

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MARCH 28, 2006**

The Howard County Council met Tuesday, March 28, 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 Dwight Singer Jr., Stan Ortman and Jeffrey Stout. Also in attendance were County Attorney Larry Murrell, Auditor Ann Wells and Chief Deputy Auditor Laurie Roper.

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

**IN THE MATTER OF INMATE WORK CREW SUPERVISOR:**

Sheriff Talbert introduced Don Leffert, Inmate Work Crew Supervisor. Mr. Leffert took the floor to express his appreciation to the Council for their approval of funds to purchase the new van for the Inmate Work Crew.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of the February 21, 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-09 - ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:**

Ordinance No. 2006-HCC-09 was read in full by Chief Deputy Auditor Laurie Roper and acted upon as follows:

**APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTED:**

<u>001</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>	<u>REQUESTED:</u>	<u>APPROVED:</u>
<u>005</u>	<u>Howard County Sheriff</u>		
03263.00	Medical & Hospital Services	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00

Due to some heavy expenses in 2005 and bills that could not be paid until 2006, the Sheriff's Department is in need of more funds for Inmate medical services. Sheriff Talbert commented on an article that previously appeared in the Kokomo Tribune, where another County's Sheriff's candidate commented that he would save that County money by not paying for an inmate's prior medical condition. Sheriff Talbert reminded the Council that by law, an inmate's medical condition has to be treated.

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman, seconded by Mr. Stout and carried to approve the request for \$75,000.00 in line item 03263.00, Medical & Hospital Services.

<u>014</u>	<u>Superior Court I</u>		
01113.00	Court Reporter / Court Administrator	\$ 426.88	\$ -0-
01119.00	Court Secretary	\$ 2,144.28	\$ -0-
01150.00	Drug Court Administrator	\$ 15,985.10	\$ 15,985.10
01151.00	Drug Court Coordinator	\$ 17,073.12	\$ -0-

Judge William Menges from Superior Court I explained to the Council his request for salary increases for two of his employees and additional employee positions for a Drug Court. The salary increases would help even out the salaries according to responsibilities. The new Drug Court will not be up and running until some time after July 1, 2006. But there will be a significant number of duties to prepare for that opening date and he is requesting a Drug Court Administrator for those duties. The Drug Court Coordinator would not be needed until the client load is too heavy for the Probation Officer to handle. Judge Menges also informed the Council that the Local Coordinating Committee for the Community Drug Free Awareness Council passed their budget which includes a \$15,000.00 grant to reimburse the County for part of the salary and expenses of the Drug Court Administrator, and \$1,000.00 for the training of Drug Court employees. Discussion ensued concerning the philosophical debate over the need or success of a drug court. Mr. Miller then introduced the recommendations of the PAC Committee and the Board of Commissioners as follows:

"The PAC Committee does not recommend the salary increases or title changes to the Court Reporter or Secretary positions at this time. The PAC cannot recommend increases for two positions, when all county employees did not receive increases this year.

The PAC Committee recommends the request be submitted at budget time and job titles, salaries and job descriptions be reviewed then.

The Pac Committee recommends the position of Drug Court Administrator be funded as requested. This position would have an annual salary of \$31,367.

The PAC Committee does not recommend the position of Drug Court Coordinator at this time. This position should also be submitted at budget time."

Discussion ensued between the Council members and Judge Menges. A motion was then made by Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Stout and carried to not make any title change or salary increase for Superior Court I Reporter and Secretary at this time. The Council would approve the request of \$15,985.10 in line item 01150.00, Drug Court Administrator, for a Drug Court Administrator that reports directly to the Court Reporter and indirectly to the Judge of Superior Court I. A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to amend the motion to include that no money be expended from the General Fund for the Drug Court Administrator until the \$16,000.00 from Community Drug Free Fund is in hand. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stout and carried.

<b>Total County General Fund</b>		<b>\$ 110,629.38</b>	<b>\$ 90,985.10</b>
<b>APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTED:</b>		<b>REQUESTED:</b>	<b>APPROVED:</b>
<b><u>115</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Sheriff Work Program Fund</u></b>		
02360.00	Supplies	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
02253.00	Repair & Maintenance Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
04721.00	Equipment	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00

Sheriff Talbert presented the request to the Council, clarifying that the budget was not presented at the 2005 budget hearings, for approval. He would like to request these appropriations to continue the Work Program. This program is self funding, using money receipted in from the previous year.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Singer and carried to approve the requests for the Work Program as listed above.

