

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR AND 2011 BUDGET HEARINGS AUGUST 16, 17, 18
AND SEPTEMBER 7, 2011**

The Howard County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 16, 2011, at 4:00 p.m., in Hearing Room 338 of the Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Richard Miller, Vice President Stan Ortman and members Leslie Ellison, Jeff Stout, Joseph Pencek, Dwight Singer and John Roberts. Also present were County Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Ann Wells.

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

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the July 26, 2011 Regular Meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Singer and seconded by Mr. Ortman.

Mr. Miller informed the Council members of a phone call he received from Mrs. Pencek. Councilman Pencek is resting well in St. Joseph re-habilitation, trying to regain weight and energy. He asked that each one remember Councilman Pencek in prayer as he recovers. Councilman Singer led in a word of prayer.

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2011-HCCO-22-ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Auditor Ann Wells read Ordinance No. 2011-HCCO-22 – Additional Appropriations through one time and it was acted upon as follows:

		AMOUNT	
		REQUESTED:	APPROVED:
<u>001</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>		
<u>009</u>	Howard County Coroner		
03263.02	Autopsy / Lab	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
03263.04	Transportation	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00

Howard County Coroner Jay Price submitted the requests, informing the Council members that he has already underestimated the funds needed. His office is up to forty-two autopsies, this year, with two already this morning. Autopsies and labs are taken from line item 03263.02. The request for the Transportation line item is to pay for body transports to the Coroner’s facility. The amount requested should last until the end of the year. Total autopsy cases this year are up to one hundred sixty + cases, and he is expecting up to three hundred cases.

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman to approve \$20,000.00 to line item 03263.02, Autopsy / Lab, and \$3,200.00 to line item 03263.04, Transportation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried. Councilman Stout abstained from the vote.

TOTAL GENERAL FUND		\$ 23,200.00	\$ 23,200.00
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<u>012</u>	<u>Howard County Kitty Run Bond Fund</u>		
03120.00	Contract Services	\$ 670,000.00	\$ 670,000.00

According to MS4 Coordinator Greg Lake this request is to put enough money into the account to cover this year’s bond payment. Concerning the Kitty Run Project, all of the tile has been installed. The final grading is in progress and entrances are being taken out today. Mr. Lake expects the walk through for the final punch list to take place next week, and the project will be completed.

A motion was made by Mr. Ellison to approve the request of \$670,000 into line item 03120.00, Contract Services. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stout and carried.

	<u>Howard County Convention & Visitors Commission</u>		
01000.00	Salaries	\$ 4,968.00	\$ 4,968.00
01521.00	Payroll Taxes	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
03330.00	Advertising	\$ 21,340.00	\$ 21,340.00
03251.00	Contract Services	\$ 9,125.00	\$ 9,125.00
03223.00	Travel / Conference	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
04727.00	Office Equipment	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00

Ms. Kim Lafollette, President for the Convention and Visitor Convention submitted the Amended Budget for the Convention and Visitors Commission. The mortgage for the Johanning building has been paid off, and the Innkeeper Tax has increased. Ms. Peggy Hobson submitted this Amended 2011 Budget to the Council, and Ms. Lafollette is here to answer any questions. Ms. Lafollette then reviewed the budget with the Council, beginning with the salary line item. In 2009 the Convention and Visitors Commission reduced salaries by ten per cent for the remaining year 2009, and 20% thereafter, and eliminated one position. The staff was told that once the mortgage was paid off and the Innkeepers Tax was back to normal levels, the Commission would begin reinstating former salaries. This amended budget reflects a 6.25% increase toward reinstating former salaries, for the remainder of 2011. Mr. Jeb Conrad, Director of the Greater Kokomo Economic Development Alliance, stepped forward to help review the 2011 Amended Budget. This year the Convention and Visitors Bureau has entered into an agreement with GKEDA, and submitted their Alignment Strategy with the County Council. This amended budget was prepared by the CVB and reviewed by the GKEDA staff and Finance committee. He spoke to the increases in the Salaries, Advertising and Contract Services line items, and he outlined the current structure of the CVB, now that it has joined with the Alliance.

A motion was made by Mr. Ellison to approve the Amended 2011 Convention and Visitor Budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stout and carried.

