a full time basis.  
Mr. Singer will be missed.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the 2007 Budget Hearings were adjourned at 9:59 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Pencek.

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL:**

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RICHARD H. MILLER

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JAMES A. PAPACEK, VICE PRESIDENT

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DWIGHT SINGER, JR., COUNCILMAN

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LESLIE ELLISON, COUNCILMAN

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STANLEY ORTMAN, COUNCILMAN

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JEFFREY STOUT, COUNCILMAN

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JOE PENCEK, COUNCILMAN

ATTEST:

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ANN WELLS, AUDITOR

County Council Minutes, August 22, 23, 24 and September 6, 2006