<b>Total Work Program Fund</b>		<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>
<b><u>125</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Prosecutor Title IV-D Fund</u></b>		
01117.00	Part Time / Overtime	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00

Chief Deputy Auditor Laurie Roper submitted and read a letter from Paige Kaufman from the Prosecutor's Office, explaining the need for the requested funds. This overtime money will be used to fund overtime for case clean-up and data entry.

On a motion made by Mr. Singer and seconded by Mr. Papacek, the request of \$5,000.00 in line item 01117.00, Part Time / Overtime was approved.

<b><u>150</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Cumulative Capital Development Fund</u></b>		
04726.00	Building & Structure ( <i>Storage Barn - Mulberry &amp; Buckeye lot</i> )	\$ 6,070.00	\$ 6,070.00

Commissioner Brad Bagwell presented the request of \$6,070.00 to build a storage barn for the Maintenance Department. This barn would house lawn mowers and other equipment that uses fuel, currently stored in the basement and fourth floor of the Administration Building. The barn would have security features to discourage theft. The Board of Zoning Appeals has approved the zoning change and Mr. Fross has the building permit.

A motion was made by Mr. Stout, seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried to approve the request for \$6,070.00 in 04726.00, Building & Structure.

<b><u>514</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Health Department Local Health Maintenance Fund</u></b>		
01111.00	Part Time Nurse	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 2,900.00
01112.00	Data Entry / Clerical	\$ 2,353.00	\$ 2,353.00

Department of Health Director Kristine Conyers submitted the request for additional funds in the Local Health Maintenance Fund. Chief Deputy Auditor Laurie Roper explained to the Council that at budget time, the requests for 2006 were brought back to the salary requests for 2005, not realizing that these are hourly positions whose rate is set by the Health director.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Singer and carried to approve the requests in the Local Health Maintenance Fund as listed.

Ms. Conyers informed the Council that she is closing fund 217, the Tobacco Settlement Grant. The remaining \$50,085.21 will be transferred to the Local Health Maintenance Fund.

<b>515</b>	<b><u>Howard County Sheriff Misdemeanant Fund</u></b>		
04722.00	Computers ( <i>Voice Stress Analysis Lap Top</i> )	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00

Sheriff Talbert informed the Council that the department's present Voice Stress Analyzer is antiquated, and equipment and training are no longer available. He is requesting funds to purchase a computerized Voice Stress Analysis program on a lap top computer. The company that makes this available also offers a trade-in program and new equipment for \$3,500.00.

On a motion made by Mr. Singer and seconded by Mr. Ortman, the request for \$3,500.00 to line item 04722.00, Computers, was approved.

<b>Total Additional Appropriations All Funds</b>		<b>\$ 135,452.38</b>	<b>\$ 115,808.10</b>
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**IN THE MATTER OF SALARY ORDINANCE NO. 2006-HCC-10 - AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2006:**

Ordinance No. 2006-HCC-10 - Amending Salary Ordinance for 2006, was read in full by Chief Deputy Auditor Laurie Roper and acted upon as follows:

<b><u>001</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County General Fund</u></b>	<b>REQUESTED:</b>	<b>APPROVED:</b>
<b><u>014</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Superior Court I</u></b>		
01113.00	Court Reporter / Court Administrator	\$ 34,502.00	No Change
01119.00	Court Secretary / Assistant Court Reporter	\$ 31,367.00	No Change
01150.00	Drug Court Administrator ( <i>New Position</i> )	\$ 31,367.00	\$ 31,367.00
01151.00	Drug Court Coordinator ( <i>New Position</i> )	\$ 33,500.00	No Change

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve the Salary Ordinance No. 2006-HCC-10 with only the 01150.00, Drug Court Administrator for \$31,367.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Singer and carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEE FOR PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE:**

Chief Public Defender Raquet appeared before the Council to update them concerning his office. When a study was done in 2005, concerning the addition of Superior Court IV and a possible Drug Court, it concluded that three new defenders and their secretaries would be needed in the Public Defender's Office. Currently there are two defenders for each felony court except Superior IV, which has one. Mr. Raquet hired one employee in February and will be ready to hire one more in May or June, 2006. He does not believe a third employee will be needed until the end of the year. Mr. Raquet also informed the Council of possible future legislation that would require the State to pay the Chief Public Defender salary.

