

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING FEBRUARY 3, 2020

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, February 3, 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 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of January 21, 2020, regular meeting having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Mr. Dodd. Mr. Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Rezoning:

Planning Commissioner Greg Sheline submitted Ordinance No. 2020-BCCO-5 (Case 1-CZ-20) rezoning of property located at 10892 W 100 S, from (RR) Rural Residential to (AG) Agricultural. There was a favorable recommendation by the board with one resident who had concerns that were resolved once explained. There was no remonstrance.

Mr. Sheline submitted Ordinance No. 2020-BCCO-6 (Case 2-CZ-20) rezoning the property located at 9041 E 400 N, from (AG) Agricultural to (RR) Rural Residential. The resident wanted to build a garage where the set-back was insufficient. There was no remonstrance.

With the two rezoning requests having been heard, Mr. Bray made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-BCCO-5 and 2020-BCCO-6, as presented. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

MAINTENANCE:

Maintenance Superintendent William Stonestreet presented the lowest quote by Slate Mechanical to refinish the jail kitchen wall with stainless steel, in the amount of \$4,959.00. He stated that he would utilize account 1138.47243, building upgrades, if approved. Mr. Bray made a motion to approve the project at the jail in the sum of \$4,950.00, as presented. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

HOWARD COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE:

County Extension Director Joshua Winrotte stated that he appreciates the support by the county and presented the programs for the 2019-2020 year to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Winrotte also introduced Allison Hillis, who stated that she is being certified to implement education programs in the area. As the new health and human services educator, she is implementing several programs including "Be Heart Smart". Ms. Allison Hillis stated that she is doing a needs assessment to determine other programs that the community could benefit from and that should be implemented.

CLERK'S OFFICE:

Clerk Debbie Stewart submitted a user agreement with (IWU) Indiana Wesleyan University which allows for the election staff to set up for the 2020 spring and fall elections. The contract is in the sum of \$1625.00 and she has presented the agreement to County Attorney Alan Wilson for review prior to submitting to the Board. Mr. Bray made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

SHERIFF'S DEPT.:

Sheriff Asher addressed the Board stating that Justin Markley would be submitting the application to the State for the (SAVE) Stop Arm Violation Enforcement Grant. Mr. Dodd made a motion to approve the application of the Grant to the State of Indiana, as requested. Mr. Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

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 14, 2020, in the amount of \$845,831.57, 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 3, 2020, in the amount of \$1,621,139.58, were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Mr. Bray. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dodd, and the motion carried.

Auditor Lake also presented a contract with Hartman and Williams LLC, to provide the Howard County Auditor's Office accounting services and to complete the County's 2020 Gateway Annual Financial Report. The contract is on based on a standard hourly rate for services rendered. Mr. Bray made a motion to approve the contract with Hartman and Williams LLC, as presented. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF ATTORNEY ISSUES:

Approval of sale of county right-of-way:

County Attorney Alan Wilson presented the sale of a 60-foot right of way to the Board. President Wyman stated that the right of way should never have been in the counties hands as it is located between existing property owners. The transfer of this deed to Mr. and Mrs. Slayton, located on 200 S., by Quit Claim was presented to the board. There being no objections, Mr. Bray made a motion to approve the transfer of the deed, as presented. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Mr. Wilson presented the contract renewal between the Sheriff's Dept. and Keefe Commissary Network, with the request to authorize the Sheriff to sign. Mr. Dodd made a motion to approve Sheriff Asher to sign the contract renewal. Mr. Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried

Mr. Wilson presented Ordinance No. 2020-BCCO-8, A Joint Ordinance of the Howard County Board of Commissioners and the Howard County Council Amending Ordinances BCC-2005-32 and HCC-2005-33 to Exclude Aerial Photographs from Electronic Data. Mr. Bray made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-BCCO-8, as presented. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Attorney Alan Wilson will present the joint ordinance to the Council on February 25, 2020.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

2nd Amendment – Right to Bear Arms:

The Board of Commissioners heard the concerns of citizens attending this meeting requesting that Howard County Board of Commissioners approve an ordinance to make Howard County a sanctuary county. A petition signed by Howard County residents in favor of the request was presented to the Board, as well as a sample ordinance.

The Board listened to each one and thanked those in attendance for stating their concerns.

Solar Energy Project:

Resident Jensen Renbarger, located at 11678 E 200 S, Kokomo, IN, stated that he is opposed to utilizing agricultural land to develop solar fields. He along with many others attending this meeting who live in the same area of Howard County, passionately stated their concerns regarding the placement of solar fields in their farming vicinity. There was a consensus among the group that a moratorium would be helpful to facilitate the gathering of additional information.

In response, President Wyman stated that two companies have approached the Commissioners with interest in developing solar energy in this area. He addressed the public concerns stating that issuing a moratorium would not change the outcome and that no viable plans have been submitted to establish a solar field in the area. Mr. Wyman further stated that Howard County should not be viewed as a County that closes its doors to potential growth before it is considered. He will hear both sides of any plan and if a plan is submitted, it will not be rushed through. The Board will consider the best interest of all involved as well as make certain there are many well publicized public meetings for all attend and be heard.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Dodd, seconded by Mr. Bray, and carried.

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

PAUL G. WYMAN, PRESIDENT

ROBERT B. BRAY, VICE PRESIDENT

JACK W. DODD, MEMBER

ATTEST:

MARTHA J. LAKE, AUDITOR
Howard County Commissioner Meeting February 3, 2020