IN THE MATER OF THE 2012 CONVENTION AND VISITOR'S COMMISSION BUDGET:

Because Ms. Lafollette is in attendance, the Council allowed her to submit the 2012 Budget to the County Council. Ms. Lafollette reviewed the budget as follows:

01000.00	Full Time Staff	\$121,532.00
01521.00	Taxes & Unemployment	\$ 9,800.00
01522.00	Sep/IRA	\$ 11,195.00
02360.00	Office	\$ 2,000.00
03251.00	Contract Services	\$ 19,625.00
03212.00	Postage	\$ 2,000.00
03214.00	Phone	\$ 5,000.00
03223.00	Travel/Conference	\$ 800.00
03330.00	Advertising / Promotion	\$114,925.00
03420.00	Liability & Bonding	\$ 3,375.00
03800.00	Dues & Subscription	\$ 1,900.00
04112.00	Building Expense	\$ 2,000.00
04727.00	Office Equipment	\$ 2,000.00
04800.00	Vehicle Expense	\$ 5,000.00

Ms. Lafollette also reviewed a project listing with the Council, housed within the Advertising / Promotion line item.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2011-HCCR-23:

County Attorney Larry Murrell submitted Resolution No. 2011-HCCR-23, a resolution declaring an interest in purchasing Flood Mitigation properties pursuant to IC 36-1-10.5-5. The Plan Commission has secured a Flood Mitigation Grant for the purchase of ten (10) residential properties that have been identified as being high risk for flood damage properties. This resolution is the first step in the acquisition process. The properties will be demolished after the purchases have been completed. Four houses in that area were purchased back in 2006 with a similar Flood Mitigation Grant. The Plan Commission office is also securing a Matching Grant from the Department of Homeland Security, as the County's share of the Flood Mitigation Grant. Plan Commission Director Greg Sheline commented that originally there were eleven (11) properties that had been identified, but one homeowner chose not to be a part of the program. Currently the Plan Commission is seeking two appraisals on each property and the average will be the price offered to the property owner (after the State has approved the appraisals). A motion was made by Mr. Singer to approve Resolution No. 2011-HCCR-23. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF NON-BINDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TAXING UNIT BUDGETS:

The County Council is charged with the responsibility of reviewing Taxing Unit Budgets, and giving a non-binding recommendation. A motion was made by Mr. Ortman to give Howard Township and Taylor Township a favorable recommendation and the remaining taxing units* whose budgets were presented, unfavorable recommendations, and authorize the President to sign on behalf of the County Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Singer and carried.

* The budgets received were Center, Clay, Ervin, Harrison, Honey Creek, Howard, Jackson, Liberty, Taylor and Union Townships, Kokomo-Howard County Public Library, Greentown Public Library, Greentown Civil Town and Russiaville Civil Town. Russiaville Civil Town will be reviewed at a later date.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CITY/COUNTY JOINT PROJECT PLAN

Commissioner Paul Wyman submitted a City/County Joint Project Plan that has been in process for the last several months. Mr. Wyman thanked Councilman Ortman and Councilmen Stout for the input into this project proposal. There are five projects listed for a combined total of \$10 million. Three quarters of that amount will be funded by Federal and State money (including the Indiana Department of Transportation), and/or grants. The projects are listed as follows:

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>COUNTY PORTION</u>	<u>CITY PORTION</u>
Morgan Street	\$163,133	\$442,000
Darrough Chapel	\$247,000	\$450,000
Nickel Plate Trail	\$296,498	\$ 84,122
North Street Project	\$200,000	\$220,000
Greater Kokomo Economic Dev Alliance	\$127,000	\$255,680

These projects are infra-structure related and Economic Development related and will improve Howard County and Kokomo in a significant way. The costs listed reflect the joint efforts of Highway Engineer Ted Cain and City of Kokomo Engineering Department’s Carey Stranahan. Budgeting for The Nickel Plate Trail funding can be split between 2012 and 2013. The North Street and Morgan Street projects are immediate funding; the Darrough Chapel Project funding is ongoing through 2013. The Alliance Funding is for 2012. Mr. Wyman is asking for support for these projects and he will come to the September meeting with Additional Appropriation requests. Mr. Stout informed the Council that there are several other projects being considered. Discussion ensued and at its conclusion it was the consensus of the Councilmen to table this issue and revisit it during the Budget Sessions August 17 & 18 and September 7, 2011.

