

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MARCH 25, 2008**

The Howard County Council met Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those present included President Richard Miller, Vice President James Papacek and Members Stan Ortman, Jeff Stout, Joseph Pencek, Leslie Ellison and Paul Wyman. Also in attendance were County Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Ann Wells.

The meeting was opened by Sheriff Marshall Talbert and conducted by President Miller.

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

The minutes of the February 26, 2008 Regular Meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Stout and seconded by Mr. Wyman.

**IN THE MATTER OF OPENING COMMENTS:**

Mr. Miller opened the floor for comment as follows:

1. Councilman Wyman asked the Council to consider holding a County Council meeting in Russiaville and Greentown sometime this year, as a way to be in closer proximity with citizens, encouraging them to attend meetings and participate in what the Council Members do.
2. President Miller informed the Council of a meeting being held on Thursday, April 10, 2008, by IDEM concerning discussion on the Continental Steel Superfund Site.

**IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2008-HCCO-10 - ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:**

Ordinance No. 2008-HCCO-10 - Additional Appropriations was read in full by Auditor Ann Wells and acted upon as follows:

		<b>REQUESTED:</b>	<b>APPROVED:</b>
<b><u>042</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Sara-Right To Know Fund</u></b>		
03213.00	Travel & Training	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00

Emergency Management Director Larry Smith presented the request to appropriate funds from the cash line to the appropriate line item to cover Hazardous Materials training costs for several employees of the Kokomo Fire Department.

A motion was made by Mr. Wyman, seconded by Mr. Papacek and carried to approve the request of \$1,300.00 in line item 03213.00, Travel & Training.

<b><u>500</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County CREDIT Fund</u></b>		
04733.01	Emergency Equipment	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00

Commissioner Brad Bagwell informed the Council that this request is part of the Sprint/Nextel Rebanding Project. Some of the older radios could not be rebanded. Members of the City's Police Department were equipped with new radios that were rebanded. Their radios were refurbished, to be rebanded and used for the volunteer first responder agencies in Howard County. This is the County's contribution to that project.

The request for appropriation was approved as submitted on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Ortman.

**IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2008-HCCR-6 - TRANSFERS:**

Resolution No. 2008-HCCR-6 - Transfers were 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>016</b>	<b><u>Howard County Election Expenses</u></b>			
03253.00	Equipment Repair	04721.00 Equipment	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
03120.00	Contract Services	04721.00 Equipment	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00

Auditor Wells explained to the Council that this request is for the purchase of seventy (70) new election carts. The current election carts for the polling site inspectors are falling apart and cannot be repaired.

The request was approved as submitted on a motion made by Papacek and seconded by Mr. Ortman.

<b>011</b>	<b><u>Howard County Reassessment Fund</u></b>			
01113.00	Reassessment Deputy	01114.00 Part Time Clerical	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00

Due to an illness of an employee, the part time worker in the County Assessor's Office is helping with Reassessment work. Ms. Wells also informed the Council that today, the Assessed Values have been sent to the State. We are the fourteenth county to turn in their Assessed Values. The Department of Local Government Finance will not approve 2008 budgets until half of the counties have turned in their values. There probably will not be a May tax deadline.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Wyman and Mr. Ellison and carried to approve the transfer request of \$6,000.00 from line item 01113.00, Reassessment Deputy to 01114.00, Part Time Clerical.

**IN THE MATTER OF AUDITOR COMMENT CONCERNING THE INDIANA HOMESTEAD REBATE:**

Auditor Wells gave comment concerning the Homestead Rebate. The \$3,135,721.57 received in November of 2007, for the Homestead Rebate, was wisely invested. The over 24,000 parcels have been reviewed five times to insure the information is as correct as we can make it. That information will be sent to the company who will be writing the checks. Ms. Wells asks that the Media report the correct information. The owner of record as of March 1, 2006, who was eligible to file for the Homestead Deduction for tax year 2006 payable 2007, will receive the check. If the owner (not the property) had any delinquencies outstanding, the rebate amount would be applied to those delinquencies first. If there is a balance left after delinquencies have been applied, that amount will be sent by check. Rebate checks will not be sent to Mortgage Companies. Ms. Wells believes the county employees in the Auditor and Treasurers Offices have done their due diligence to assure that there will be as few problems as possible. The County is being degraded for time invested in assuring that the checks are being done correctly. A decision has not yet been reached concerning address changes. Several office holders were involved in ensuing discussion. Ms. Wells also reminded the Council that each township has a different tax rate. Council members were grateful for the explanation given by Ms. Wells. Mr. Miller remarked that four different offices, Center Township Assessor, County Assessor, Auditor and Treasurer, have been involved in this process, as well as their regular duties.

