

**HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING JULY 20, 2020**

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, July 20, 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 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:**

**SHERIFF ASHER - INTRODUCTION OF SHERIFF DEPUTIES:**

Sheriff Asher introduced two new sheriff deputy hires, Keegan Pyke and James Myers. Keegan has been employed in Howard County for 3 ½ years. He started as a correction officer, worked in transfers and then in civil processing for the Sheriff. Keegan is looking forward to serving Howard County with dignity and pride.

James Myers is a 2014 Western High School graduate who has served in the National Guard and one deployment to Guantanamo Bay. Since his deployment, he has worked in the Jail in Howard County. James looks forward to serving Howard County.

**APRIL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD:**

The Commissioners congratulated county employee Kari Rennaker, who works at the Kinsey Youth Center. Her responsibilities include payroll, new employee hiring, training, billing, tracking vehicles, workman's comp, and is always willing to take on new challenges. Kinsey is lucky to have her on their team. It is with great honor that the Commissioners extended congratulations and the memento from Kokomo Opalescent Glass to her. Pictures were taken, and congratulations were given by all.

**JUNE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD:**

The Commissioners congratulated county Health Department employee Cathy Shaw. She exhibits an excellent work ethic and strict attention to detail; she has even missed her vacation to ensure timeliness of investigations. It is with great honor that the Commissioners extended congratulations and the memento from Kokomo Opalescent Glass to her. Pictures were taken, and congratulations were given by all.

**EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS:**

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

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
Cathy Shaw	15
Lisa Hughes	15
Brook Milburn	15
Jennifer Scales	15
Jacob Willey	15
Kristi Hodupp	20
Robert Kendall	20
Roberta Baldridge	20
Julie Wohlford	20
Debbie McKay	20
Paige Kauffman	25
Yvonne Weitzel	25
Loucretia Weed	25
Curtis Allen	25
Robin Byers	25
Greg Hargrove	30

Maria Michael	30
Bruce Babcock	40
Gary Gist	45

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

The minutes of July 6, 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:**

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT:**

**Flu season vaccine:**

Public Health Nurse Kelly Carpenter addressed the need to order flu vaccinations for the upcoming flu season for 2020 – 2021. Ms. Carpenter reported on last years administered vaccinations, reporting a total of 231 vaccinations for the 2019 – 2020 calendar year. She is anticipating the need for 320 flu vaccines for the 2020 – 2021 flu season and requested the permission to purchase vaccines at the cost of \$17.50 per dose, for a total of \$5,600.00. Mr. Dodd made a motion to approve the purchase of 320 doses of flu vaccine at \$17.50 per dose, for a total of \$5,600.00, as presented. Mr. Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Appointment of new health officer:**

Health Department Administrator James Vest presented the Record of Appointment of Local Health Officer, Dr. Emily Backer. Mr. Bray made a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Emily Backer, as presented. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**INFORMATION SYSTEMS:**

**Right of entry agreement with Comcast:**

Information Systems Director Jeremy Stevens presented the Right of Entry Agreement with Comcast which allows them access to county buildings in order to provide and maintain our internet service. The agreement is a no cost agreement and provides access only. Mr. Dodd made a motion to approve the Right of Entry Agreement with Comcast, as presented and authorize President Wyman to sign on behalf of the board. Mr. Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**MAINTENANCE:**

**State Grant for hands free faucets and toilet operators:**

Maintenance Superintendent Bill Stonestreet thanked Barnes & Thornburg as well as Auditor Lake and her staff member Gabrielle Dupuy for their work in securing a State Grant which provides reimbursement to the county for hands-free faucets and toilet operators. This is a COVID-19 State Grant specifically for costs incurred to the county due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Stonestreet requested the permission to purchase and install the hands-free faucets and toilet operators in the county facilities while supplies are still available. He submitted the quote from Plumbmaster in the sum of \$97,473.34. Mr. Bray made a motion to approve the purchase and installation of the hands-free faucets and toilet operators in the county buildings, as requested. Mr. Dodd 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 for payment on July 31, 2020, in the amount of \$859,862.21, 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 paid July 20, 2020, in the amount of \$2,949,036.57, 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: Gary Gist, Weights and Measures for June 16, 2020 through July 16, 2020 and the Clerk's Office for month end June 30, 2020.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

President Paul Wyman discussed the appointments to the Howard County Community Corrections Board. Mr. Bray made a motion to approve the appointments as presented. Mr. Dodd seconded the appointments and the motion carried. The following appointed board members will serve a term beginning July 20, 2020 through December 31, 2024. They are as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Board</b>	<b>Appointment Type</b>
Matt Oliver	Howard County Community Corrections Board	New Appointment
Pastor Lonnie Anderson	Howard County Community Corrections Board	New Appointment
Tracy Martino	Howard County Community Corrections Board	Re-appointment

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Discussion on Solar Energy:**

Howard County Resident Brad Seaman, located at 10954 E 100 S., Greentown, IN, discussed the Howard County Comprehensive Plan already in place in consideration of the proposed solar energy field in the farmland area.

Howard County Resident Dan Miller, located at 10786 E OO NS, Greentown, Indiana, addressed the solar energy company Ingie's and Ranger's proposed location off of State Road 22 and wanted to know if the solar energy field would cause the eastern Howard County area to become an industrial park.

President Wyman addressed the process by which any business desiring to locate in an agricultural area would need to follow through the Planning Commission.

*There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Bray, seconded by Mr. Dodd, and carried.*

**HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 July 20, 2020