IN THE MATTER OF AN ASSESSMENT APPEAL UPDATE:

County Assessor Jamie Shepherd offered an update of the Chrysler and General Motors property assessment appeal matters. Last year during the 2011 Budget Sessions Ms. Shepherd had informed the Council of the personal property self assessment paperwork received from General Motors, that significantly lowered the current personal property assessments (*please refer to page five, “In The Matter Of The Press Release Concerning The Decrease In Assessed Values”, of the Regular Meeting minutes dated August 24, 2011*). Howard County and General Motors have reached an agreement concerning the General Motors Personal property assessment appeal. The agreement will add an additional amount of assessed value to the personal property than what was reported in 2010. The Auditor’s Office has certified Net Assessed Values and they have increased by 8% over 2010 pay 2011. Trended values have decreased for individual properties, on average, which means overall values are trending downward but the total net assessed has increased, because of the settlement agreement. A net assessed value increase means a projected decrease in circuit breaker losses. The appeal deadline is August 29th and to date there could be as much as a 70% decrease in assessment appeals from last year. As part of the agreement between Chrysler and General Motors, they have forfeited the right to appeal personal property for 2011 pay 2012. This is good news for the Council as they begin their 2011/2012 budget sessions. Ms. Shepherd expressed appreciation to the Auditor’s Office for waiting to certify with the State until August 15th, certifying real numbers at an 8% increase in lieu of projected numbers that showed a 10% decrease.

At this time the Budget Hearings were recessed until 8:15 a.m. on August 17, 2011 at 5:35 p.m. on consensus of the Council.

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The meeting was reconvened at 8:17 a.m. on Wednesday, August 17, 2011, 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 the year 2012.

8:15 a.m.	001-014	Superior Court I	Judge William Menges
	001-045	Unified Courts	Judge William Menges
	050-000	Jury Pay	Judge William Menges
	120-000	Drug Free Community Based Fund	Judge William Menges
8:45 a.m.	001-008	Superior Court II	Judge Brant Parry
9:00 a.m.	001-001	Clerk	Kim Wilson
	001-016	Election Board	Kim Wilson
	700-000	Clerk Document Storage Fee	Kim Wilson
9:15 a.m.	001-033	Superior Court III	Judge Doug Tate
9:30 a.m.	012-000	Kitty Run Bond Fund	Greg Lake
	015-000	Stormwater District	Greg Lake
9:45 a.m.	001-005	Sheriff Department	Sheriff Steve Rogers
	252-025	Jail / Juvenile COIT	Sheriff Steve Rogers
	115-000	Sheriff Work Program	Sheriff Steve Rogers
	256-000	Howard Co Courthouse Security	Sheriff Steve Rogers
10:15 a.m.	001-021	Plan Commission	Greg Sheline
10:30 a.m.	001-023	Commissioners	Commissioners Moore, Thompson &
	150-000	Cumulative Capital Development	“ Wyman
	500-000	CEDIT Fund	“
10:45 a.m.	010-000	Health Department	Kent Weaver
	215-000	Master Tobacco Grant	Kent Weaver
	514-000	Local Health Maintenance	Kent Weaver
	932-000	Bio Public Health Coord Grant	Kent Weaver
10:50 a.m.	001-004	Recorder	Brook Cleaver
	144-000	Recorder Perpetuation Fund	Brook Cleaver
	232-000	Recorder ID Protection	Brook Cleaver
	283-000	County Elected Official Training Fund	Brook Cleaver
11:00 a.m.	001-031	Information System	Terry Tribby
	500-001	EDIT Information Systems	Terry Tribby

The Council recessed the hearings for a lunch sponsored by Sheriff Rogers. At its conclusion the hearings were reconvened and the schedule was observed as follows.

1:00 p.m.	001-006	Surveyor	Dan Minor
	132-000	Surveyor Perpetuation	Dan Minor
1:15 p.m.	138-000	CASA	Katina Silver
1:25 p.m.	001-023	Humane Society	Bill Humphrey
1:35 p.m.	001-029	Emergency Management	Larry Smith
	042-000	Sara Title IV Right to Know	Larry Smith
1:45 p.m.	001-018	Building Superintendent	Scott Reed
2:00 p.m.	001-017	Voter Registration	Carol Shallenberger, Shirley McCoy
2:15 p.m.	001-028	Weights & Measures	Charlie Hackett
2:30 p.m.	001-020	Howard Haven	Jennifer Vary
2:45 p.m.	001-032	Soil & Water Conservation	Rene Weaver
	001-002	Auditor	Ann Wells
	046-000	Auditor Electronic Data Fund	Ann Wells
	108-000	Plat Book Fund	Ann Wells
	285-000	Auditor Ineligible Homestead Fund	Ann Wells
3:00 p.m.	001-022	Howard County Museum	Kelly Karickhoff
	500-03226	EDIT County Museum Op Expense	Kelly Karickhoff
3:15 p.m.	500-32210	EDIT Governmental Coord Council	Larry Ives

The afternoon session of the Budget Hearings was recessed at 3:28 p.m.

