

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 27, 2009**

The Howard County Council met Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those present included Council President Richard Miller, Vice President Paul Wyman and Members James Papacek, Stanley Ortman, Leslie Ellison, Jeff Stout and Joseph Pencek. Also in attendance were County Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Ann Wells.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Talbert and conducted by Mr. Miller. Mr. Papacek led the Council in prayer.

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

The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Budget Hearings dated August 25, 26, 27 and September 9, 2009, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Stout and seconded by Mr. Wyman.

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNCIL COMMENT:**

President Miller opened the floor for comment by Council members as follows:

Councilman Wyman: Congratulated the Kokomo Downtown Association and the Greater Kokomo Economic Development Alliance for a very successful Oktoberfest.

Three hundred sixty-five women signed up to participate in the Girl's Night Out Run in downtown Kokomo. Clerk Mona Myers gave the opening prayer, and the whole event was very successful.

The MS4 Committee has had their first meeting with the City of Kokomo. Much information was exchanged and reviewed. A second meeting with the City was held to respond to reviewed information and to ask pertinent questions. Next spring the City and County MS4 programs will be audited and it was determined to move forward on issues addressed in and dictated by the results of the audit.

**IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2009-HCCO-32 – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:**

Ordinance No. 2009-HCCO-32 – Additional Appropriations was read in full one time by Auditor Ann Wells and acted upon as follow:

		<b>AMOUNT</b>	
		<b>REQUESTED:</b>	<b>APPROVED:</b>
<b><u>252</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Sheriff</u></b>		
<b><u>025</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Jail</u></b>		
01120.01	Part Time Correction Officers	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
03340.00	Meals For Prisoners	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00

Sheriff Talbert informed the Council that even though spending in the Meals for Prisoners line item has slightly decreased from this same time last year, more meals have been prepared and distributed this year. That is because our jail population has remained high. Additional funds are needed through to the end of this year. Sheriff Talbert commended his kitchen staff for their efforts to keep the costs as low as possible.

The Jail staff has been managing their overtime, keeping the hours down as much as possible. They have lost two Corrections Officers in the past several weeks, accounting for the need for increased part time hours.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve the requests of \$30,000.00 in line item 01120.01, Part Time Correction Officers, and \$50,000.00 in line item 03340.00, Meals for Prisoners. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stout.

**TOTAL ADDITIONALS** **\$ 80,000.00** **\$ 80,000.00**

**IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2009-HCCR-22 – TRANSFERS:**

Auditor Ann Wells read Resolution No. 2009-HCCR-22 – Transfers in full one time and they were acted upon as follows:

	<b>Transfer From:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Approved:</b>
<b>001</b>	<b><u>Howard County General Fund</u></b>			
<b>015</b>	<u>Howard County Veterans Services</u>			
03241.00	Printing	02360.00 Office Supplies	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
03260.00	Dues & Subscriptions	02360.00 Office Supplies	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
03548.00	Memorial Day Expenses	02360.00 Office Supplies	\$ 40.23	\$ 40.23

Mr. Papacek reminded the Council that during the Budget Hearings, Mr. Ladd informed them that he would need to transfer funds into his Office Supply line item.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried to approve the transfers into the Office Supplies line item as submitted.

<b>016</b>	<b><u>Howard County Election</u></b>			
03241.00	Election Printing	04721.00 Equipment	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00

Clerk Mona Myers explained the need to replace the carts used to transfer ballots from the Courthouse to the precincts and back, originally purchased by the previous Clerk. The \$7,000.00 figure comes from the election company that specializes in election equipment, but Ms. Myers believes she can purchase the seventy (70) carts for less money.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve the transfer request of \$7,000.00 from 03241.00, Election Printing to 04721.00, Equipment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried.

<b>002</b>	<b><u>Howard County Highway</u></b>			
12170.00	Laborers / Engineer Aides	11140.02 Asst Secretary / Bookkeeper	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00

Highway Superintendent / Engineer Ted Cain informed the Council of the death of one of his employees, Mr. Ora Rody. Mr. Cain will not replace the position but will transfer the Workmen's Compensation duty to the Assistant Secretary / Bookkeeper. When the Assistant Secretary was hired, she was hired in at a lower rate than the existing Secretary, with the intention to increase the salary at a later date. Now that the position has an extra duty, he believes it is the right time to give an increase. There is enough in the transfer request to make the effective date retroactive to October 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Wyman expressed his appreciation to Mr. Cain for the decision to not rehire the position.

A motion was made by Mr. Wyman to approve the transfer of \$200.00 from line item 12170.00, Laborers / Engineer Aides to 11140.02, Assistant Secretary / Bookkeeper. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried.

