



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Mary Kay Sigaty, Chairperson
District 4
Jennifer Terrasa, Vice Chairperson
District 3
Calvin Ball
District 2
Greg Fox
District 5
Courtney Watson
District 1

Minutes *Approved* Legislative Work Session July 27, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 4:39 pm in the Board Room, Board of Education, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City.

Members present: Calvin Ball, Mary Kay Sigaty, Jennifer Terrasa and Courtney Watson.

Discussion: The members discussed the following items related to the following bills:

Council Resolution No. 64-2009 – Adopted pursuant to the Maryland Economic Development Revenue Bond Act providing for the issuance by Howard County Maryland, of up to \$10,100,000 of its limited obligation bonds and the loan of the proceeds thereof to Glen Mar United Methodist Church to be used to finance and/or refinance (1) costs of constructing and equipping by Glen Mar United Methodist Church of a facility in the County to be located at 4701 New Cut Road, Ellicott City, Maryland, and (2) costs of issuance and other related costs; reserving certain rights; providing for the issuance of bond anticipation notes for such purposes; authorizing the County Executive to specify, prescribe, determine, provide for or approve certain matters, details, documents or procedures; and specifying and describing various matters in connection therewith

Richard Story discussed the use of Revenue Bonds in Howard County. Lynn Robeson summarized a memorandum of legal advice concluding that the proposal does not violate the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution. She also indicated that the State statute allows a broad range of participation in its criteria for economic development. Ms. Robeson confirmed that the County does not pay costs associated with the bonds. Harry Altscher, bond counsel, summarized the test for proportionality under the Internal Revenue Service Regulations. For this issue, conservative assumptions were followed. Additionally, Glen Mar will indemnify the County in the event of any violation. There was also a discussion of the duration of the restriction. In general, the restriction extends to the later of maturity or the useful life of the facility.

Council Resolution No. 65-2009 – Introduced by Chairperson at the request of the Howard Soil Conservation District - Approving the fee system of the Howard Soil Conservation District and providing that the fee system applies to each plan that is required to be reviewed by the Howard Soil Conservation District from and after July 1, 2009

Robert Ensor and Robert Robertson discussed the fee proposal as well as the level of services and the responsibilities of the District. The members moved into closed session to consult with counsel. Following the closed session, the council requested additional information from the District in advance of the July 30, 2009 voting session.

Council Bill No. 29-2009 (ZRA-102) – Introduced by The Chair at the request of the Wilde Lake Business Trust - Amending the Howard County Zoning Regulations to allow the owner of any portion of a Village Center in the New Town zoning district to petition to amend certain approved development plans for the owner's property; establishing public notice, information, and justification requirements for such petitions; establishing standards to be used by the Zoning Board in evaluating and considering such petitions; and generally relating to the New Town zoning district

There was a further review of all the draft amendments with participation by the petitioner, Marsha McLaughlin, the Office of Law and the Council Administrator.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.