***The Budget Hearings reconvened at 8:15 a.m. on Thursday, August 18,
and the following schedule of sessions was observed.***

8:15 a.m.	001-013	Circuit Court	Judge Lynn Murray
8:30 a.m.	104-000	Juvenile Probation	Don Travis
	177-000	Juvenile Probation Admin Fees	Don Travis
	190-000	Juvenile Probation Informal User Fee	Don Travis
	001-034	Adult Probation	Don Travis
	105-000	Adult Probation User Fee	Don Travis
	176-000	Adult Probation Admin Fee	Don Travis
	185-000	Alcohol & Drug User Fee	Don Travis
8:45a.m.	252-035	Kinsey Youth Center	Brent Kelley
	252-037	Kinsey Youth Center – Residential	Brent Kelley
	252-038	Kinsey Youth Center – Secure Det	Brent Kelley
9:00 a.m.	001-009	Coroner	Jay Price
9:15 a.m.	002-000	Highway Department	Ted Cain
	006-000	Cumulative Bridge	Ted Cain
	007-000	Local Road & Streets	Ted Cain
10:00 a.m.	001-006	County Extension	Susan Neher
10:15 a.m.	001-003	Treasurer	Martha Lake
10:35 a.m.	001-011	Center Twp. Assessor	Sheila Pullen
10:50 a.m.	001-010	County Assessor	Jamie Shepherd
	011-000	Reassessment	Jamie Shepherd

***At this time the Council recessed the Hearings for a luncheon at Kinsey Youth Center
and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.***

1:15 p.m.	001-044	Superior Court IV	Judge George Hopkins
1:20 p.m.	001-012	Prosecuting Attorney	Mark McCann
	001-036	Prosecutor IV-D	Mark McCann
	186-000	Pre-Trial Diversion	Mark McCann
	198-000	Law Enforcement Fund	Mark McCann
	247-000	Prosecutor / Bad Check / Copy Fund	Mark McCann
	508-000	Stop Domestic Violence Grant	Mark McCann
	512-000	Drug Task Force Grant	Mark McCann
1:45 p.m.	001-015	Veterans Service	Robert Ladd

At the conclusion of Departmental Sessions, President Miller opened the floor for the Council’s discussion. At its conclusion, the meeting was continued until September 7, 2011, at 8:00 a.m.

The 2011/2012 Budget Session was reconvened on Wednesday, September 7, 2011, by President Richard Miller. He led the Council members in a moment of silence in observance of this 10th anniversary of the attack on the Twin Towers in New York City. It was the consensus of the Council to end today’s session no later than 6:00 p.m. If the budget has not been finalized, the Council will meet on Thursday, September 8.

***The Council reviewed the budget by department beginning in County General.
As the budgets were reviewed, any official action taken by the County Council will be
recorded in the order that it happened. All salary adjustment requests
will be addressed after the individual budgets have been reviewed.***

IN THE MATTER OF THE HOWARD COUNTY RECYCLING DISTRICT 2012 BUDGET:

On behalf of the Howard County Recycling District, Board Member Ron Metz submitted the first reading of the 2012 Operating Budget. Mr. Metz reviewed the budget, which was previously submitted and approved by the Department of Local Government Finance. At the conclusion of the review a motion was made by Mr. Stout to pass the first reading of the Howard County Recycling District 2012 Budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pencek and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2011-BCCO-25 – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Auditor Ann Wells read Ordinance No. 2011-BCCO-25 – Additional Appropriations through one time and it was acted upon as follows:

		AMOUNT	
		REQUESTED:	APPROVED:
<u>001</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>		
<u>005</u>	<u>Howard County Sheriff Department</u>		
01123.05	Dispatch Overtime	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00

Sheriff Steve Rogers informed the Council that the Dispatch Center (C-COM) has had to spend more money in Overtime than what was budgeted. This Additional Request is to cover the needed funds through the end of the year. More people are needed to cover the dispatch positions and in the meantime, so much overtime is being worked that the morale of the dispatchers is decreasing.

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman to approve the additional request of \$50,000 to line item 01123.05, Dispatch Overtime. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried.

<u>009</u>	<u>Howard County Coroner</u>		
03263.02	Autopsy / Lab	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00

Deputy Coroner Jeff Stout reminded the Council that when Coroner Jay Price submitted his 2012 Budget, he informed the Council at that time that he would need to ask for additional money in his Autopsy / Lab account.

A motion was made by Mr. Singer to approve the request of \$25,000 to line item 03263.02, Autopsy / Lab. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried. Councilman Stout abstained from the vote.

