

**HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING FEBRUARY 17, 2020**

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, February 17, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Paul Wyman, Vice-President Brad Bray, Member Jack Dodd, County Attorney Alan Wilson and County Auditor Martha Lake.

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

**IN THE MATTER OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION:**

**FEBRUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD:**

The Commissioners congratulated county employee Bill Baldwin, Howard County's Maintenance and Groundskeeper for the Sieberling Mansion, for his outstanding service in keeping the Sieberling Mansion facility impeccable. It is with great honor that the Commissioners extended congratulations and the memento from Kokomo Opalescent Glass to him. Pictures were taken, and congratulations were given by all.

**EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS:**

The Commissioners congratulated the following county employees, and Mr. Bray read their Employee Service Awards into the record:

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
Chad Boruff	5
Brook Milburn	15
Lisa Hughes	15
Jacob Willey	15
Jennifer Scales	15
Roberta Baldridge	20
Julie Wohlford	20
Debbie McKay	20
Teri Ortman	25
Maria Michael	30

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

The minutes of February 3, 2020, regular meeting having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Mr. Bray. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**MAINTENANCE:**

Maintenance Supervisor Bill Stonestreet requested permission to have flooring installed in the new Voter's Registration Office. He presented a quote from Waltman Flooring in the sum of \$4,517.58 and would like to utilize the cum cap building upgrades account 1138.47243.000.0000. Mr. Dodd made a motion to approve the expense for the flooring installation in the sum of \$4,517.58 from the cum cap building upgrades account line. Mr. Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**HIGHWAY:**

Highway Engineer Ted Cain presented the "notice to all bidders" advertisement to the Commissioner's for signature and approval. He stated that he has had the "notice to all bidders" reviewed by Attorney Alan Wilson. Mr. Cain is going to have bids received by the Highway Department and will then submit the bids to the Commissioners. He would like for Auditor Martha Lake to advertise the notice on his behalf. President Wyman stated that the "notice to

all bidders” should be advertised for all bids to be received by March 30, 2020. Mr. Bray made a motion to approve the “notice to all bidders”. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### **FOUR COUNTY:**

Dr. Carrie Caldwell, PsyD, HSPP, CEO of Four County, presented their 2019 Annual Report. She stated that although Four County does not receive county funding that she believes it is important for the county to realize the growth they have experienced. Currently they are serving nine counties, with Howard County currently being the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest county served. She stated that in the 2019 Fiscal Year, Four County continued its mission to enhance access, provide high quality services, bring expansive and innovative service delivery models and broaden their geographic footprint. Four County currently has four clinic sites which include two campuses and two micro clinics residing in Bon Air School District and one at the Indiana Health Centers. New partnerships have been formed through their Excel Center which expanded into a truancy program which works with truancy and evening reporting with the Kinsey Youth Center Programs. They have also partnered with IVY Tech for jobs creating programs to train non-degreed individuals as community health workers for local jobs either within Four County or in the County, in general. Four County continues their partnerships with the Crossing, Bona Vista, family recovery court problem solving and the mental health court in Howard County. In fiscal year 2019, Four County served 1,364 individuals with 60% of that being youth. Four County continues to expand to serve the community.

Dr. Caldwell introduce the Vice-President of Operations of Southern Regions, Lisa Willis-Gidley. Mrs. Willis-Gidley stated that the Howard County office has grown from seven employees to seventy employees since they first opened in 2015. This has allowed them to broaden their services to the community. They now have 25 individuals within the Kokomo school system as skills trainers, a therapist and a full-time school psychologist. Four County has also invested in Ivy Tech practicum students of which several have hired on at Four County.

