

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MAY 22, 2012

The Howard County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 22, 2012 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.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the April 24, 2012 Regular Meeting minutes, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Stout and seconded by Mr. Ortman.

The Council was led in prayer by Councilman Jeff Stout.

IN THE MATTER OF A POSITION REHIRE IN SUPERIOR COURT III:

Judge Doug Tate, Superior Court III, submitted a position rehire request to replace an employee who resigned. He reminded the Council that two years ago he made a decision to reduce his work force by twenty per cent (10 to 8 employees). Two employees have retired and not been replaced. This current position does need to be filled in order to keep eight employees. A motion was made by Mr. Stout to approve of the position replacement in the office of Superior Court III. The motion was seconded by Mr. Singer and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2012-HCCR-11 AND RESOLUTION NO. 2012-HCCR-12:

Commissioner Tyler Moore submitted Resolution No. 2012-HCCR-11 and Resolution No. 2012-HCCR-12. HCCR-11 is a resolution of the County Council approving an Economic Development Agreement with Wildcat Wind Farm II, LLC. HCCR-12 is a Preliminary Economic Revitalization Area resolution for a Real and Personal Property Tax Abatement for the Wildcat Wind Farm. Mr. Moore turned the podium over to County Assessor Jamie Shepherd for review and explanation of the P.I.L.O.T. (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) Payment, the abatement, and the bonus depreciation. From the assessing standpoint, Ms. Shepherd is comfortable with the language of the resolution. The Auditor has been made aware of the P.I.L.O.T. Payment and is comfortable with the opinions of the State Auditor's Office and the Department of Local Government Finance Office. Attorney Murrell and consultant Rick Hall are also comfortable with the language of the documents. Mr. Murrell confirmed that he is comfortable with these documents, as well as the Road and Drain Agreement, and the fact that all requested changes have been made. Highway Engineer Ted Cain has been talking with the Madison County Engineer, as they are also working with EON on a wind farm project. Mr. Cain was impressed with how EON operated the meeting he attended. A project of this size will have some problems, but those problems were addressed in a timely fashion.

Mr. Andy Melka, from EON, made a brief statement, thanking the Council for their consideration of these resolutions. The abatement is for phases II and III of the Wind Farm project, both of which are partially located in Howard County. This project will help to provide energy to 45 - 50,000 homes. Wind Farms like this one show numerous economic benefits to the communities in which they are located; especially in the Midwest. Mr. Melka fielded questions from the Council.

Mr. Murrell expressed appreciation to the attorneys involved with this case. They were all very easy to work with! Mr. Moore also expressed his appreciation to all involved.

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman, seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried, to approve Resolution No. 2012-HCCR-11, approving an Economic Development Agreement with Wildcat Wind Farm II, LLC, and certain other matters.

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman to approve Resolution No. 2012-HCCR-12, the real and personal property tax abatement for Wildcat Wind Farm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried. Both resolutions and agreements documents were signed at this time. A Public Hearing will be held on June 26, 2012. All paperwork and meeting notices will be prepared and distributed by EON's attorney.

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2012-HCCO-13 – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Ordinance No. 2012-HCCO-13 – Additional Appropriations was read in full one time by Auditor Ann Wells and acted upon as follows:

<u>001</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>	AMOUNT	
<u>023</u>	<u>Howard County Commissioners</u>	REQUESTED:	APPROVED:
01524.00	Employee Service Bonus (236,000 if split with J&J COIT)	\$ 330,000.00	\$ 330,000.00

Commissioner Moore reminded the Council members that this request is duplicated in the EDIT Fund (500). At the April 16th Commissioner meeting the Board of Commissioners approved an employee bonus of \$625 to full time employees and \$200 to part time employees (Commissioners excepted), to be paid in July, 2012 (*please refer to page three, "In The Matter Of A 2012 Employee Bonus Discussion", of the Board of Commissioner Meeting minutes dated April 16, 2012*). Although not stated, it is the Commissioners' intent to request the raise be paid from County General. If the raise were paid from the EDIT account, it would require an amendment to the Capital Improvement Plan. The total amount of the bonus (\$330,000) can be paid from County General, but this additional request also includes \$94,000 from the Jail & Juvenile COIT Fund. Discussion ensued and included the legality of raising an Elected Officials' salary in the same year they are serving.

At the conclusion of discussion a motion was made by Mr. Stout to approve the request of \$330,000 to line item 01524.00, Employee Service Bonus, thereby approving the Board of Commissioners' recommendation to give a bonus of \$625 to all full-time employees and \$200 to part-time employees, effective July, 2012, at the Auditor's discretion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried.

County Attorney Larry Murrell did confirm that according to State Statute, an Elected Official's "compensation" could not be changed for the year it is fixed. He believes "compensation" would include a bonus.

At 4:51 p.m. the regular Council Meeting was recessed in order for the Council Members to attend a Public Hearing and Special Session held by the Board of Commissioners. This concerns the potential partnership between Community Health Network and Howard Regional Health Center.

The minutes for this Special Session and Public Hearing are on file and can be found in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting minutes, as Howard County Board of Commissioners Special Session on May 22, 2012.