Total County General Fund **\$ 75,000.00** **\$ 75,000.00**

<u>500</u>	<u>Howard County CREDIT Fund</u>		
03122.00	North Street Project	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
03546.00	West Side Signage Project	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
03546.00	New Business Incentive	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00

Commissioner Paul Wyman explained these requests to the Council. The North Street Project is one of a package of requests for 2011-2013 that will be shared with the City of Kokomo, as follows:

North Street Project	\$200,000.00	EDIT Fund	2011
Darrough Chapel Sewer Project	\$247,000.00	Stormwater	2012
Morgan Street Project	\$163,133.00	Highway or EDIT	2012
Nickel Plate Trail	\$296,498.00	EDIT	2012/2013
GKEDA	\$127,000.00	EDIT	Annual

Mr. Wyman would like the whole package approved today. A motion was made by Mr. Pencek to approve the whole package of joint projects with the City of Kokomo, as outlined above. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stout. President Miller voiced concern with the total package and would like to have seen County/City cooperation on project costs begin with the county expenses incurred in legal and consultation fees pertaining to Chrysler and General Motors bankruptcy and assessment issues. Had the County not been successful, there would have been a loss of over \$60 million tax dollars to Howard County and its taxing units. Kokomo refused any assistance with the legal and consultation fees. When Mr. Miller suggested that the aforementioned costs could be paid from the interest income, it was rejected by the City of Kokomo, as well. Although he approves of several projects on the list, he does not believe the County should enter into a “package” agreement.

County Assessor Jamie Shepherd confirmed that the amount of tax dollars the County was able to recover from the bankruptcy and assessment issues was \$60,629,470 (includes \$1.3 million interest collected on 1 of 5 projects). That amount was broken down into taxing unit distributions as follows:

Howard County	\$10.8 million	Center & HowardTwps	\$1 million
Kokomo Center Schools	\$15 million	Other Services	\$2.9 million
Northwestern Schools	\$5.9 million	City of Kokomo	\$30.7 million

Councilman Roberts commented that he also wishes the other taxing entities had helped with the legal and consultation fees that were incurred in this process, but they haven't. He believes this project proposal will still benefit the community and give the County the more "stretch" to their dollar. He respectfully endorsed the motion on the table.

Councilman Stout believes that the expenses incurred during the bankruptcy and assessment negotiations is still a valid issue for future consideration. He believes that moving forward with the project package, taking the first step, is the right thing to do, and that the negotiation expenses are still on the table, as far as he's concerned.

Assessor Shepherd hopes that forthcoming interest payments that will be considered as a means to reimburse the negotiation costs (additional \$1.3 million). The City's portion is approximately \$659,000, in addition to 100% of the revenue.

Councilman Ortman commented that the Council has not seen figures on annexation losses, as it will affect the County in the future. He also believes these projects should be addressed one at a time in lieu of a "package".

At this time Assessor Shepherd gave the following assessment figures that will be shifted from the County to the City of Kokomo effective January 1, 2012, including a wide variety of taxing issues:

West Side: recorded in the Auditor's Office

East Side: has NOT been recorded in the Auditor's Office, but estimated and taken into consideration

Harrison Township	\$111.7 million	Net Assessed Values
Clay Township	\$2.7 million	Net Assessed Values
Howard Township	\$733,000	Net Assessed Values
Taylor Township	\$2 million	Net Assessed Values
Center Township	\$1.1 million	Net Assessed Values
Total	\$278.6 million	Net Assessed Values

**A 12% - 14% shift from Howard County to the City of Kokomo
Additional \$1 million in Circuit Breaker losses**

These figures will also affect our levy, as well as population driven income tax based COIT and EDIT distributions.

Mr. Wyman commented that while he understands these figures express future losses, the projects being considered are to be paid from taxpayer monies already received.

At the conclusion of discussion a vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Councilman Stout	Aye	Councilman Singer	Nay
Councilman Pencek	Aye	Councilman Ellison	Nay
Councilman Roberts	Aye	Councilman Ortman	Nay
		Councilman Miller	Nay

The motion to approve the City/County Joint Project Plan was not carried.