President Wyman stated that he appreciated the investment in the community and the partnerships Four County has forged in Howard County.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:**

Howard County Auditor Martha Lake submitted the following claims and reports for the Commissioners’ information and approval:

1. **Salary Claims:** The commissioners’ Salary, Hourly, and Overtime Claims to be paid February 28, 2020, in the amount of \$866,819.89, were submitted and approved on a motion made by Mr. Dodd. Mr. Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
2. **Operating Claims:** The Commissioners’ Operating Claims to be paid February 17, 2020, in the amount of \$2,197,450.88, were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Mr. Dodd. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bray, and the motion carried.
3. **Monthly Reports:** The following reports were received into record: Weights and Measures from January 15, 2020 through February 16, 2020; Treasurer’s office month ending December 31, 2019; and Clerk’s office month ending January 31, 2020.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF ATTORNEY ISSUES:**

##### **Renovations for Government Center, Courthouse, Administrative Building and Coroner’s Addition:**

President Wyman discussed the renovations and the coroner’s addition that began over a year ago. The project budget was approved at approximately 1 million. Due to prior bids coming in at over 1.4 million, they were rejected. The lowest re-bid came in at 1.19 million with Hearn Construction being the lowest bidder. Mr. Wyman explained that approximately \$900,000.00 will be funded with allocations from Riverboat funds which have been reserved for this expense. The Riverboat funds are not derived from local tax dollars but outside of the community. Mr. Bray made a motion to approve the lowest bid from Hearn Construction in the sum of 1.19 million. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Mr. Wyman stated that this will be brought before the Council in February.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER’S ISSUES:**

Vice-President Brad Bray thanked the community and surrounding counties for the out-pouring of support for Councilman and friend Jeffrey Stout.

**IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Solar Energy Project:**

Johnathan Sanders, located at 12630 E. 340 S., Greentown, IN, has worked in Howard County for over 35 years. He stated that his property was located in an area where wind turbines were to be located. He stated that he is grateful to the Commissioners in Howard County for modifying the setback which prevented the installation from happening. He addressed the proposed solar fields being located in Howard County and his opposition. He addressed many concerns in regard to property value, reason for purchasing a property and asset vs. liability when considering a location for a homeowner. Although these projects may seem appealing, he urged the Commissioners to consider homeowners and those that would be directly affected by an installation of industrial solar fields.

Several Howard County residents spoke in regard to opposition to the industrial solar fields. The commissioners kindly heard their concerns.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment – Right to Bear Arms:**

John D. Smith, located at 5764 N. 450 E., Kokomo, IN, spoke on behalf of a request he sent to President Wyman requesting that the Board of Commissioners approve an ordinance to make Howard County a sanctuary county. He expressed his concerns in regard to the preservation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Right to Bear Arms due to recent events across the states and the increase in crime rates.

Other Howard County residents spoke in regard to the protection of 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights.

President Paul Wyman expressed to the group that declaring Howard County a sanctuary county would not protect the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment if ruled otherwise by the Federal Government and that this would be better addressed at the State House. He stated that anything with consideration to firearms or ammunition is outside of the realm of control of the Commissioners and in fact he is prohibited from passing an ordinance related to gun rights or ammunition. When asked if he would support gun rights, Mr. Wyman stated that he would support the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment at the State House, if needed.

**Dog Ordinance:**

Clee Oliver, located at 5768 W. OO S, Kokomo, IN, expressed his concerns for aggressive dogs in town and the public nuisance created when they are not restrained. He addressed the resent postal worker in the paper who was attacked by a dog.

President Wyman recommended he speak to the homeowner or contact the Sheriff’s department if a resolution cannot be reached.

**Howard County Cannabis Coalition:**

Sharon Sink, located at 1308 E. Taylor, Kokomo, IN, shared the coalition’s desire to educate the public on the medical benefits of cannabis. She also requested the contact information for the city to acquire the city’s meeting schedule. She was given the city’s contact information.

*There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Dodd, seconded by Mr. Bray, and carried.*

**HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

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PAUL G. WYMAN, PRESIDENT

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ROBERT B. BRAY, VICE PRESIDENT

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JACK W. DODD, MEMBER

ATTEST:

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MARTHA J. LAKE, AUDITOR  
Howard County Commissioner Meeting February 17, 2020