<b>011</b>	<b><u>Howard County Reassessment</u></b>			
01114.00	Part Time clerical	01116.00 Board of Review	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
03215.00	Construction Maintenance	04720.00 Computer System	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00

On behalf of County Assessor Jamie Shepherd, Auditor Wells informed the Council of the request to transfer funds into the Board of Review line item to complete the hearing of outstanding appeals. The Equipment transfer is to purchase new equipment and software to meet the new state guidelines for tax assessment and billing programs.

The requests to transfer were approved as submitted on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Ortman.

<b>138</b>	<b><u>Howard County CASA</u></b>			
01112.00	Case Manager	01115.00 Part Time	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00

CASA Director Katina Silver submitted the request to transfer to reflect the amount of a Grant received earlier but not appropriated to the needed line item.

A motion was made by Mr. Wyman to approve the transfer of \$8,000.00 from line item 01112.00 to line item 01115.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried.

Ms. Silver further explained that she would like to fill the recently vacated Case Worker position with part-time workers. It was the consensus of the Council to approve this decision.

<u>252</u>	<u>Howard County COIT</u>				
<u>025</u>	<u>Howard County Sheriff</u>				
01117.01	Lieutenant	01120.01	Part Time Corrections	\$ 8,000.00	\$ Withdrawn

Sheriff Talbert would like to withdraw this request. The request was withdrawn on a motion made by Mr. Stout and seconded by Mr. Papacek.

**IN THE MATTER OF SALARY ORDINANCE NO. 2009-HCCO-33 – AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2009:**

Salary Ordinance No. 2009-HCCO-33 – Amending Salary Ordinance for 2009 was read in full by Auditor Wells and acted upon as follows:

		<b>Requested:</b>	<b>Approved:</b>
<u>002</u>	<u>Howard County Highway</u>		
11140.01	Secretary / Bookkeeper change to Assistant Secretary / Bookkeeper <i>Currently \$31,475      Increase of \$794.00</i>	\$ 32,269.00	\$ 32,269.00

Auditor Wells commented that the name change is not a change in position, but is to correct the description in the Auditor’s records. Salary Ordinance No. 2009-HCCO-33 is approved, including the title change, on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Ortman. Mr. Cain was commended for his consideration in not replacing a lost position.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE OPENING OF A NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilman Wyman informed and invited the Council to the announcement of a new company, here in Kokomo. The event will take place at Inventrek, at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Governor Daniels will be in attendance. This is the company that received the \$50,000.00 from EDIT Funds, approved by the Council in September.

At this time, President Miller recognized the attendance of City Councilman Kevin Summers and Mr. Randy Morris.

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

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

1. **DOC Check:** Sheriff Talbert submitted a Department Of Corrections check in the amount of \$11,410.00. The check was given to the Auditor’s Office for receipt into County funds.
2. **Donation Received:** The Sheriff’s Department received a donation of \$1,000.00 from Pat and Eric Barko. This money was collected as a fundraiser to equip County and City police department K9’s with bullet proof vests. Their fundraising goal was not met, but what they collected was distributed in the amounts of \$1,000.00 to the County Sheriff’s Department and \$575.00 to the City of Kokomo Police Department. Sheriff Talbert would like to have the money receipted into the General Fund, to be appropriated to the K9 fund at a later date. Sheriff Talbert appreciates their efforts as well as the efforts of the Departments’ K9 handlers.
3. **Commissary Report:** The Commissary Report for the month of September, 2009, was submitted and copies were distributed to the Council members. Sheriff Talbert reminded the Council that temporary labor can be paid out of the Commissary Fund. For the last several years he has posted additional units for duty on Halloween night. This includes Court Security Officers, Courthouse Security, and officers with law enforcement experience. Sheriff Talbert requests permission from the Council to hire additional units again this year for Halloween duty. This has been effective in keeping vandalism down. It was the consensus of the Council to approve the hiring of additional personnel and payment from the Commissary Fund.
4. **Binding Of Contract:** In Indiana it is legal for an outgoing Sheriff to enter into a contract that would carry over to the term of the newly elected Sheriff. The three year contract with Health Professional, LTD, for inmate medical care, is expiring and Health Professionals, LTD would like us to sign another three year contract. Sheriff Talbert’s term expires in December of 2010 and he does not want to sign a contract that would obligate a new Sheriff. Health Professionals has offered to extend the present contract for one year with a 0% increase, and

Sheriff Talbert will recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they approve the one-year contract (usually a 5% – 7 % increase).