Councilman continued to explain the Additional Appropriations requests of \$1,000 to line item 03546.00, West Side Signage Project and \$5,000 to line item 3701.00, New Business Incentive. The New Business Incentive is for Arts Association that has moved to downtown Main Street. When the Small Business Grant Committee and the Board of Commissioners approved the Incentive for Arts Association, it was with the understanding that originally \$50,000 was budgeted to that line item. They now understand that the original amount was split into two line items. During ensuing discussion it was suggested that money be transferred from the Greentown and Russiaville Matching line items to the Small Business line item to cover the \$5,000 needed. A motion was made by Mr. Stout to transfer \$2,500 from line items 03701.01 (Greentown Matching) and 03701.22, to line item 03701, small Business Incentive, in lieu of the Additional request. The motion also includes the Additional Request of \$1,000 to line item 03546.00, West Side Signage Project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Singer and carried. The transfer portion of the motion is reflected as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-HCCR-30 – TRANSFERS:

	Transfer From:	To:	Amount Requested:	Allowed:
500	<u>CEDIT FUND</u>			
03701.01	Greentown Matching	03701.00 Small Business Incentive	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
03701.02	Russiaville Matching	03701.00 Small Business Incentive	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00

Mr. Wyman asked for clarification from the Council, whether they intend that the Small Grant Committee still accept applications, since that line item is at a -0- balance. It was the consensus of the Council to encourage the Committee to accept applications, yet this year, and the Council will hear any additional requests on a case by case basis.

At this time a motion was made by Councilman Roberts to approve the Additional request of \$200,000 to line item 03122.00, North Street Project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellison. At the conclusion of ensuing discussion the motion carried.

After the break for lunch, the Council addressed transfers as follows.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2011-HCCR-24 – TRANSFERS:

	Transfer From:	To:	Amount Requested:	Allowed:
001	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>			
010	<u>Howard County Assessor</u>			
01113.03	Trending Deputy	01113.01 1 st Deputy Level 2	\$ 49.59	\$ 49.59
01113.03	Trending Deputy	01113.00 1 st Deputy	\$ 0.97	\$ 0.97
01113.03	Trending Deputy	01114.00 Trending Deputy Level 2	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
011	<u>Howard County Reassessment</u>			
03511.00	Professional Services	01114.00 Part Time Clerical	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00

Assessor Shepherd justified these transfer requests by stating that earlier in the year there was some confusion as to how both the County Assessor and the Center Twp. Assessor were to disperse the funds to both offices. That issue has been reconciled and the transfer in the Reassessment Fund corrects the line item and maintains a balance to last through the end of the year. Concerning the County General transfer requests, the County Assessor’s Office is working with the Stormwater office in doing land use layer. That would be paid from professional services, but the work is being done in-house. The first two transfers are to balance funds in those accounts.

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman to approve the transfers as requested. The motion was seconded by Mr. Singer and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT REHIRE REQUEST:

Health Department Director Kent Weaver requested to replace the position of Howard County Registrar. The current Registrar is retiring and this is a vital position. Councilman Stout confirmed the importance of this position, and made a motion to approve the rehiring of the Registrar position. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried.

Next month Mr. Weaver will be coming to the meeting to request replacement of a vaccine freezer in the Health Department.

IN THE MATTER OF NON-BINDING REVIEWS:

The 2012 Budgets for the City of Kokomo and the Town of Russiaville were submitted, for the Council’s review. The Council gave the Town of Russiaville’s 2012 Budget Request a FAVORABLE non-binding review on a motion made by Mr. Ortman and seconded by Mr. Singer.

The 2012 Budget for the City of Kokomo was given an UNFAVORABLE non-binding review on a motion made by Mr. Ortman and seconded by Mr. Roberts.

IN THE MATTER OF REMAINING CITY/COUNTY PROJECT REQUESTS:

On page seven of these minutes, the County Council acted on a City of Kokomo / Howard County Project Package. It was the Council’s action to NOT approve the project listing as a package but to address the individual projects. Final consensus on the projects is hereby listed as follows:

North Street Project	\$200,000	EDIT	2011
Darrough Chapel Sewer	\$247,000	Stormwater	2012
Morgan Street Project	\$163,133	Local Road & Street	2012
Nickel Plat Trail	\$145,000	EDIT	2012
GKEDA	\$114,000	EDIT	2012

IN THE MATTER OF THE CONVENTION AND VISITOR’S BUREAU 2012 PROPOSED BUDGET:

The Convention and Visitor’s Bureau submitted their 2012 Proposed Budget and the Council accepted and reviewed the budget. It was the consensus of the Council to direct the CVB to set aside \$10,000 to use as reserve monies, available for special needs through the Additional Appropriation process, then amend their 2012 proposed Advertising / promotions budget. A total budget of \$310,603 for 2012 was approved by consensus.