**IN THE MATTER OF A BOND FOR THE HOWARD HAVEN SUPERINTENDENT:**

Auditor Ann Wells informed the Council that State Board of Accounts auditor, Art Essex, had informed the Auditor that the County needed to bond County Home Superintendent, Tom Tolen. The minimum allowable amount is \$8,500.00 and needs approval from the fiscal body. The bond for Mr. Tom Tolen was fixed in the amount of \$8,500.00 on a motion made by Mr. Ortman and seconded by Mr. Singer.

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

Commissioner Brad Bagwell and Mr. Paul Wyman informed the Council of the current study of the Economic Development Organizations, having been endorsed by the Board of Commissioners at their December 27, 2005 Regular meeting (*please refer to page two, "In The Matter Of The Study Of The Economic Development Organizations" of the Commissioner Regular Meeting minutes dated December 27, 2005*). The organizations are interested in knowing if they are being effective, what they could do to better serve Howard County, or if they are duplicating services. Several organizations have contributed money to underwrite the study, but the estimated costs came in well above committed funds. Mr. Bagwell and Mr. Wyman wanted the Council to be aware that the Committee may be asking the City and County to donate up to \$12,500.00 each, from EDIT funds, toward the cost of the study. Mr. Bagwell wanted to know the consensus of the Council, whether they should pursue the study. The Council would like the Committee to try to locate other sources of revenue, as well, but there were no major objections to the idea of the study.

**IN THE MATTER OF A STUDY FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER CONTINGENCY PLAN:**

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee is discussing contingency plans for the Criminal Justice Center if the addition of Superior Court IV and the new Drug Court does not significantly reduce the jail population. Commissioner Bagwell informed the Council that at some point in the future, the CJCC will be coming to the Council to request funds to underwrite the study. Sheriff Talbert reported that the current jail population is 300, with twenty-four beds open. That number will increase during the summer months. The committee has contacted American Consulting Company regarding a study proposal.

**IN THE MATTER OF REPLICATION AND OFF-SITE STORAGE FOR RECORDER RECORDS AND THE DIGITALIZING OF INFORMATION:**

Howard County Recorder Linda Koontz presented her requests for two projects her office is working on. These funds will not be officially requested until the April meeting, but as she will not be able to attend that meeting, she was in attendance tonight to explain her requests. The Board of Commissioners has approved and signed a contract with Fidlar Software for information replication and off-site storage. This is a five year contract with an initial cost of \$14,375.00 and a \$2,000.00 yearly maintenance fee. This will be paid from Recorder Perpetuation Funds. The second request is for \$35,000.00 from Perpetuation funds to finance an Information Digitalization project. The IMX Company will digitalize information from aperture cards and rolls of micro-film, onto CD's. This will save wear and tear on the cards and film. Most importantly, as the Recorder's Office moves toward selling subscriptions to the county website for usage, there will be more information already available, making the Web subscription more valuable. More part-time money will be needed to fund the work needed for indexing purposes. Ms. Koontz went on to explain the Web Subscription process.

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

Sheriff Marshall Talbert presented the following issues for Council information and approval:

1. **Department of Correction Checks:** Sheriff Talbert presented two checks from the Department of Corrections in the amounts of \$15,925.00 and \$15,050.00.
2. **Commissary Reports:** Commissary reports for December, 2005 and January and February, 2006 were submitted to the Council for their review.
3. **Superior IV Security:** Officer Norris Jones has been certified on the pager, and has attended a three day class pertaining to security of a sequestered jury, courtroom security, etc.
4. **Sheriff Sale:** A new record was made earlier in the month, with sixty Sheriff Sales. Sheriff Talbert expects that number to stay high.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE KOKOMO DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION:**

Mr. Paul Wyman of the Kokomo Downtown Association, reported to the Council, the progress of the electrical boxes around the Courthouse. The KDA and the Kokomo Festivals INC. decided on underground boxes at a cost of \$26,000.00.

The project has been funded and completed and all festivals scheduled for this year will go on with full power. Mr. Wyman also informed the Council of the partnership between the KDA and Indiana University.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Stout.

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL:**

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RICHARD H. MILLER, PRESIDENT

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JAMES 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 A. STOUT, COUNCILMAN

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JOSEPH A. PENCEK, COUNCILMAN

ATTEST:

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ANN WELLS, AUDITOR

County Council Minutes March 28, 2006