**IN THE MATTER OF E911 PROPOSED RATE INCREASE:**

E-911 Coordinator Tony Ramsey reminded the Council that last September he came before the Council with a proposed rate increase in the form of Resolution No. 2007-BCCR-20 (*please refer to page four, "In The Matter Of Resolution No, 2007-BCCR-20" of the Regular Meeting minutes dated August 21, 22, 23, and September 5, 2007*). The current land line fee per household is \$.56 per month. It was established by ordinance in 1993 and has not been increased since that time. The State Wireless Board collects the fees and distributes to the counties. He explained the need for an increased rate to pay for increased costs and personnel. There is a state statute that determines the rate of increase based on population. Because Howard County is considered a 2<sup>nd</sup> class city, it can charge 3% of the average line cost, allowing an increase of \$.35, for a total of \$.91. This would increase the average homeowner's bill by \$4.20 per year, generating \$100,000.00 of additional revenues for E-911 in 2008. Mr. Ramsey realizes this is a difficult time to address an increase, however, the citizens expect professional service and this entails the system to be maintained and staffed. Most of the equipment for the City's Dispatch is provided by the County. Mr. Ramsey was made aware, yesterday, of a recently passed House bill that puts more restrictions on collection rates. He and Attorney Murrell need to review the new legislation before making a recommendation. At the close of ensuing discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wyman to table this request pending further review by Mr. Murrell and Mr. Ramsey, allowing them to make a new recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pencek. As a point of order, Mr. Miller gave the opportunity for additional questions by the Council members. At that conclusion, the call to vote was made and the motion was carried.

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

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

1. **Bank Change For Sheriff Retirement:** Sheriff Talbert received word that Harris Bank did not want to serve as the trustee of the retirement plan, any longer. First Farmers will now be the trustee of the Retirement and Benefit plan. Attorney Murrell has helped the Sheriff's Department with several house-cleaning items. Sheriff Talbert now submits a letter from the Advisory Committee appointing ..."LaSalle Street Investment Advisors, LLC and Liberty Financial Advisors, LLC as Investment Managers to direct the investment and reinvestment of any and all contribution to the Trust, all investments thereof and all earnings, profits, increments, additions and appreciation thereto and thereon accruing from time to time, hereinafter jointly referred to as the {Trust Fund}." Sheriff Talbert introduced Mr. Ron Douglas, from First Farmers, to the Council members. He appreciates how smooth the process has been, and knows it is partly due to the work of Mr. Douglas. Mr. Douglas addressed the Council and thanked them for the opportunity to serve. He appreciated the work done by Mr. Murrell, Sheriff Talbert, and the Merit Board in their house-cleaning efforts. A motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried to accept the letter of appointment and authorize the President to sign on behalf of the Council.
2. **Courthouse Security Office Report:** Sheriff Talbert submitted the Courthouse Security Report from Security Officer Craig Trott. Also included was a listing of confiscated items from August 21, 2007 to March 18, 2008 as well as the number of screenings being 104,381. Several people in attendance commented on the effectiveness of the screening process.
3. **D.O.C. Reimbursement Check:** Sheriff Talbert presented September 2007's Department Of Corrections' reimbursement check, in the amount of \$26,425.00, to Auditor Wells. This amount covers seven hundred fifty-five (755) man days.
4. **Monthly Commissary Reports:** Sheriff Talbert submitted monthly Commissary Reports for the months of October through December 2007 and January, 2008. He apologized to the Council for the reports not being timely due to his recent medical leave. Sheriff Talbert did point out to the Council, November's report showing money paid out to several individuals for Halloween Patrol. Four Special Deputies were paid to help patrol the streets from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Halloween. Emergency Management personnel also helped with street and cemetery patrol.
5. **Jail Population:** The present inmate population is three hundred forty-one (341) with fifty-two (52) being females. Recently the numbers have been as high as three hundred fifty-eight (358), requiring the use of Unit #6 and an additional security guard. Sheriff Talbert believes the numbers may reach 400 in the summertime.
6. **Jail Nurse Needed:** Linda Tones-Sardin is returning to Kinsey Youth Center. The Sheriff's Department is taking applications and resumes for a new nurse.
7. **Sheriff Sale Postings:** The State Legislature has determined that it is no longer necessary to post Sheriff Sale listings in three locations in the township the property is located. Representative Ron Herrell introduced the Bill on behalf of Howard County.
8. **Pay Phone Provider:** A T & T has notified the Sheriff's Department that they will no longer provide pay phone services. Sheriff Talbert and his staff are currently looking at other venues.

**IN THE MATTER OF MISCELLANEOUS CONCERNS:**

1. **Umbrella Plan Meeting:** Mr. Wyman reminded the Council members that there will be a meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at Inventrek for the purpose of presenting updated information concerning the Economic Development Merger. Each member is personally invited.
2. **Possible Job Share In The Mapping Department:** Auditor Wells made a request for the possibility of creating a Job Share position in the mapping department of the Auditor's Office. When the Auditor's Draftsman resigned, last summer, that position was never filled and Ms. Wells is looking at a job share possibility for that unused

employment position. A motion was made by Mr. Ortman, seconded by Mr. Papacek and carried to approve the creation of a job share position in the Auditor's Office.

3. **Nurse Position At The Jail Versus EMT Position:** Councilman Pencek asked about the possibility of using an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in the nursing position at the Criminal Justice Center. Sheriff Talbert replied that since this is such a "huge" liability issue, he feels that a registered nurse is what is needed. He continued to tell of several specific instances of the critical need for a registered nurse, as well as the need for an additional nurse.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Ortman.

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL:**

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RICHARD A. MILLER, PRESIDENT

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JAMES T. PAPACEK, VICE PRESIDENT

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PAUL G. WYMAN, 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

Howard County Council Meeting March 25, 2008