IN THE MATTER OF MONROE TOWNSHIP BUDGET REVIEW:

At the completion of review of the Monroe Township 2012 Proposed Budget, a motion was made by Mr. Ortman to give an Unfavorable nonbinding recommendation, because of the growth percentages. The motion was seconded by Mr. Singer and carried.

This Budget Session was recessed at 5:20 p.m., to reconvene at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2011.

IN THE MATTER OF SALARY RESTRUCTURING IN THE COMMISSIONERS’ PROPOSED BUDGET:

Concerning the County Attorney’s office salaries in the Commissioners’ budget, the Council addressed work load shifts and salary increases for the Assistant County Attorney and the Administrative Assistant / Benefit’s Representative. Also addressed is the decrease in work load and salary for the Attorney’s part time secretary. The PAC Committee recommended a salary increase for Assistant County Attorney Alan Wilson and Administrative Assistant / Benefits Representative Brittany Dockemeyer. They also gave recommendation for the decrease in salary for the Part Time Secretary in the Attorney’s Office. The Board of Commissioners gave a favorable recommendation for the salary decrease and the shift in job responsibilities. They gave an unfavorable recommendation for salary increases for Assistant Attorney Alan Wilson and Administrative Assistant / Benefits Representative Brittany Dockemeyer. At the conclusion of ensuing discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Stout to approve the Pac Recommendations as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried.

Concerning the increase in the Drainage Board line item, a motion to approve the increase, due to the increase from a three member board to a five member board, was made by Mr. Stout. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried with five Aye votes and 1 Nay vote.

IN THE MATTER OF SPECIFIC SALARY INCREASE REQUESTS:

Although all offices would like salary increases, these offices put specific Salary Increase requests in their budget. The Council addressed those requests at this time.

Superior Court II: Request one (1) new full-time Secretary Position and delete the part-time position, with salary of \$28,673. The PAC gave their recommendation and the Board of Commissioners gave a favorable recommendation. A motion was made by Mr. Ortman to approve the request as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried.

Veterans Service Office: Request to increase one Administrative Assistant position salary to \$26,750 and change job title from Administrative Assistant to Administrative Support Manager. Change job title for other Administrative Assistant to Claims Adjuster with no increase in Salary. The PAC gave favorable recommendations for all three requests. The Board

of Commissioners gave favorable recommendations to the title changes and gave an unfavorable recommendation to the salary increase request for the Administrative Support Manager. A motion was made by Mr. Pencek and seconded by Mr. Roberts to approve all three requests as submitted. It was the consensus of the Council to approve the title change requests but **NOT** the Salary increase request.

Coroner: Request increasing the Coroner Salary to \$40,000 and request the part-time line item be increased to \$6,000. Both requests received favorable recommendations from the PAC. The Board of Commissioners gave an unfavorable recommendation for the Coroner salary increase and a favorable recommendation to the increase in part-time. Councilman Stout recommends that the Part-Time request be taken off the table. Part-time labor is used case-by-case, and any additional needs can be appropriated next year. The Council agreed by consensus to leave the part-time at \$3,000. The Council agreed by consensus to **NOT** approve the Coroner salary increase.

Prosecutor Office: Request an increase in the Supplemental salary to \$13,050. Request restructuring three (3) of the six (6) Criminal Enforcement Clerk positions to 1st Deputy – increase salary to \$34,314. The Job title and salary of remaining three Criminal Enforcement Clerks are to remain the same. The PAC gave a favorable recommendation to the 1st request (increase prosecutor supplemental) and did **NOT** recommend the Enforcement Clerk changes. The Board of Commissioners gave an unfavorable recommendation to both requests. It was the consensus of the Council to **NOT** approve supplemental increase and restructuring requests/salary increases.

Center Township Assessor: Request increasing Center Twp. Assessor salary to \$47,504. The PAC did **NOT** recommend this request. The Board of Commissioners gave an Unfavorable recommendation to the Council. The Council does not want to forget to recognize the work done by Center Township Assessor Sheila Pullen in the County's effort to recover taxes from Chrysler and GM, and the integral part she played in assessment matters. At the conclusion of discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Roberts to leave the salary as it is, and to recognize and commend the work done by Ms. Pullen. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pencek and with five aye votes and one nay vote.

E911 Dispatch (C-COM): Request three (3) new full-time Dispatchers at \$31,979 each. This was given a favorable recommendation by the PAC and a favorable recommendation by the Board of Commissioners. Upon consensus the County Council approved the request to hire three new full-time Dispatchers.

