

NOTICE OF AND AGENDA FOR:
HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING
HOWARD COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER
220 NORTH MAIN STREET, ROOM 338 (3RD FLOOR)
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024, AT 4:00 P.M.

- I. Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer
- II. Special Announcements / Recognitions
- III. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes
- IV. Departmental Business & Reports
 - A. *Kinsey Youth Center Kathy Cullison*
 - i. Parking Lot and Drive Project
 - B. *Project Manager – Pam Isaac*
 - i. 2025 Committee/Board Appointment
 - C. *Health Department - James Vest*
 - i. Purchasing Pharmacy Refrigerators
- V. New Business
 - A. *Propel US 31*
- VI. Claims & Reports
 - A. Salary Claims
 - B. Payroll Expense
 - C. Operating Claims
 - D. Ratify Claims
 - E. Monthly Reports
 - i. County Treasurer's Monthly Report for October 2024
 - F. Grants
- VII. County Attorney Issues
- VIII. Commissioner Issues
- IX. Public Comments
- X. Adjourn

JACK W. DODD, PRESIDENT
R. BRAD BRAY, VICE PRESIDENT
JEFF S. LIPINSKI, MEMBER

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: NOVEMBER 18, 2024

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, November 18, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included Commissioner President Jack Dodd, Commissioner Vice President Brad Bray, Commissioner Member Jeff Lipinski, County Attorney Alan Wilson, and County Auditor Jessica Secrease.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Jerry Asher and conducted by President Dodd. Commissioner President Dodd led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Commissioner Lipinski offered a word of prayer.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the November 4, 2024, regular meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS & REPORTS:

Project Management

Indiana Department of Energy Grant

County Project Manager Pam Isaac and County Attorney Alan Wilson presented the grant for approval. The grant agreement was read into record by Commissioner Jeff Lipinski. This grant will be used for updates in the Howard County Administration building for updates to cost-saving energy updates like LED lighting and the buildings HVAC unit. The new Fund number is 8935 and the Ordinance number is 2024-BCCO-47. Commissioner Bray made a motion to approve the Indiana Department of Energy Grant Fund. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Maintenance Department

Kinsey Exterior Repairs

Maintenance Superintendent Bill Stonestreet requested approval for get some exterior work done to the Kinsey Youth Center Facility. They would like to hire Trim Co. to solve the water problem that they have faced for 5 years, with the approval of the plan by an engineer. They will also be installing fire doors and making some repairs to gymnasium. Kinsey Youth Center Director Kathy Cullison has the money for the repairs that are not to exceed \$34,000 in different accounts funds they can use to pay for the project. Commissioner Lipinski made a motion to approve the repairs. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Highway Department

BID Award for 2025 Annual Bids

Highway Superintendent Amber Tolle presented the Annual BID Awards. Milestone won the bid for the precast and prestressed beams. E & B Paving won the bid for the various grades of asphalt emulsion, fog seal and HMA pavement and CMA pavement. Heidelberg Aggregates (Hanson) won the bid for stone. Keystone Cooperative won the bid for diesel fuel. There were no bids placed for equipment rental. Commissioner Lipinski made a motion to approve the repairs. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:

Howard County Auditor Jessica Secrease submitted the following claims and reports for the Commissioners' information and approval:

1. **Salary Claims:** The Commissioners' Salary, Hourly, and Overtime Claims for payment on November 15, 2024, in the amounts of \$1,105,001.99 were submitted and approved on a motion made by Commissioner Bray. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
2. **Payroll Expenses:** The Commissioners' Payroll Expenses for payment on November 15, 2024, in the amounts of \$1,105,001.99 were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Bray. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
3. **Operating Claims:** The Commissioners' Operating Claims to be paid November 18, 2024, in the amount of \$2,714,829.91 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Bray. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.
4. **Ratify Claims:** The Commissioners' Ratified Claims to be paid on November 18, 2024 in the amount of \$544,071.17 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bray, and the motion carried.
5. **Monthly Reports:** Auditor Jessica Secrease presented the following reports to be received into the record:
 - a. Weights and Measures Monthly Report October 16th – November 15th, 2024
 - b. Treasurer's Monthly Report September 2024

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Greentown resident Grace April expressed her concerns on the new solar farm that is currently going thru the approval process. She expressed her concerns for the damage that will be done to the soil because Eastern Howard County comes in the Top 3 for best soil in Indiana. She also expressed her concerns about job loss due to revenue loss the solar farm being built will create and it slowing down business for all the tractor, farm equipment, and soil/fertilizer companies in Howard County and the surrounding areas. She also stated her distaste for Ranger Company bribing them \$11,000 to sign a contract.

Greentown resident Tim Russell brought in a newspaper article describing the damage that was done to Howard County due to glass in 1965. He stated the solar panels are put together with aluminum and tempered glass and can only withstand 120mph winds. Greentown is considered to be in a "tornado alley" and having this solar farm will cause major damage to not only property but to the residents themselves.

Greentown resident Brad Semone wanted to confirm the process for this solar farm to be approved. He was under the impression that it goes before the BZA first, Drainage Board second, Planning Commission third, and then to Commissioners for final approval.

Commissioner President Dodd corrected Mr. Semone and stated the Commissioners do not give the final approval of the process. The Commissioners only approve the contracts or agreements of which a job will be done and there have been no agreements approved for the solar farms as of now.

Greentown resident Brad Mr. Semone expressed his discernment on being misled of the approval process of getting the Solar Farm agreement approved.

Greentown resident Jane Garr, 3710 North 1350 East Commerce, expressed her concerns of noise the Solar Farm will make and how loud the inverters are. She also made a comment on how much it will cost to have them removed if they stop working. She would like to know who is going to come restore the area and ground in 30 years when the contract is up. She has 500 signatures so far to oppose the Solar Farm.

Howard County resident Jensen Rembarger, 8294 East 500 South, voiced his concerns of road repairs being done while these large dump trucks and equipment destroy the roads around the stone quarry in Eastern Howard County. He mentioned during the approval at the BZA meeting they were supposed to be using certain roads and they aren't. He wants to know if there is anything that Howard County can do anything about putting in no thru traffic signs for them to only use the designated roads that are in the agreement.

Commissioner President Jack Dodd introduced Amber Tolle in the audience to Mr. Rembarger and she stated she will look into that for the Commissioners.

Greentown resident Stan Oyler mentioned the City of Kokomo planning commission voted against the battery energy storage system, which he was pleased with. He wishes for our county to look into putting in a Moratorium on the BES Systems till the city figures out what it is going to do. He presented an article stating that a large amount of the worlds energy systems has a fire detection suppression defect. He expressed his concerns because as a fire chief he does not have the man power for one of the energies saving systems to catch on fire.

*There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time
the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski.
The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bray, and the motion carried.*

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

JACK W. DODD, PRESIDENT _____

R. BRAD BRAY, VICE PRESIDENT _____

JEFF S. LIPINSKI, MEMBER _____

ATTEST:

JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR

Howard County Commissioners' Meeting: March 18, 2024