

## **HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL**

Minutes (approved 9/17/07)

Monthly Meeting

September 10, 2007

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. on September 10, 2007.

Members present on call to order: Calvin Ball, Greg Fox, Courtney Watson. Jen Terrasa, arrived at 8:40 a.m. Mary Kay Sigaty was absent.

Council Chairman Ball reported that the Council website has been updated with procedures for testifying and an access button from the County's front page. He noted that Zoning Board decisions will be added as they become available.

The Council Administrator, Sheila Tolliver, reported on the forthcoming events, Employee Recognition and Diversity Day. She also updated the Council on the procurement of digital recording equipment and on the construction of electronic sign-in.

County Auditor Haskell Arnold reported on audit reports issued and in progress. He also noted the development of a risk assessment management plan.

Christopher Parr, Chairman of the Pension Oversight Commission; members Theresa Long and Walter Clark; and Wendy Burke, staff, reported on the Report of the Pension Oversight Commission for fiscal year 2006. They reported that the funds are in sound condition and issued four recommendations, primarily noting standards and financial conditions that merit monitoring.

Dr. Peter Beilenson, Health Officer, and staff members Donna O'Neill, Jim Duncanson, and Nicky Worth reported on the agency's response to the audit of the agency, conducted in review of the former agency administration's fiscal oversight. Dr. Beilenson reported that the Health Department has instituted controls to avoid future improprieties of the kinds identified by the Auditor. He also said that the County is securing restitution from agency employees who violated rules and standards and misused funds. He invited a follow-up audit in a year and said that the agency's conversion from a State agency to a County agency will help in the prevention of such problems in the future.

Pursuant to questions from members of the Council, Haskell Arnold, Auditor, reported that he would investigate the feasibility and advisability of conducting a targeted audit on the three years preceding the audit which found improper use of funds.

Kent Menser, Director of the Base Realignment (BRAC) initiative for the County, outlined the process and plan for a meeting planned for the afternoon with the Lt. Governor and other officials.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.