The Howard County Council meeting reconvened at 6:13 p.m.

<u>010</u>	<u>Howard County Health Fund</u>		
02321.00	Gas, Oil & Lubricants	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
02337.00	Nursing Supplies	\$ 2,925.00	\$ 2,925.00
02371.00	Other Supplies	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
03121.00	Maintenance & Service Contracts	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
03121.01	Maintenance & Service / Radio	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
03212.00	Postage	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
03213.00	Travel & Training	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
03253.00	Equipment Repair	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00

Health Director Kent Weaver submitted these requests, explaining to the Council that the Department of Local Government Finance required a budget cut in January. These additional requests will bring the Department's budget back to the 2012 budgeted amount.

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman to approve the additional requests as submitted, in the total amount of \$9,675.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried.

TOTAL HEALTH FUND	\$ 9,675.00	\$ 9,675.00
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<u>150</u>	<u>Howard County Cumulative Capital Fund</u>		
04724.05	Jail Upgrade	\$ 375,000.00	\$ 375,000.00

The Council members were reminded that this is a portion of the financing for the Jail remodel and technology project.

A motion was made by Mr. Singer to approve the additional request of \$375,000.00 to line item 04724.05. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried.

<u>252</u>	<u>Howard County Jail & Juvenile COIT Fund:</u>		
01524.00	Employee Service Bonus	\$ 94,000.000	\$ 94,000.00

This request is to underwrite the costs of the Employee Service Bonus, previously approved in this meeting (page1), for the county employees whose salary is paid from the Howard County Jail & Juvenile COIT Fund.

A motion was made by Mr. Roberts to approve the additional request of \$94,000 to line item 01524.00, Employee Service Bonus. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried.

<u>500</u>	<u>Howard County CEDIT Fund:</u>		
01524.00	Employee Service Bonus	\$ 300,000	\$ -Withdrawn-

Earlier in the meeting the County Council approved funding the Employee Service Bonus from County General and the Jail & Juvenile COIT fund. This request is withdrawn on a motion made by Mr. Stout and seconded by Mr. Singer.

IN THE MATTER OF SALARY ORDINANCE NO. 2012-HCCO-14 – AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2012:

Auditor Ann Wells read Salary Ordinance No. 2012-HCCO-14 – Amending Salary Ordinance For 2012 in through one time and it was acted upon as follows:

		REQUESTED:	APPROVED:
<u>001</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund:</u>		
<u>015</u>	<u>Howard County Veterans Service Office</u>		
01117.00	Part Time (<i>requesting Increase from \$8.00 per hour</i>)	\$13.39 Max Per Hour	\$ 12.00 Per Hr

Veterans Service Officer Bob Ladd explained that the \$13.39 request was taken from the Additional monies appropriated at the April meeting and that the part-time employee would be working up to 32 hours per week (*please refer to page one, “In The Matter of Ordinance No. 2012-HCCO-12 – Additional Appropriations”, of the Regular Council Meeting minutes dated April 24, 2012*).

Keeping in mind that the current full-time employees in the Veterans Service Office are paid a salary of \$12.00 per hour, a motion was made by Mr. Singer to approve Salary Ordinance No. 2012-HCCO-14 – Amending Salary Ordinance For 2012, amending the request of the Veterans Service Office from \$13.39 max per hour to \$12.00 maximum per hour. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried.

President Miller congratulated Mr. Ladd and his office for stepping up their services to Veterans outside of Howard County, as well as Howard County Veterans. He understands that there are some transportation issues that have arisen and wonders if billing other Counties for some of those Veterans’ services would be in order.

Mr. Stout expressed appreciation to the Military Rights Team and their faithful service to Veterans and their families. They also provide service to Veterans and their families from other counties, through the Legion and VFW. Officer Ladd confirmed that Howard County is “top notch” in the State of Indiana.

Because Mr. Miller mentioned transportation issues, Mr. Ladd took the opportunity to apprise the Council of some issues that have arisen in the transportation area. Although the three (3) Howard County vans were purchased with local money, and our local office schedules the pick-ups, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs has claim to the vehicles. The vehicles are used to transport Veterans to hospitals for appointments, in Indianapolis and Marion. The VA would like to take back the transportation system. One of our vans was confiscated last summer, and it took Mr. Ladd three months to get it back to Howard County. The DAV is also re-scheduling appointments that have already been scheduled by the local office. Scheduling locally is not a mandate and it does take time away from other duties that need to be accomplished. Mr. Ladd would like the local office to give all scheduling matters back to the DVA. He will meet with authorities in Marion and Indianapolis to give them his intent, and to receive their feedback.

*There being no further business to come before the County Council at this time
the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m. on a motion made by
Mr. Stout and seconded by Mr. Singer.*

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL:

RICHARD H. MILLER, PRESIDENT

STAN ORTMAN, VICE PRESIDENT

JEFF STOUT, MEMBER

LESLIE ELLISON, MEMBER

JOE PENCEK, MEMBER

JOHN ROBERTS, MEMBER

DWIGHT SINGER, MEMBER

ATTEST:

ANN WELLS, AUDITOR

Howard County Council Meeting May 22, 2012