5. **New Dodge Patrol Car:** One of the two new Dodge Charger patrol vehicles is parked near the building and Sheriff Talbert invites Council members to inspect the new vehicle at the close of the meeting. Sheriff Talbert informed the Council as to what companies will continue to manufacture vehicles for patrol use. Sheriff Talbert has asked to purchase a third Charger at the state's QPA pricing but the Board of Commissioners has not yet approved the purchase. They directed Sheriff Talbert to contact local dealerships to see if they would match the pricing. Sheriff Talbert distributed copies of a letter received by Button Dodge stating the cost of a comparable vehicle at \$2,104.00 more than the QPA pricing. It was stated that the difference in pricing is for a one year newer vehicle with extended warranty, but the State's QPA is not going up in 2010, including the warranty. Sheriff Talbert believes that \$2,104.00 per vehicle is a significant amount of money. There will be a future meeting with local car dealers in the future, concerning the issue of purchasing local.
6. **Inmate Phone Cards:** The purchase of phone cards by the inmates is going well, being able to make calls to cell phones, as needed.
7. **Inmate E-Mail:** Inmate e-mail has not taken off as quickly as the phone cards, at this time, but they have received accolades from a soldier in Afghanistan who receives e-mails the next day, instead of two weeks by using the postal service.
8. **Inmate Trust Account:** As a result of checks given to inmates when they leave the jail that remain un-cashed, the inmate trust account has been experiencing difficulty. The Sheriff's Department is in the process of addressing the issues brought up by the State Board of Accounts, by creating a petty cash fund for amounts less than \$5.00, and looking at the possibility of issuing Debit cards. The use of a debit card would take that money off the books, immediately.

Attorney Murrell commented on the letter received from Button Dodge concerning a police vehicle purchase. The Board of Commissioners are planning to meet with representatives of Button Dodge, concerning the issue of purchasing goods and equipment locally and the importance of being frugal with taxpayer money. The Board of Commissioners are "very sensitive" to this issue.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT ISSUES:**

Personnel Director Wanda McKillip submitted the following issues for the Council's information and approval:

1. **PERF Extension:** Ms. McKillip needs to extend additional service credit for Kathleen Young, who is a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. Ms. Young was employed from 1974 – 1978, returning January 1, 1986 until December 31, 1986, returning January 2, 2001 until present. In reviewing her PERF records, she found that they did not record her service for the year of 1986. Ms. Young submitted proof of employment as an attorney for the year 1986 and Ms. McKillip has those records. Ms. McKillip requests permission to extend the PERF service for the year of 1986. She submitted the proper paperwork for the Councilmen's signatures.
2. **NOVIA Employee Clinic:** Ms. McKillip distributed packets to the Councilmen concerning information about the NOVIA Employee Health Clinic. The Insurance Committee has reviewed information and discussed the possibility of a NOVIA clinic for county employees. Several county representatives visited a clinic in Fisher's Indiana, yesterday, taking a tour of the clinic. Ms. McKillip commented it was a very positive experience. The City of Kokomo is interested in partnering with the County. There will be another field trip to a clinic for those interested in attending, and more information will be forthcoming. Ms. McKillip invited questions from the Councilmen after they have reviewed the information.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF REASSESSMENT STATUS:**

County Assessor Jamie Shepherd stepped to the podium to offer a status report for the Reassessment activity for Howard County. The State has delayed reassessment for one year, so the current reassessment activity is for the tax year 2012 payable 2013, but the Assessor's office is still on the schedule for their rolling reassessment, just completing Clay Township. Workers are present in Ervin and Monroe Townships, doing data collection and field inspections. They and their vehicles are appropriately identified. Ms. Shepherd is preparing a media clip informing residents of the reassessment

workers located throughout the County. During the budget hearings the Council approved funds for the aerial photos. Those will be flown in the spring of 2010 and will be a joint venture with the City of Kokomo. Billing will be spread over a three year cycle, saving the County money. When Ms. Shepherd first took office, it was her goal to never have to ask the Council for an additional appropriation. So far she has been able to accomplish that goal, but it is getting more and more difficult, especially in Professional Services. The Reassessment Fund has paid for the Chrysler appeal, as well as other appeals for tax exempt filings. It has also paid for legal fees for proper representation before the Indiana Board of Tax Review. The current fund balances are tight and as an example, Ms. Shepherd held up two months of reassessment in order to fund the transfer requests on tonight's transfer resolution. The Assessor's office is four months ahead of schedule from last year, on certifying the net assessed values to the State, and six months ahead of schedule for 2010 pay 2011.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. 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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PAUL G. WYMAN, VICE PRESIDENT

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JAMES T. PAPACEK, 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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JOSEPH PENCEK, COUNCILMAN

ATTEST:

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ANN WELLS, AUDITOR

Howard County Council Meeting October 27, 2009