Court Security Officers: Superior Court II – Request salary increase to \$29,953 (\$522)
Superior Court I – Request salary increase to \$30,089 (\$658)
Superior Court IV – Request salary increase to \$30,608 (\$1,177)
Circuit Court – Request salary increase to \$29,953 (\$522)

These requests were not recommended by the PAC, and the Board of Commissioners gave the requests an unfavorable recommendation. It was the consensus of the Council to **NOT** approve salary increases for the listed Court Security Officers.

Other Elected Officials and Department Heads requested percentage salary increases as follows: Surveyor, County Extension, Election Board, Voters Registration, Buildings & Grounds, Soil & Water, Superior Court IV, Sheriff Department, Document Storage, and Highway. It was the consensus of the Council to **NOT** approve these salary increase requests at this time. Councilman Miller expressed appreciation to Highway Engineer/Superintendent Ted Cain and his crew for operating with a lesser amount of employees, in the last few years, and still maintaining roads, bridges and projects in the same excellent fashion.

It was suggested by President Miller that the Council consider moving the Surveyor's Salary back to a non-certified level of \$41,011. This results from the resignation of Surveyor Dan Minor, a licensed surveyor. The person chosen to finish Mr. Minor's term is Mr. Dave Duncan, who is not a licensed surveyor. A motion was made by Mr. Stout to move the Surveyor salary back to \$41,011, which reflects a non-licensed salary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pencek and carried.

President Miller also took this opportunity to recognize the Buildings & Grounds Department for their sacrifice of several positions, during the hiring freeze, and still directed to keep the buildings clean and maintained. He thanked Mr. Reed and employees of the Maintenance Department.

IN THE MATTER OF POSSIBILITY OF LOWERING THE TAX LEVY FOR THE COUNTY:

County Assessor Jamie Shepherd submitted a proposal to lower the Reassessment levy for 2012. Last year at budget time, the Assessor’s office informed the Council of a loss in net assessed values because of the Personal Property returns submitted by Chrysler and General Motors. While real property values are assessed by the Assessors’ Offices, personal property is assessed by the property owner. Chrysler had filed an 89% decrease in value and General Motors filed a 97% decrease in value from 2009 to 2010. The County reached a settlement with Chrysler before tax rates were certified, therefore, not affecting taxes. However, the taxes were figured at the lower assessed value without the General Motors assessment, creating higher tax rates and shifting the tax burden to the tax payers. Now that the County has reached a \$5 million settlement General Motors, concerning the net assessed values, Ms. Shepherd proposes to give back to the taxpayers the Reassessment portion of the \$4,776,409.70 to be collected this year, in the amount of \$18,800. Discussion ensued including giving a “replacement credit” in lieu of lowering the levy, and including Howard County’s portion of \$846,000+.

At 11:20 the Council recessed for lunch. The “Lowering Tax Levy” discussion resumed when the Council reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

President Miller informed the Council members that during the lunch break, he and several others were in touch with the Department of Local Government Finance, State Board of Accounts, and the State Auditor’s Office concerning the concept of a Replacement Credit on the tax bills of those taxpayers whose taxes increased because of the tax shift in 2011. He learned that there were two counties in Indiana that have given money back to the taxpayers, and that will be researched as to how it was accomplished. Between now and February we will find a means to identify which taxpayers paid an increase, last year, and the amount of the increase. Then lower the tax by that amount, and reflect the savings on the tax statement. Other taxing units could be invited to participate. Assessor Shepherd confirmed that there are currently no laws that would prevent us from pursuing this tax credit. The amount would need to be confirmed and appropriated in this year’s budget, to be encumbered into the budget for 2012. A motion was made by Mr. Singer and seconded by Mr. Ortman to pursue the possibility of a Replacement Credit for the taxpayer whose taxes were increased because of the 2010 decrease in net assessed values. The motion was carried with one abstention from the vote.

IN THE MATTER OF FINAL 2012 BUDGET ACTION:

A motion was made by Mr. Stout to approve the budget as set by this Council in the amount of \$37,442,354. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried. As it pertains to a possible bonus for employees in 2012, Mr. Stout reminded the Council to revisit this issue next year.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, a motion was made by Mr. Stout to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL:

RICHARD A. MILLER, PRESIDENT

STAN ORTMAN, VICE PRESIDENT

JEFF STOUT, MEMBER

LESLIE ELLISON, MEMBER

JOSEPH PENCEK, MEMBER

DWIGHT SINGER, MEMBER

ATTEST:

JOHN ROBERTS, MEMBER

ANN WELLS, AUDITOR
Howard County Council Meeting August 16, 17, 18 and September 7,
2011